Course Syllabus
Course Information

BIBL 101.H2L: Life and Teachings of Jesus
Fall 2012
Mon./Wed./Fri. 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
Brown Library 235
Instructor

Dr. Cliff Barbarick

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Office Phone: (325) 674-3767
Office: BSB 241

Office Hours:
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Mon./Wed.)
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (Tues./Thurs.)
(I will be available at other times by appointment)

Graduate Assistant:
Adam Frazier (apf11a@acu.edu)
Course Description

University Mission:
The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. The mission of the Department of Bible, Missions, and Ministry (DBMM) is to provide all ACU students with biblical and spiritual resources with which they may discern their Christian calling and vocation in order to live as committed disciples.

Student Learning Objectives for DBMM General Education Classes:
As a result of taking the general education courses in the DBMM, all ACU students will:
1. Understand the basic message of the biblical text, both Old and New Testaments.
2. Gain experience in interpreting and applying the Bible from historical, literary, and theological perspectives.
3. Acquire ministry skills and/or knowledge of various global and cultural contexts that encompass and challenge the Christian tradition.

“La lavament des pieds,” by Macha Chmakoff
BIBL 101 Course Description:
BIBL 101: The Life and Teachings of Jesus, which specifically addresses the first two Student Learning Objectives listed above, is a survey of the four canonical gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. The course will employ historical-critical, literary, and theological approaches to the gospels in order to train students to read these writings with concern for their unique historical contexts. Such training will hopefully enable students to apply these writings to contemporary contexts with insight and creativity. The course will also encourage students to think self-critically about their understanding of Jesus, thereby allowing themselves to be challenged by the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth.

Gallery 1.1 Traditional Symbols for the Four Evangelists

From St. Timothy’s Catholic Church in Los Angeles. The images derive from symbolic descriptions of the heavenly throne room in Ezekiel and Revelation.

Competencies and Measurements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EACH STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES BIBL 101 WILL BE ABLE TO:</th>
<th>THIS COMPETENCY WILL BE MEASURED BY:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recall and explain the content of the four gospels.</td>
<td>Reading quizzes and lecture exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognize, illustrate, and contrast the unique portraits of Jesus expressed in each of the four gospels.</td>
<td>Quizzes, exams, and group project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpret the gospels from the perspective of the “original audience.”</td>
<td>In-class assignments and group project</td>
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<td>Creatively imagine what Jesus’ life and teaching might mean for the “other.”</td>
<td>Service learning experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore the literary and theological dimensions of the gospels.</td>
<td>In-class assignments, group project, and service learning experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore and propose possible applications of Jesus’ teaching to contemporary settings.</td>
<td>Service learning experience and group project</td>
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Textbooks and Resources

Required Books:


Online Resources:


• The NT Pod by Mark Goodacre: [http://podacre.blogspot.com](http://podacre.blogspot.com)

• Yale Bible Study: [http://yalebiblestudy.yale.edu](http://yalebiblestudy.yale.edu)

• Bibledex by the University of Nottingham: [http://www.bibledex.com](http://www.bibledex.com)
Classroom Policies

Attendance

- If you are tardy or absent and miss an in-class assignment or exam, you will lose those points unless it is an excused absence.

- Absences due to a documented illness, a family emergency, or participation in a university-sponsored event are excused. For absences due to university-sponsored events, make arrangements with your professor prior to the absence.

- If a student misses more than nine classes (20% of the class), excused or unexcused, that student will receive an F as a final grade. Students may not withdraw from BIBL 101, but they can re-take the course and substitute the passing grade for the assigned failing one.

- Partial attendance (either leaving early or arriving late) is counted as a half-absence.

Classroom Courtesy

- Students should conduct themselves in class with respect for themselves, their fellow students, and their professor. This requires listening attentively to your fellow students and professor when they speak, refraining from hurtful, belittling, or degrading speech, and avoiding disruptive or distracting behavior.

- The use of electronic devices is allowed (and at times required), but make sure not to let them distract you or your fellow students from class activities. Respectful use of electronic devices includes silencing phones and tablets and avoiding distracting websites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Youtube. Your professor reserves the right to mark students as “absent” if they fail to use their electronic devices respectfully.

Assignment Due Dates

All assignments should be submitted on time. Late work will be immediately docked one letter-grade. Work submitted more than one week late will be docked two full letter grades. Work later than two weeks will not be accepted for credit.
University Policies

Alpha Scholars Program
Abilene Christian University is dedicated to removing barriers and opening access for students with disabilities in compliance with ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Alpha Scholars Program facilitates disability accommodations in cooperation with instructors. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with Alpha Scholars Program, and you must complete a specific request for each class in which you need accommodations. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please call the Alpha Scholars office directly at (325) 674-2667.

