

McMaster Divinity College

PhD CHTH G105-C05
MA 6ZE6
Synoptic Gospels

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Fall 2013 (Term 1)
Mondays 3:30-5:20 p.m.

I. Course Description

This course provides a brief overview of the critical issues in the study of the Synoptics and a seminar-led exploration of different facets of the Synoptic Gospels by the students. The student research and presentations may include topics such as the critique and application of various synoptic methodologies, aspects of the quest for the historic Jesus, any work in a given synoptic gospel, or other topics that are limited to the study of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

II. Course Objectives

Specific Objectives: Through required and optional reading, lectures, class discussion, seminar presentations and assignments the student will be able to reach the following objectives:

A. Knowing

1. Understand current and historical issues surrounding the Synoptic Gospels including genre, oral tradition, Q, the relationship between the Synoptics, and the historical Jesus
2. Understand critical and other contemporary methodologies that are applied to the Synoptics and how they are applied
3. Acquire a generalist understanding of the Synoptics

B. Doing

1. Research a Synoptic issue or topic and write an academic paper
2. Explore and apply a suitable methodology to the selected issue or topic in the paper
3. Give presentations that simulate paper presentations in conferences and the classroom
4. Respond to another student's paper, in writing, in presentation, and in classroom discussion, simulating the function of a respondent/participant in a conference session, and practicing skills that are applicable to academic work, including writing reviews, critiques and editorial recommendations
5. Develop academic skills

C. Being

1. Become an expert in one issue of Synoptic study
2. Become skilled in applying a methodology to the Synoptics
3. Become a generalist in Synoptic study, prepared to teach a college level course
4. Appreciate the contribution of Synoptic studies to biblical studies, theology and ministry

III. Course Prerequisites

Prerequisites: M.A. level or doctoral level study as a minimum, including a course in New Testament introduction; Greek and other ancient languages as appropriate.

IV. **Course Requirements**

This is a graduate research level course. It is assumed that students will perform as graduate research students to facilitate learning. Students will be expected to do suitable academic work outside of the classroom.

Successful completion of the course requires satisfactory completion of the course requirements. Failure to make a valid attempt to complete the requirements may constitute grounds for failure of the course.

A. Participation

The student is expected to come to class having prepared sufficiently to make a contribution to the topic of discussion and raise significant questions by reading primary and secondary material and by reading all seminar papers in advance. A general introduction to the course subject is required and a short bibliography is included for further reference; each student will want to build a more extensive bibliography.

B. Reading

Students will read 5,000 pages from works on the Synoptics. The reading list is due on Dec 9 with a total page count.

C. Written Assignments—

1. A paper (5,000 words, excluding notes and bibliography) on an issue in Synoptic studies
2. A response paper to another student's paper, due at the time of the paper's presentation.(1,500 words). The student will become familiar with the paper's issue/topic, methodology, literature and current discussion in order to interact with it critically.
3. A detailed syllabus and lecture outline for a a college level course, either a general introduction, or an elective course that integrates insights from your papers

The professor assumes that students already know the basics about how to research, write and orally present papers. However, we will work at further developing skills that are utilized in scholarly discourse and publication. Both content (research, analysis, organization of material) and presentation (mechanics and style) are important. Each student must utilize the MDC style guide. The general guidelines are that the paper should be 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1" margins and utilize footnotes (not endnotes). The paper should include a title page, numbering and a staple cover (not fancy). Each paper should include a formal introduction and conclusion as well as implications for contemporary hermeneutics and any applications for contemporary ministry.

Papers (not responses) are due in electronic form at class time (Monday 3:30 p.m.) the week before they are to be presented. A penalty of 2% will be subtracted from the paper's final grade for every day late. Incomplete papers will similarly be penalized, including a missing bibliography. The papers will be distributed by e-mail or in the course Drop Box for access. Responses are due in electronic form at the time of presentation.

Every student will be given feedback from the professor, and the student response electronically as well as verbal response from the other class members and have an

opportunity to revise the paper and return it one week after its scheduled presentation (Monday 12 p.m.). No late revisions will be accepted.

