

BE105AU THE GOSPELS SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exposition of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Cognitive Objectives

- *Comprehend* the unique theological time period within which each of the books takes place and was written.
- *Understand* the basic background from which the books were written, including authorship, circumstances and destiny as applicable.
- *Think* his/her way through the message of The Gospel of John.
- *Know* the message of Matthew, Mark.
- *Develop* a story's interpretation by seeing its place in the literary context of the book.

B. Behavioral Objectives

- *Instruct* in the meaning of the Old and New Covenant and its nature as it affected the King, the lives of individual Israelites, and the nation.
- *Teach* these books to others.
- *Explain* the proper application of the message of the text.
- *Act* based on one's place in God's plan and *represent* God more fully.
- *Interpret* narrative books utilizing accepted literary practices.

C. Affective Objectives

- *Appreciate* the unique movement of God in the New Testament.
- *Feel more competent* in the interpretation of narrative literature.
- *Value* the use of the Old Testament in the Gospels.
- *Regard* the proper application of the message of the text.
- *Desire* to teach these books to others.
- *Understand* the Savior's effect on one's life and his position.

D. Rationale

Knowing these books and their message will demonstrate the overall movement of God from the Old Testament toward His Christ in these gospels, which will preface the way for an understanding of the books to follow and affect one's life and those who are taught by considering their alignment with God's plan and desires.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

All required reading is available on-line:

Constable, T. (2000). "Dr. Thomas L. Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible. *Sonic Light* [On-line]. Available: <http://www.soniclight.com> (Identified as "CON" in the Assignment Sheet.)

Note: *The New American Standard Version* is **required** for use in class and on papers. It should be without a commentary (i.e., no Study Bibles, although cross references are fine). No other versions are to be used for work in class or in assignments.

B. Suggested

Berlin, Adele. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake, Indiana, 1994.

Walvoord, John F., Roy B. Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. New Testament ed. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1978.

C. Supplementary Bibliography

(Refer to separate handout: APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

- Introductions (only) to each of the books either in Dr. Tom Constable's notes (*CON*) or in Dr. Hall Harris' notes for John (available on-line) as well as assigned Scripture and other materials as designated.
- Notes for each book are available at www.biblicalstory.org.
- To be completed by **one hour** prior to class beginning.
- **No credit given for incomplete, late or less than conscientious reading.**

B. Written Assignments

1. Assignments in preparation for projects.

a. Requirements of All Assignments

- To be emailed by **one hour** prior to class beginning.
- No credit given for incomplete or late projects.
- To be typed, presentable, adequately and conscientiously answered.
- To be done entirely on one's own.

2. Major projects

- a. **Luke 15 Project:** A paper will be written that analyzes Luke chapter 15. The unique setting, tension, and response (presented by the three parables contained in this chapter) will be explained. While several assignments will be given that will assist the student in understanding this chapter, the final paper will be written in Turabian form.
- b. **The Argument of the Book of John:** A paper will be written that analyzes the Book of John, putting the stories and discourses together to establish an argument based on the literary flow of the book. Instructions, guidelines and a required format will be given in class.
- c. **Requirements of Major Projects**
 - Due **one hour** prior to the start of class on the date due.
 - To be typed, presentable, with correct grammar, spelling, formatting and cover sheet using DTS standard Turabian form.
 - Projects not following instructions will be returned for revision and will have late penalties assessed until they are revised.
 - **Submissions are considered to be in their final form when submitted. No additional submissions or alterations are allowed.** Proper proofreading and a final review of requirements are all necessary functions of preparation for submission.

