



Queensland
Theological College



NT301/501

Jesus and the Gospels

Brisbane Evening Class

Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Jesus and the Gospels**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 1 2017

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.acttheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed “**Academic Misconduct**”. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed “**Guidelines for Essays.**” (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

Welcome to the study of the Life and Teaching of Jesus in the setting of the Gospels. No matter how often we read the gospels, we always are surprised at some new aspect that emerges from the life of our Lord. I pray that as we progress through this study you will be surprised, challenged and encouraged by what you learn. I am looking forward to being a guide on the journey with you. This unit entails an introductory study of Jesus' life and ministry against its background of the world of that time, as it is recorded in the gospels. This involves a study of the cultural, political, religious and social background of the Gospels. The gospels as pieces of literature are examined to see what we can learn about how they came into being and consequently how we can read them better. We then study the life and ministry of Jesus, particularly as this is set out by Mark's gospel. Such topics as the Kingdom of God, the person of Jesus, the miracles, the ethics of Jesus, the parables, and the passion and resurrection of Jesus are highlighted.

I trust this will be an enjoyable and profitable time for you.

Wesley Redgen.

Learning Outcomes

NT301 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

Know and understand

1. The contents, themes and character of the canonical Gospel traditions
2. The life and ministry of Jesus

Be able to

1. Explain the influence of the historical, socio-cultural, religious and political setting of first century Palestine as the context of Jesus' life and ministry
2. Analyse the distinctive features of the four Gospels and the interrelationships between them
3. Discuss: a) the life and identity of Jesus; and b) the message and ministry of Jesus
4. Outline the message and the ministry of Jesus

Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' to current issues in Christian life and thought

NT501 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

Know and understand

1. The contents, themes and character of the canonical Gospel traditions
2. The life and ministry of Jesus
3. Selected approaches to 'Jesus and the Gospels'

Be able to

1. Explain the influence of the historical, socio-cultural, religious and political setting of first century Palestine as the context of Jesus' life and ministry
2. Analyse the distinctive features of the four Gospels and the interrelationships between them
3. Discuss: a) the life and identity of Jesus; and b) the message and ministry of Jesus
4. Evaluate selected approaches to 'Jesus and the Gospels'

Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' to current issues in Christian life and thought

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The unit is a core unit in the DipTh, DipMin, AssocDegTh, BTh, BMin, GradCertDiv, GradDipDiv or MDiv. An overall understanding of the literature, setting and theology of the gospels is essential to further more detailed study of the Scriptures. A thorough understanding of the life of Christ and how he described his purpose and work is, of course, essential to Christian discipleship and ministry.

At QTC, all students studying a two, three or four year course include this unit within their studies.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This is a core unit and there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught over a 13 week semester. There are three lectures each week, each of 50 minutes duration. **Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6-9pm, commencing on Monday 13 February, 2017 – see the Unit Timetable on page 6 for more information on which dates classes will be held.**

This unit will involve 3 hours per week of contact time. This unit is worth 4 credit points toward your degree. At Diploma or Bachelor level, a 4 credit-point unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6–8 hours per week, and 7–9 hours at GradCertDiv, GradDipDiv or Master of Divinity level. Students are required to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

Teaching staff

LECTURER AND COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

Rev Wesley Redgen,

P 3381 0301 (H),

E wredgen@qtc.edu.au

Rev Dr Russell Williams,

P 5594 9364 (H)

E rwilliams@qtc.edu.au

Please feel free to contact Wesley if you have any problems or concerns about the course.

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

** Due to the Easter Monday and Labour Day Public Holidays as well as the proposed opening of the new QTC Building on the 20th February, the dates for the NT301/501 Evening Classes have been varied slightly from those of the daytime classes.*

Week and Dates *	Lecture Topics	Reading
Week 1 - 13 February WR	Introduction to the course Introduction to the Gospels	
Week 2 – 27 February WR	The Background to the Gospels – Political	Ch 1 Blomberg
Week 3 – 6 March WR	The Background to the Gospels – Religious	Ch 2 Blomberg
Week 4 – 13 March WR	The Background to the Gospels - Cultural	Ch 3 Blomberg
Week 5 – 20 March WR	Synoptic problem Distinctive features of Matthew and John	Ch 4 & 5 Blomberg Ch 7 & 9 Blomberg
Week 6 – 27 March WR	Distinctive features of Luke	Ch 8 Blomberg
Easter Break 1-17 April		
Week 7 – 24 April WR	Mark: an outline and features;	Ch 6 Blomberg
Week 8 – 8 May WR	The Kingdom of God in Jesus' teaching	Ch 10 & 11 Blomberg
Week 9 – 15 May WR	The parables and their interpretation	Ch 12 & 13 Blomberg
Week 10 – 22 May WR	The miracles of Jesus and their interpretation	Ch 14 & 15 Blomberg
Week 11 – 29 May RW	The ethics of Jesus including the sermon on the mount	Ch 16 Blomberg
Week 12 – 5 June WR	The passion and its place in the Gospel narratives	Ch 17 Blomberg
Week 13 – 12 June RW	Resurrection narratives and titles of Christ	Ch 17 Blomberg
Assessment Weeks		