D. Presentation of Seminar Papers

1. Students will sign up in class to present the paper and response
2. Each student will distribute his/her paper one week in advance to the entire class. Late distribution will result in a subtraction of 2% a day from the final mark.
3. During the scheduled final, each student will give a short presentation of his/her course design with appropriate handouts and visual aids
4. Each student may turn in revisions of the first two papers on the day of the final

IV. Textbooks and Materials

A. Required Texts

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th or 27th edn), UBS (3rd or 4th edn)
Introduction(s) from the bibliography

B. Recommended Texts

Good resource to own as a generalist:

1. Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Completely Revised on the Basis of the Greek Text of the Nestle-Aland, 26th Edition, and Greek New Testament*, 3rd Edition, English Edition. UBS, 1982. Out of print—used copies available on Amazon
2. A Bible Atlas such as Barry J. Beitzel, *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody, 2009.

C. Textbook Purchase

There are no assigned textbooks for the courses. Each student should tailor their reading to suit his/her research and to fill in gaps in their knowledge in order to become both a specialist in one issue or topic and a generalist who can teach a college or seminary-level course.

D. Additional Materials

1. Handouts for lectures and class discussion will be made available during class and/or online.
2. Students will distribute their papers to the entire class one week before their oral presentation.

V. Course Assessment

Each student is required to complete the following requirements:

1. Paper on a Synoptic issue (30%)
2. Response Paper (15%)
3. Design of college level or seminary course (15%)
4. Seminar presentations (10%)
5. Response presentation (5%)
6. Syllabus presentation (5%)
7. Participation (10%)
8. Reading (10%)

VI. Classroom Behavior

A. Attendance

1. Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor.
2. Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.
3. Attendance at all sessions is expected.

B. Participation

1. Please respect the work and opinions of others without disrespect or ridicule, even if you do not agree with them. Respond to all members of the class with a collegial spirit. However, feel free to respond logically and critically in an orderly manner.
2. Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.
3. Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
4. Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines will be dismissed from the class with consequences.

C. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the DivinityCollege Statement on Academic Honesty <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Office Hours:

Monday	5:30-6:30
Tuesday	12:30-1:30, 3:30-4:30
Wednesday	1-3
Other times by appointment	

Appointments:

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via email: westfal@mcmaster.ca

***Disclaimer on Syllabi posted on the web:

Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up until the first day of class. A final **Daily Schedule** will be released when the class role is finalized since it is a seminar course.

Date	Class Session
Sept 9	Introduction to course and the study of the Synoptics
Sept 16	Synoptic issues
Sept 23	Synoptic Methodologies
Sept 30	Seminar presentations/responses
Oct 7	Seminar presentations/responses
Oct 14	Thanksgiving
Oct 21	Seminar presentations/responses
Oct 28	Seminar presentations/responses
Nov 4	Seminar presentations/responses
Nov 11	Seminar presentations/responses
Nov 18	No class (SBL New Orleans)
Nov 25	Seminar presentations/responses
Dec 2	Seminar presentations/responses
Dec 9	Syllabi due/Presentations/Reading due

Select Bibliography for the Study of the Synoptic Problem

Introductions

- Allen, O. Wesley. *Reading the Synoptic Gospels: Basic Methods for Interpreting Matthew, Mark and Luke*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.
- Goodacre, Mark. *The Synoptic Problem: A Way Through the Maze*. London: Sheffield, 2001.
- Grindheim, Sigurd. *Christology in the Synoptic Gospels: God or God's Servant*. London: T&T Clark, 2012.
- Nickle, Keith Fullerton. *The Synoptic Gospels: An Introduction*. Rev; Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Perkins, PHEME. *Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels*. Eerdmans, 2009.
- Stein, Robert H., *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987.
- Throckmorton, Burton H., Jr., *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*. 5th ed., Nashville: Nelson Pub., 1992.
- Tuckett, C. M. "Synoptic Problem" in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992, 6:263-70.

