

Munster Bible College

**034: New Testament I – The Gospels**

October 2022

“So anyone who thinks that he has understood the divine scriptures or any part of them, but cannot by his understanding build up this double love of God and neighbor, has not yet succeeded in understanding them.”

~ Augustine, *On Christian Teaching*

# Professor

Dr. Brian Vickers

# Course Description

This course will expose the student to issues concerning how to interpret the Gospels, and provide an historical and theological survey of each of the four Gospels, culminating with discussion of how these four Gospels witness to the one Jesus.

# Course Objectives

By studying the materials presented in this course, listening to the lectures, and completing the assignments and assigned projects, the student will be able to:

1. Give a brief description of significant events and writings of the Second Temple period.
2. Summarize the critical and introductory issues concerning studying the four Gospels.
3. Summarize the basic contents and theology of each of the four Gospels.

# Diploma Required Texts

Hill, C. E. *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An* Introduction *to Jesus and the Gospels*. Zondervan, 2007.

Williams, Peter J. *Can We Trust the Gospels?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

**Highly Recommended (for personal library)**

Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels.*  Revised edition. Nashville: B&H, 2016.

# Diploma Course Assignments

***Reading Quizzes***

The student will complete reading quizzes over each chapter of Strauss. These quizzes are not designed to be tricky but to assess a careful reading of each text. These are open book quizzes. Due by 7 Jan 2023.

***Choose One of the Following:***

1. ***Gospel Reading Guides***

The student will read each Gospel in their entirety and complete the reading guide for each Gospel. These are completion grades so do not spend too much time with answering the questions. This is designed to help aid you to pay attention to important people, facts, and themes in each of the Gospels. This will also serve as a helpful guide for the exams. Due by 7 Jan 2023.

**Or:**

1. **Prepare a 5 to 7 Week Bible Study**

Students will prepare a 5 to 7 week study of the Gospels. Topics can include a study of one Gospel, or mixture. The study should include issues of historical reliability; general theological themes, content, and themes of the Gospel book(s). Students may opt to prepare a study of a narrower topic such as the Parables. Students must indicate their target audience. Due by 7 Jan 2023.

## Hill Chapter by Chapter Book Analysis

Students will complete a chapter-by-chapter analysis of Hill, C. E. *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Please note: this is not a book review. Instructions for completing this assignment will be provided. Due by 7 Jan 2023.

## Exam

The exam will cover content found in the Text & Person Identification worksheet posted on Schoology. The exam will be a combination of ‘fill the blank’ and short answer questions.

You will have 2 hours to take the exam. Due by 5 Nov 2022.

# Diploma Grading Breakdown

Reading Quizzes 30%

Gospel Reading Guide/Bible Study 20%

Hill Analysis 20%

Exam 30%

**TOTAL 100%**

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# Certificate Required Texts

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Zondervan, 2007.

**Highly Recommended (for personal library)**

Blomberg, Craig. The Historical Reliability of the Gospels. Revised edition. Nashville: B&H, 2016

Hill, C. E. *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

# Certificate Course Assignments

***Reading Quizzes***

The student will complete reading quizzes over each chapter of Strauss. These quizzes are not designed to be tricky but to assess a careful reading of each text. These are open book with a 15-minute time limit. Due by 7 Jan 2022.

***Gospel Reading Guides***

The student will read each Gospel in their entirety and complete the reading guide for each Gospel. These are completion grades so do not spend too much time with answering the questions. This is designed to help aid you to pay attention to important people, facts, and themes in each of the Gospels. Due by 7 Jan 2022.

# Certificate Grading Breakdown

Reading Quizzes 60%

Gospel Reading Guides 40%

**TOTAL 100%**

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# Grading Scale

96% - 100% A 85% - 89% B 73% - 75% C 63% - 66% D

93% - 95% A- 80% - 84% B- 70% - 72% C- 60% - 62% D-

90% - 92% B+ 76% - 79% C+ 67% - 69% D+ 0% - 59% F

# Technology Requirements

* A computer with basic internet access will be needed for this course

# Course Policies

**Late Work:** Points received for any late assignment will be reduced by 25% for every two days late. Unless every assignment is completed, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Respect for Divergent Viewpoints:** Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Board of MBC, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

**Special Needs:** As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.

**Grievances and Grade Disputes:** If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from instructor via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may contact the Board of MBC.

**Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer):** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the leaning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.