- Projects to be done without consultation with others or other sources.

d. General Guidelines

- Demonstrate CLEAR analysis of ALL portions of the book accurately per instructions, plus ability to handle detailed methodology precisely.
- No grammatical, spelling or other format errors.
- Presentation easily understood, organized, utilizes visual aids.
- Reasoning easy to follow with validation included

e. Important Note

All the course notes, lectures and instructions are intended to build a continually growing foundation for the student to use so as to move further into the study of the gospels beyond a surface and content study. ***For instance, the introductory notes are given to show the student a background which he/she needs to understand the gospels. This learning must be incorporated into the gospels for a deeper understanding and thus this foundation is expected to be incorporated into all papers to take them beyond the elementary level.***

C. Exams

BE Dept. Final Exam (Required of all students, no exemptions)

The Bible Department requires a comprehensive, standard final exam to assess foundational knowledge of all required courses. It is to be given online during exam week. A study guide will be given out from which the questions are chosen. Preparation with study guides may be done individually or as a group. Do not discuss the questions on the final exam with anyone who has already taken the exam. You will be asked to affirm that you have not done so when you take the final exam. Instructions will be emailed to the student for them to take the test online.

“For those students graduating in a given semester or participating in the commencement ceremony, arrangements must be made with the professor to complete the final examination early. In addition to the final exam, all course work must be completed by graduates and commencement participants by the date specified for the semester of graduation” (from the 2007-2009 Student Handbook, 1.19.1).

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Grading

	Percentage
Luke 15 Paper	35
John Paper	35
Final Exam	15
Reading/Class Contrib.	15

B. Class Participation

Students are expected to show brotherly (sacrificial) concern for the welfare of others in the class. Class participation thus includes promptness, discretion, non-distracting conversations, as well as appropriate questions meant for clarification and not for personal attention. Interaction is encouraged to establish clarity and depth to the class. Up to 10% of the student's grade may be

affected by poor or beneficial behavior. In lieu of a behavioral deduction or addition, the student's grade will stand as listed in the grading guide. **NOTE:** Computers, writing and reading material brought to class may only be used as directly related to the immediate class discussion. Other uses are not permitted. The 2007-2009 Student Handbook states, "Students should refrain from using cell phones, laptop computers, or other devices in a manner that distracts others in the class. Playing games, browsing the Internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messagin, etc., are considered unacceptable when class is in session. Unless prohibited by the professor, students should turn off all electronic devices during tests and quizzes (1.15.1).

C. Late Assignments

Assignments do not receive credit if handed in or read after the beginning of class. Major projects which are late will not be accepted unless permission is received from the Professor prior to the deadline. Under no circumstances may projects be extended beyond 4:30 pm on the last day of exams without a formal extension from the Credits Committee. Penalties for late projects will normally be one point per day.

D. Absences

Absences from the dialogue of class cannot be compensated in other ways. Thus, even justifiable absences still lack in providing an equivalent education experience. However, recognizing that there are times when absences are unavoidable, a certain amount of absences are allowed at the discretion of the student. The student should recognize that should he/she go beyond the absences allotted, he/she would be penalized. **NOTE: *The student is responsible to keep track precisely of his time of arrival/departure at all class periods and record it accurately.***

The Student Handbook establishes the minimum number of permitted absences as twice the number of times the course meets each week. Coming to class late three times equals one absence. Each absence in excess of the prescribed limit causes a reduction in grade (refer to 1.15.3).

Late: Arriving late or leaving early 15 minutes or less in any session.

- Three late arrivals or early departures are equivalent to one absence.

Absence: Missing more than 15 minutes in a session.

- Four session absences may be taken without penalty (e.g., missing one afternoon session is one absence).
- Each absence in excess may result in a 3 point deduction from the final grade.

E. Plagiarism

"The website, Turnitin.com defines plagiarism as "the use of another's original words or ideas as though they were your own. Any time you borrow [copy] from an original source and do not give proper credit, you have committed plagiarism..." (http://turnitin.com/research_site/e_faqs_text). Plagiarism is academically dishonest and contrary to biblical standards of integrity. Any course work involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as zero without any resubmission permitted. In each case the Office of the Dean of Students will be notified" (DTS Student Handbook 2007-2009, 1.16.3).

F. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+	99-100	B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69
A	96-98	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74		
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71		

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- A. **Disability Policy:** DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.
- B. **Library Access:** All DTS-Houston students have access to the Mays Library, the CBS Library, the DTS Dallas Library, and all TextShare libraries.
- C. **Scripture Reading:** All Bible Exposition courses place a high value on Scripture reading, but each professor has the option of evaluating this reading in his own manner as noted in the syllabus.
- D. **Audio/Video Recordings:** Any registered student may make *audio* recordings of classes if the student agrees that **recording is used for personal use (viewing and/or listening by the student only)** and will not duplicate or disseminate recording without express written permission of the professor. *Video* recordings may be made, but must have the specific permission of the professor. Note that the restriction on dissemination means that the student shall not allow this to be viewed by other than him/her.
- E. **Extension Policy:** Any work emailed after 4:30 PM on the last day of exams cannot be accepted without an official extension by the Credits Committee.
- F. **Pedagogical methodology:** Readings and assignments are meant to cover all areas of understanding required in the course. Students are to read and do the assignments conscientiously and to be understood on their own. **Classroom time is not intended to be spent covering the same material that was to be understood through the readings, but is meant to discuss core issues that help the student to grasp the core meanings and to provide opportunity to interact on the readings so as to insure that the student understands fully.** The student should be prepared, based on an adequate understanding of the assignments, to interact fully and knowledgeably in class.
- G. **Compensating for absences:** While it is recognized that class attendance at times may be difficult, it is also recognized that the class lectures and live interaction are important for one to obtain the learning experience intended. Thus should a student be unable to attend class, it is suggested that they have another student video (or secondarily audio) record the lecture. **Note that the recording of the class lectures is not as substitute for class attendance** since interaction is part of the requirement of the course.
- H. **Ethical Policy:** Note that assignments are to be done with appropriate conscientiousness. Reporting of assignments and attendance is also to be with appropriate care and accuracy. In-class or out-of-class behavior not considered appropriate for seminary students will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- I. **Professor and Grader Accessibility:** The professor will be available during class breaks, before and following the class period if possible to interact with students. Appointments outside of those times may be made individually with the BE Dept. Administrative Assistant.
- J. **Submittals of Written Assignments:** All submittals will be made by email to the Professor unless requested otherwise.
- K. **Dress policy:** All students in the class are expected to abide conscientiously to the dress code listed in the student handbook. This dress code is applicable to extension classes as well as main campus. In addition, all men should remove their hats during the class period.
- L. **Swine Flu:** The DTS Executive Committee has issued the following:

As part of the federal government response to the H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a nationwide public health emergency preparedness declaration on April 26, 2009. The declaration was renewed on July 23, 2009 and is currently in force. For the semester ahead, there is concern that the level and intensity of flu cases could increase substantially.

- 1) For updates on the campus-wide status of flu conditions at DTS, please visit <http://www.dts.edu/flu>.
- 2) If flu conditions require cancellation of a class session or other changes for the course, an email will be sent to all class members.
- 3) In the event of a major campus emergency at DTS, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the professor's control.

In order to provide you with helpful and up-to-date information about the H1N1 flu, a webpage, <http://www.dts.edu/flu> is now available. It is important for to monitor that page regularly in order to know what DTS is doing and what it is recommending with respect to the flu. There you will find also a reporting form that will enable the seminary to track what is occurring with the disease and thereby make informed decisions.

Receive Weather and Flu Alerts by Text Message: DTS also wants you to be aware of our emergency texting service. We strongly urge to go to <http://dts.ssalert.com> and sign up to receive emergency texts related to the H1N1 virus as well as communication related to weather or disaster school closing."

M. A statement regarding Biblical Theology for inclusion in all BE105 Syllabi (See Luke Project)

Biblical theology is that exegetical and synthetic study of a biblical text, texts, or section of the Bible that seeks to determine the theological meaning of that portion as it was written and then to explicate what that theology means for today.

Producing a biblical theology involves setting forth what God has revealed in the Bible within a designated section of Scripture (e.g. the Gospels), through a writer of Scripture (e.g. Luke), material in a selected period of time (e.g., post-exilic prophets), or across the entire canon, using the categories of the unit in question.