Intellectual Property Rights
Course materials prepared by the instructor (including Power Point presentations, study guides, and handouts), together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor, are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person.

Academic Integrity Policy
Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating, as defined in ACU’s Academic Integrity Policy, involve the intention to deceive or mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying and represent actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Violations will be addressed as described in the Policy.

While the university enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one’s desire to imitate God’s nature in our lives. Every member of the faculty, staff and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship and research. Please review the full statement of the Academic Integrity policy to ensure that you know what constitutes a violation and the possible consequences for violations.

"Jésus au désert" by Macha Chmakoff
Assignments

Reading Quizzes and Activities

Points will be awarded throughout the course for active engagement in the course readings and lectures. The points will come from quizzes over assigned readings (taken electronically on Blackboard before class), take-home assignments, and in-class activities. The point value of each quiz or assignment will vary, but the combined total for all of the quizzes and activities will be 150 points.

Exams

There are two exams throughout the semester, including the final exam. The first exam, worth 100 points, will cover the lecture material from the first unit. The final exam, worth 150 points, will include a comprehensive section in addition to covering the material from the second unit. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank questions, and short essays.

Course Blog

The course blog (http://blogs.acu.edu/1310_BIBL101H2L/) provides a place for us to extend our learning community outside of the classroom. In addition to serving as a storehouse for course resources, the blog will also include regular discussion prompts. Students are expected, throughout the semester, both to post discussion prompts and to interact in the discussions. Students will be assessed on the quality of their discussion prompts (worth 25 points) and the quality of their involvement in the blog discussions over the course of the semester (worth 75 points).
Service Learning Project

Each student will participate in 4-6 hours of service-learning during the semester. Upon completing the service hours, students will write a short essay that reflects on how their experience has shaped their understanding of a certain passage from one of the gospels. The project, worth **100 points**, is due on **Friday, November 2**.

Biblical Interpretation in the Fine Arts

This particular assignment will span both BIBL 101 and CORE 110. For BIBL 101, students will choose and analyze a specific pericope in the gospel of Luke (a healing story, a parable, a unit of teaching, etc.). With the guidance of the professor, students will build a bibliography (with no fewer than four entries) that includes commentaries, journal articles, and dictionary articles relevant to their chosen pericope. Using these resources as guides and conversation partners, students will write an analysis (700-800 words) of their pericope that addresses the question, what did this section of Luke’s gospel mean to its “original” audience? The essays, worth **100 points**, should be submitted to the students’ BIBL 101 professor by the end of the day on **Friday, October 12**. As part of CORE 110, students will then find a work of modern art that depicts their pericope and analyze how the artist interprets the passage. Students’ CORE 110 professor will provide specific details for the final portion of the assignment.

Special Topics Research

Each semester, your professor invites the students in his honors classes to join him in researching a particular topic in gospel studies. The goal of the research is publication or presentation, and (if in the end the project is worthy of publication) students who excel will be able to join the professor as a co-writer or presenter. This semester, we will explore the interpretation of a particularly challenging parable, the parable of the “Shrewd Manager” in Luke 16:1-9. Together, the class will compile a bibliography of relevant resources. Then, we will divide the resources among the class, read and analyze those sources, and finally discuss our findings together in class on **Monday, November 26**. As a final product, students will individually write a research report (800-1000 words) outlining their proposed interpretation. The research reports will be submitted by the end of the day on **Monday, December 3**. The project will include multiple parts, worth a to-
Grading Scale

Letter grades for the course will be awarded on the following scale (based on 800 total points possible):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>720 pts or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>640 pts or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>560 pts or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>480 pts or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 480 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Jésus marchant sur les eaux" by Macha Chmakoff
Course Schedule
Unit 1

Topics

1. Historical Jesus
2. The History and Culture of the Ancient Mediterranean
3. The Gospel of Mark
4. The Synoptic Puzzle

“La tempête apaisée” by Macha Chakoff
WEEK 1

Aug 27: Introduction
- Read Bauckham, Preface and ch. 1

Aug 29: The Inspiration of Scripture
- Read Powell, ch. 2
- Read Achtemeier, “The Inspiration of Scripture: A Proposal”
- Listen to NT Pod 21: A Historical Approach to the NT

Aug 31: Historical Jesus Research
- Read Bauckham, ch. 2
- Listen to NT Pod 48: Why Study the Historical Jesus?

Which image do you think most accurately represents Jesus?

