321-Bible III: Gospels
July 20-30, 11:00am-1:15pm

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This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis will be emphasized.

Students will be able to:
1. Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
2. Exegete this form of literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Required Book Titles:

- English Bible (NRSV: either The New Oxford Annotated Bible or Harper Collins Study Bible)

Recommended Book Titles:

- Michael Gorman, Elements of Biblical Exegesis. ISBN 1565634853

Pre-Work:
There are three parts of the pre-work:

1. Needless to say, the most important part of this class is the close reading of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Thus please read each Gospel in its entirety and at the same time, please read as thoroughly as possible. Take copious notes on your study
bible, underline important part of the passage, and circle significant words in the passage.

2. After you have done the close reading of the texts, please make **Text-analysis notes** on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: **(8-12 pages total)**

For each Gospel, please write **2 or 3 pages** of text-analysis notes. So you will submit **4 x 2-3 page papers**, totaling 8-12 pages for this part of your pre-work. Your text analysis should include:

- **An outline** of the book with the major divisions of the book. Please do not copy the division of your study bible or assigned textbooks.
- **Characters** (who are important characters in this work?)
- **Themes** (what are the important themes discussed in this work?)

3. And finally please complete **two Preliminary Exegetical Practice papers: (4-6 pages total)**
   III. 1. Pick one passage from the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) **(2 or 3 pages)**
   III. 2. Pick one passage from John **(2 or 3 pages)**

For each passage, this exercise comprises of three components.

- **Observations**: 20 observations about each chapter/passage. You can write down the significance of the chapter/passage in the text. Please do not simply quote the biblical text. You can also explore certain vocabularies in the given passage. To do this part, please first read the Bible thoroughly by yourself and then consult the commentary.
- **The comparison of the translation**: We will use NRSV as our main text, and take a close look at different translations such as NIV (New International Version) and The Message bible. If there are notable differences between NRSV and NIV/ The Message bible in a given passage, please note them. It is always a good practice to take lots of hand-written notes on your own bible.
- **Questions**: what kinds of questions does this passage raise for you? What are its Theological and Ministerial implications?