When a student writes a biblical theology paper for the BE Department, the student must set forth what God has revealed in a specified portion of the Bible (e.g. the Gospel of Matthew) on a particular subject (e.g., the kingdom of God). The professor will specify the portion(s) of the Bible, the subject (or choice of subjects), and the length of the paper. The student must organize the divine revelation in the paper using categories that arise out of the study, or categories that the professor may specify, according to the professor's discretion. This criteria by which the paper will be evaluated are the comprehensiveness of the coverage of the revelation, the quality of the presentation of the material, and any other criteria the professor may specify.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Hour 1	Att.	Date	Hour 2	Att.
9/21	Introduction	—	9/21	Story of the Bible	—
9/21	Matthew	—	9/21	Matthew	—
9/21	Matthew		9/21	Matthew	
Weeks 1-2	Mark		Weeks 1-2	Mark	
9/22	John		9/22	John	
9/22	John		9/22	John	
9/22	John		9/22	John	
Week 8	Luke		Week 8	Luke	
Week 9	Luke		Week 9	Luke	
Week 10	Luke		Week 10	Luke	
Exam Week	Final Exam			Final Exam	
5/8-11					

NOTE: Assignments continue following last class.

- Note:
- Place an “X” in the blank for the sessions present.
 - Place an “A” in the blank for the sessions absent.
 - Place a “T” in the blank for sessions present but tardy less than 15 minutes. (Over 15 minutes counts as an “A”.)
 - Place your name in the place provided and hand in at the beginning of the last class session.

Submit this Attendance Sheet in an Email by the due date. Submitting this assignment requires that you have checked it and verified it accurately and honestly.

Submit this Assignment Sheet in an Email by the due date. Submitting this assignment requires that you have checked it and verified it accurately and honestly.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	PTS.	DATE	ASSIGNMENT	PTS.
Wk 1	Read Syllabus	___(1)	Wk 7	Write John Proj. Part. #2A, #2B	___(2)
	Read Introductory Notes	___(2)		Read John	___(8)
Wk 2	Read Matthew	___(9)	Wk 8	Write John Assn. #1 (Part A & B)	___(2)
	Read (CON) Intro. (only) to Matt.	___(2)		Read Luke Notes (biblicalstory.org)	___(2)
	Read Matt. Notes (biblicalstory.org)	___(2)		Read (CON) Intro. (only) to Luke	___(2)
	Write Luke Assn. #1	___(2)		Read Luke	___(9)
	Write Luke Assn. #2	___(2)			
Wk 3	Write Luke Assn. #3	___(2)	Wk 9	Read Luke	___(8)
	Read Matthew	___(8)		Review Final Exam Study Sheet	N/A
Wk 4	Write Luke Assn #4	___(2)	Wk 10	<u>John Paper Due 11/9</u>	N/A
	Read Mark	___(6)		Email Assign. & Attend. Sheet	N/A
	Read Mark Notes (biblicalstory.org)	___(2)	Week	<u>Final Exam</u>	N/A
	Read (CON) Intro. (only) to Mark	___(2)			___ of (100 pts)
Wk 5	Write Luke Assn #5	___(2)			
	Read John Notes (biblicalstory.org)	___(2)			
	Read John	___(9)			
	Read (CON) Intro. (only) to John	___(2)			
Wk 6	<u>Luke 15 Paper Due 10/5</u>	N/A			
	Write John Project Part #1	___(2)			
	Read John	___(8)			

ASSIGNMENT SHEET NOTES

1. A number in parenthesis (e.g., "(2)") indicates the points available for that task.
Reading: Completed conscientiously on time gets all points. Less than conscientious or late = "0".
Writing assignments: Unless otherwise directed, these will be self-assigned and full credit may be given if the work is totally complete and conscientiously done seeking the correct answer.
2. Place an "X" if completed conscientiously and on time. Place an "O" if not completed conscientiously, late, or less than 100%.
3. Place your name in the place provided and postmark as noted on the syllabus.
4. A number in parenthesis (i.e., "(2)") indicates the multiple of value for completion.
5. *CON* indicates readings in Dr. Constable's online notes.
6. Items highlighted in yellow are major projects or other that are of major weight in grading.