WEEK 2

Sept 3: Jesus’ Cultural Milieu
- Read Bauckham, ch. 3

Sept 5: Jesus’ Ministry
- Read Bauckham, chs. 4-5

Sept 7: Who was/is Jesus?
- Read Bauckham, chs. 6-8
- Watch Larry Hurtado, “How Did Jesus Become a God?”
WEEK 3

Sept 10: Introduction to Mark
  • Read Powell, ch. 6
  • Read Mark 1:1 - 8:21

Sept 12: Science and Miracles
  • TBA

Sept 14: The End of Mark
  • Read Mark 8:22 - 16:8

WEEK 4

Sept 17: Summit (no class)
  • Attend an approved Summit session and write a response on the course blog.

Sept 19: Summit (no class)
  • Attend an approved Summit session and write a response on the course blog.

Sept 21: Intro to the Synoptic Puzzle
  • Read Longenecker, pp. 9-38
  • Map Quiz (in class)
  • Complete Synoptic Worksheet (in class)

WEEK 5

Sept 24: Synoptic Puzzle
  • Read Powell, ch. 4
  • Listen to NT Pod 24: Was Mark the First Gospel?
  • Listen to NT Pod 26: The Case Against Q

Sept 26: Intro to the Gospel of Luke
  • Read Powell, ch. 7
  • Read Luke 1-2
  • Read Longenecker, pp. 49-58

Sept 28: Project Discussion
WEEK 6

Oct 1: Jesus’ Ministry Begins
- Read Luke 3-4
- Read Longenecker, pp. 59-72

Oct 3: The Great Reversal
- Read Luke 5-8
- Read Longenecker, pp. 73-86

Oct 5: Who is Jesus?
- Read Luke 9-10
- Read Longenecker, pp. 87-98

“Zachée” by Macha Chmakoff

WEEK 7

Oct 8: Good News for the Elite?
- Read Luke 11-16
- Read Longenecker, pp. 99-116

Oct 10: Zacchaeus
- Read Luke 17-20
- Read Longenecker, pp. 117-132

Oct 12: Crucifixion and Resurrection
- Read Luke 21-24
- Read Longenecker, pp. 133-146
- Biblical Interpretation essays due by the end of the day.

WEEK 8

- Read Longenecker, pp. 147-182

Oct 17: MIDTERM EXAM
- Bring a scantron and pencil to class.

Oct 19: Project Discussion
- Come prepared to discuss your essay and show the artwork that you will explore.
Unit 2

Topics

1. The Gospel of Matthew
2. The Gospel of John
3. Crucifixion and Resurrection Narratives in the Canonical Gospels

“The Raising of Lazarus” by Daniel Bonnell
WEEK 9

Oct 22: Intro to the Gospel of Matthew
- Read Powell, ch. 5
- Read Matthew 1-2

Oct 24: Matthew’s Use of Mark
- In-class activity
- Listen to NT Pod 3: What is “Redaction”?

Oct 26: Fall Break (no class)

WEEK 10

Oct 29: The Sermon on the Mount
- Read Matthew 5-7
- Watch Bibledex: The Sermon on the Mount

Oct 31: The Matthean Riddle
- Read Matthew 15, 17-20, 23
- Listen to NT Pod 29: The Matthean Riddle

Nov 2: The Last Discourse
- Read Matthew 24-25
- Read Harrington, “Polemical Parables in Matthew 24-25”
- Service-Learning Reflection due by the end of the day.

WEEK 11

Nov 5: Intro to the Gospel of John
- Read Powell, ch. 8
- Read John 1

Nov 7: Jesus, the Revealing Word
- Read John 5, 10-12

Nov 9: Misunderstanding in John
- Read John 2-4, 6-8
WEEK 12

Nov 12: The Historical Setting of John
• Read John 9
• Watch Yale Bible Study: The Man Born Blind

Nov 14: The Farewell Discourse
• Read John 13-17
• Watch Yale Bible Studies: The Last Supper

Nov 16: Review

WEEK 13

Nov 19: SBL (no class)

Nov 22, 24: Thanksgiving (no class)

WEEK 14

Nov 26: Discuss Luke 16:1-9
• Part One of the Special Research Topics assignment will be submitted in class.

Nov 28: Crucifixion in the Ancient World
• Read selections from Gnostic writings provided by the professor.
• Listen to NT Pod 54: The Horror of the Crucifixion

Nov 30: Jesus’ Crucifixion in the Gospels
WEEK 15

Dec 3: Resurrection in the Ancient World
• Read selections from Gnostic writings provided by the professor
• Part Two of the Special Research Topics assignment due by the end of the day.

Dec 5: Resurrection in the Gospels
• Read Matthew 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24; John 20-21

Dec 7: Narratives of Jesus’ Birth
• Read Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2
• Read the Proto-Gospel of James 11-25

FINALS WEEK

FINAL EXAM:
Tuesday, Dec 11, 2:00 - 3:45 p.m.
• Bring a scantron and pencil