

EXEGETICAL STUDIES IN THE NT: MARK, BSNT8302

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek
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Office: Hardin 260

E-Mail: Wwarren@nobts.edu

Phone: ext. 8190/3735

Ph.D. Assistant: Katie Unsworth Morgan

NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The special emphasis for this year at NOBTS is Missions Focus, with all encouraged to emphasize that value during the 2015-16 academic year.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is a practical study of the Gospel of Mark, including the exegesis of the text using sound methods of biblical interpretation, the investigation of major theological themes in the Gospel, and the application of the exegesis to the demands of ministry in contemporary settings.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student learning outcomes (objectives) of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the historical meaning of the text of the Gospel of Mark
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of Mark
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their skills in exegesis to a sound interpretation and application of the text of Mark

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, class discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTS

Three English translations of the Gospel of Mark (may be within a software program) and the Greek text as a comparative text for study (also can be within a software program)

Straus and Arnold, *Mark* (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the NT)

Malina and Rohrbaugh, *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*

Thomas Oden, *Mark* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture)

Either N. T Wright, *Mark for Everyone (The NT for Everyone)*, 2nd ed.

Or Lamar Williamson, *Mark: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching*

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Read the commentaries listed under “Texts” by Straus/Arnold, Malina/Rohrbaugh, Oden, and either Wright or Williamson (your choice). Bring a review on these to the first class meeting. The reviews should include the following: bibliographic entry, info on the author, reaction/response to at least 3 passages from the reading. Each review should be about 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point, Times or Times New Roman font). 20%
2. Create a short PowerPoint on one of the background topics listed below. The presentation should be between 8 to 10 slides long and include specific information on the topic within the first-century context, ending with a slide that applies this to a specific text in Mark. 15%
3. Participate in the class discussions. 10%
4. Write an exegetical paper on a specific passage in Mark or a theme in Mark (must be approved by the professor). The problem statement and outline of the paper must be submitted to the professor by Jan. 19, and the full paper is due by February 5 (by 5 pm). The paper should be about 20-22 pages in length, plus the bibliography and any appendices. As a general guide, the paper can follow the format below.

Introduction that includes the presentation of the research question (1 page max)

Presentation of the historical and literary context of the passage (8-11 pages)

Historical context and considerations

Literary context and considerations

Textual and grammatical considerations

Analysis of the exegetical meaning of the text (6-9 pages)

Implications of the exegetical meaning for first-century life-issues (1-3 pages)

Implications of the exegetical meaning for modern life-issues (1-3 pages)

Conclusion (summary of findings and areas for further research) (1 page)

The paper should be double spaced, 12 point Times or Times New Roman font, and in Word or pdf format for submission, with 1 inch margins. References should be kept as footnotes, with both citations and concepts footnoted.

IV. SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 14, 1 pm to 7 pm (supper afterwards):

1:00-2:15	Introduction to Mark, Mark 1
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:45	Mark 1-2
3:45-4:00	Break
4:00-5:30	Mark 3-4
5:30-5:45	Break
5:45-7:00	Mark 5-7

Friday, January 15, 8 am to 4 pm:

8:00-9:15	Mark 8-10
9:15-9:30	Break
9:30-10:45	Mark 11-12
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Mark 13-14
12:00-1:15	Lunch Break
1:15-2:30	Mark 15-16
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:00	Presentations of Background Papers

VI. THEMES FOR BACKGROUND STUDIES

1. Historical Quotes on the authorship of Mark, 2nd-6th centuries
2. Historical Quotes on Mark the person, 2nd-6th centuries
3. Honor and Shame concepts in the 1st century
4. Jewish Messianic claims and political unrest in 1st and 2nd century
5. The City of Rome in the First Century
6. The Persecution & the Christian Community in Rome (1st c. to AD 150, Nero, etc.)
7. Healing in the Ancient World
8. Exorcisms in the Ancient World
9. The Jewish-Roman War and Mark 13 (66-72)
10. Jewish Holiness and Purity Laws and Concepts in the 1st century
11. The Temple in Jerusalem in the 1st century
12. Patron and Client concepts in the 1st century
13. Discipleship patterns in 1st century Judaism
14. Pharisees in the 1st century

Bible Software: Each student should acquire a Bible Software program. The following are recommended by the Biblical Studies Division: Logos, BibleWorks, and Accordance. Also, a free program from online can be used such as <http://mywsb.com> , <http://crosswire.org> and <http://www.e-sword.net> . Please consult with the professor if you have questions on this. Special discounts on the three major programs are available for NOBTS students.

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