



Queensland
Theological College



NT301/501

Jesus and the Gospels

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 2019

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 Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at the ACT website: 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 ACT's **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT's website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments 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.

Nick Brennan.

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.

This unit will involve 3 hours per week of contact time. This unit is worth 4 credit points toward your degree or diploma. 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 Dr Nicholas Brennan

P 3062 6939

E nbrennan@qtc.edu.au

Please feel free to contact Nick Brennan 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).

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

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.

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

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.

P 07 3062 6939, option 3

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

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

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 Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT Late Penalties Policy, 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, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero. Where the assessment is a take-home exam, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 6% of the total possible marks for the assessment item per calendar day, up to 7 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within 10% of the required word limit, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of 10% of the total possible mark being deducted. Please see the ACT Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count. 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>2200 word Essay 50% of Final Grade</p>	<p>A 2200-word essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 5, 6, 7, 12, i.e. the Synoptic problem, the literature and distinctive features of each of the four gospels, and their portrayal of Christ's passion.</p> <p>Write a 2200 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choosing one of the four evangelists, discuss how he portrays the importance and meaning of the death of Jesus in his Gospel. 2. How does Luke's Gospel develop the concept of discipleship? 3. Discuss Matthew's use of Old Testament texts in his portrayal of the life and career of Jesus. 4. The timing of the death of Jesus has often been cited as evidence of historical discrepancies between the Synoptic Gospels and John's Gospel. Evaluate the evidence for this difference on the timing of Jesus' death, along with the solutions proposed to resolve it, and make an argument for which day of the week Jesus died.

<p>Exam – 90 minutes 50% of Final Grade</p>	<p>A 90 minute exam, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-4, 8-11 and 13, i.e. the background of the Gospels, their teaching on major topics, and their portrayal of the Resurrection of Christ.</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 (political, religious, cultural) i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1, 2, 3, 4. Students should spend about 10 minutes answering each question in Section A. All questions in this section are weighted equally. Section A 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 teaching of the gospels on major topics (the Kingdom of God, parables, miracles, ethics and the resurrection of Christ, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 8, 9, 10, 11, 13. Students should spend about 30 minutes answering this question in Section B. Section B will count for one-third of the total examination marks.</p>
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NT501 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle

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Your submitted assessment items must also be within 10% of the required word limit, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of 10% of the total possible mark being deducted. Please see the ACT Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count. 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 50% of Final Grade</p>	<p>A 2500-word essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 5, 6, 7, 12, i.e. the Synoptic problem, the literature and distinctive features of each of the four gospels, and their portrayal of Christ's passion.</p> <p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the nature of the debate over the title "Son of Man" in the Gospels and defend what you think Jesus meant in employing it to speak about himself. 2. How does Matthew's Gospel demonstrate interest in the inclusion of Gentiles in God's people? 3. Some scholars have argued that the presence of the four canonical gospels in the canon is an arbitrary one. Discuss how this has been argued and attempt to defend the presence of only the four canonical gospels in our canon. 4. Choosing either Matthew 1; Mark 1:1-20 or John 1:1-18, explain how these opening verses raise significant themes pursued in that Gospel.

<p>Exam – 2 hours 50% of Final Grade</p>	<p>A two-hour exam, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-4, 8-11 and 13, i.e. the background of the Gospels, their teaching on major topics, and their portrayal of the Resurrection of Christ.</p> <p>This exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A: Students must answer THREE from seven short answer questions on the background to the Gospels (political, religious, cultural) i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1-4. Students should spend about 13 minutes answering each question in Section A. All questions in this section are weighted equally. Section A 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 teaching of the gospels on major topics (the Kingdom of God, parables, miracles, ethics and the resurrection of Christ, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 8, 9, 10, 13. Students should spend about 40 minutes answering each question in Section B. All questions in this section are weighted equally. Section B will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.</p>
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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.sblsite.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 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 90-minute **NT301** exam will consist of **six short** answer questions, and **one long** essay question.

You should write for about **10 minutes** on each of the short answers (about 250 words per question). For the short answer questions, you will have a choice of 6 out of 10 questions. You should write for **half an hour** on the long essay question (about 750 words). For the long essay, you will have a choice of 1 out of 3 questions.

The two-hour **NT501** exam will consist of **three short** answer questions, and **two long** essay questions.

You should write for about **13 minutes** on each of the short answers (about 330 words per question). For the short answer questions you will have a choice of 3 out of 7 questions. You should write for **40 minutes** on each long essay question (about 1000 words for each of the two questions). For the long essays, you will have a choice of 2 out of 5 questions.

The best preparation is to know the course content and work through past exam questions. You should work through your lecture notes and make summaries of key information. 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.

The exams are held in the lecture rooms at QTC, commencing at 10am on the notified exam day. Be careful to attend on the correct day, as you are not permitted to sit for the exam later if you get the date wrong. You are required to bring **two black biros** (not blue nor any other colour). Writing paper will be supplied. You should also bring your QTC **ID card** which shows your ACT student number used to identify your exam answers.

Learning Resources

The unit timetable in this unit outline 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 REFERENCE/TEXT BOOK for NT301 and NT501:

Blomberg, C. *Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Leicester: Apollos 2009.

IF you wish to obtain additional books, the next 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*. 2nd ed. Leicester: Apollos, 2012.

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

Green, J. B., and L. M. McDonald eds. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013.

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.

Pennington, J. T. *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Pennington, J. T. *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Snodgrass, K. R. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Strauss, M. L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker, 2007.

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 a short listing. Students should consult the ACT website for further information: actheology.edu.au Then click on 'Our Units', and Search for NT301 or NT501.

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