WR = Wesley Redgen RW = Russell Williams

NT301 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2000-word Essay</p> <p>50% of Final Grade</p> <p>Due Date: Friday 2 June</p>	<p>A 2000-word essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 8-11, i.e. the teaching of the Gospels on major topics.</p> <p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on Matt. 5:17- Discuss Jesus' attitude to the law. 2. Why is the gospel called "the gospel of the kingdom" (Mk 1:14, Matt 4:23)? 3. Why is the parable of the four soils sometimes called "the parable of the parables" (Mk 4:1-34)? 4. What is the role of miracles in Mark's gospel?
<p>Take-Home Exam</p> <p>2700 words</p> <p>50% of Final Grade</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 20 June</p>	<p>A 2700-word Take-Home Exam which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-7, 12-13. i.e. the background, literature and features of the Gospels.</p> <p>The total word length of your examination script is to be 2700 words (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2430 and 2970 words long).</p> <p>The exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A: Students must answer six from ten short answer questions on the background to the gospels, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 2-4. All questions in this section are weighted equally. Each answer is to be about 300 words. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.</p> <p>Section B: Students must answer one essay question out of three questions on the literature of the gospels and the distinctive features of each. i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1,5,6,7,12,13. This answer is to be about 900 words. All questions in this section are weighted equally. This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the exam via Moodle one week before the due date.</p>

NT501 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2500-word Essay</p> <p>50% of Final Grade</p> <p>Due Date: Friday 2 June</p>	<p>A 2500-word essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 8-11, i.e. the teaching of the Gospels on major topics.</p> <p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Matthew show that Jesus has fulfilled the law? 2. Compare and contrast Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God with what we know of first century Jewish expectations about the kingdom. 3. Why did the parables play such a significant role in the ministry of Jesus? 4. Compare the role of miracles in Mark's gospel to their role in the other gospels.
<p>Take-Home Exam</p> <p>3000 words</p> <p>50% of Final Grade</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 20 June</p>	<p>A 3000-word Take-Home Exam which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-7, 12-13. i.e. the background, literature and features of the Gospels.</p> <p>The total word length of your examination script is to be 3000 words (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2700 and 3300 words long).</p> <p>The exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A: Students must answer three from seven short answer questions on the background to the gospels, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 2-4. All questions in this section are weighted equally. Each answer is to be about 330 words. This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks.</p> <p>Section B: Students must answer two essay questions out of five questions on the literature of the gospels and the distinctive features of each. i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1,5,6,7,12,13. Each of these answers is to be about 1000 words. All questions in this section are weighted equally. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the exam via Moodle one week before the due date.</p>

Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

- All students are expected to read the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbooks, available in the library or online. You should also read the relevant sections of the QTC Student Manual.
- All written work for this course should conform to the guidelines of the SBL Handbook of Style (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions.)
- All Greek and Hebrew cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL Bib Lit is commended as one font covering Greek Hebrew and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website:
<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx>
- The Learning Resources listed in this outline provide a beginning point for research for assessments for this course; students are expected to engage with the works listed there, but are not limited to these resources. The literature on the gospels is massive, and you are encouraged to consult widely.
- Do note carefully the number of words required for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for NT301 or NT501.

Assessment 1 Essay

This essay is designed to assess your ability to research an aspect of the gospels and in the process weigh up the differing views of the scholars in the light of scripture. Your primary task is answering the question from the Scripture. Please ensure the essay is answering the question.

The following are the key marking criteria used for this essay:

- Clarity of argument
- Relevance to question
- Grasp of the foundational features of the discipline (research essays in biblical studies)
- Engagement with / analysis of primary sources (the Bible)
- Range of secondary sources utilised (including journals)
- Interaction with / critical evaluation of scholarly viewpoints
- The essay must be in formal essay format. i.e. no dot points; good grammar, good paragraph and essay structure.
- Your paper should include an abstract and bibliography in SBL format.
- The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible.
- The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted in word doc format.

Assessment 2 Exam

This is a take-home exam. You have one week to complete a number of short answer questions on *topics* 1-7, 12-13.

This is designed to assess how well you have mastered the breadth of the content of the unit and your ability to apply that content to specific questions.

The Undergraduate level exam for NT301 will consist of one major essay question and six short answer questions.

The Postgraduate level exam for NT501 will consist of three short answer questions, and two major essay questions.

The best preparation is to know the course content and work through past exam questions. As you will see from past exam papers available in the library and on Moodle, the questions may require you to apply the information to a particular question. The most common mistake students make is to give information around the topic, but not answer the question.

Learning Resources

The unit timetable on page 5 indicates chapters in the Textbook for reading each week. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbook. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasised and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

ESSENTIAL REFERENCES/TEXT BOOKS Post-Graduate and Under-Graduate reading:

Blomberg, C. *Jesus and the Gospels*. Leicester: Apollos 2009.

IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE MORE BOOKS THE NEXT ONE(S) TO PURCHASE WOULD BE

Green, Joel B., Jeannine K. Brown, Nicholas Perrin. eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.

OR

David A. deSilva. *Honour, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000.

OTHER REFERENCES

Aland, Kurt. ed, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels : Greek-English edition of the Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*. 11th ed. Stuttgart: UBS, 2000.

Blomberg, C. L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Leicester: Apollos, 1990.

Carson, DA and D. J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Gundry, R. H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1990.

Ladd, G. E. A. *Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Martin R. P. *New Testament Foundations: a guide for Christian students*. 2 vols. Exeter: Paternoster, 1975.

Wood, D. R. W., I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer and D. J. Wiseman eds. *The New Bible Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996.

Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1999.

This is only a short listing. Students should consult the ACT Undergraduate Manual or ACT Post-Graduate Manual for a fuller listing.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4