General

- Aland, Kurt, ed., *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum: Locis parallelis evangeliorum apocryphorum et patrum adhibitis edidit*. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt Stuttgart, 1964; 3d ed., 1965.
- Bellinzoni, Arthur J., Jr., ed., *The Two-Source Hypothesis: A Critical Appraisal*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1985.
- Longstaff, Thomas Richmond Willis & Thomas, Page A. *The Synoptic Problem: A Bibliography, 1716-1988*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1988.
- Sanders, E. P. & Davies, Margaret, *Studying the Synoptic Gospels*. London: SCM Press, 1989.

The Two-Source Hypothesis

- Streeter, B. H., *The Four Gospels: A Study of Origins*. London: Macmillan, 1924, 1926.
- Hawkins, Sir John C., *Horae Synopticae: Contributions to the Study of the Synoptic Problem*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1898, 1909.
- Tuckett, Christopher M., "The Existence of Q," *Q & the History of Early Christianity: Studies on Q*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, Ltd. 1996.
- Kloppenborg, John S., *Q Parallels: Synopsis, Critical Notes, & Concordance*. Sonoma, Calif.: Polebridge, 1988.
- Kloppenborg, John S., *The Formation of Q: Trajectories in Ancient Wisdom Collections*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Kloppenborg Verbin, John S., *Excavating Q: The History and Setting of the Sayings Gospel*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.

The Two Gospel (Griesbach) Hypothesis

- Farmer, William R., *The Synoptic Problem*. Dillsboro, N.C.: Western North Carolina Press, 1964, 1976.
- McNicol, Allan J., et al. eds., *Beyond the Q Impasse -- Luke's Use of Matthew: A Demonstration by the Research Team of the International Institute for Gospel Studies*. Valley Forge, Pa.: Trinity Press Int'l, 1996.
- Orchard, Bernard J. & Riley, Harold, *The Order of the Synoptics: Why Three Synoptic Gospels?* Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1987.

The Farrer Hypothesis

- Farrer, Austin M., "On Dispensing with Q," *Studies in the Gospels: Essays in the Memory of R. H.*

- Lightfoot*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1955, 55-88.
 Goulder, Michael D., *Luke: A New Paradigm*, JSNTSS 20, Sheffield: Sheffield, 1989.
 Goodacre, Mark, *The Case Against Q*. Harrisburg, Pa.: Trinity, 2002.

The Traditional Augustinian Hypothesis

- Butler, B. C., *The Originality of St. Matthew*. Cambridge: University Press, 1951.
 Wenham, John, *Redating Matthew, Mark & Luke: A Fresh Assault on the Synoptic Problem*.
 Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Historical Jesus Bibliography

- Bammel, Ernst and C. F. D. Moule, Eds. *Jesus and the Politics of His Day*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.
 Banks, Robert. *Jesus and the Law in the Synoptic Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.
 Barrett, C. K. *Jesus and the Gospel Tradition*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1968.
 Beilby, James K., Paul R. Eddy, Robert M. Price and John Dominic Crossan. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
 Borg, Marcus J. *Conflict, Holiness, and Politics in the Teaching of Jesus*. New York: Mellen, 1984.
 ——. *Jesus: A New Vision*. New York: Harper Collins, 1987.
 ——. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.
 Bornkamm, Günter. *Jesus of Nazareth*. New York: Harper, 1960.
 Bowker, John. *Jesus and the Pharisees*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973.
 Braaten, C. E. and R. A. Harrisville, eds. *The Historical Jesus and the Kerygmatic Christ: Essays on the New Quest for the Historical Jesus*. New York: Abingdon, 1964.
 Brandon, S. G. F. *Jesus and the Zealots*. New York: Scribner, 1967.
 Braun, Herbert. *Jesus of Nazareth. The Man and His Time*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
 Brown, Raymond E. *The Birth of the Messiah. A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke*. Rev. ed. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1994.
 ——. *The Death of the Messiah. From Gethsemane to the Grave: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels*. 2 vols. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1994.
 Buchanan, George W. *Jesus: The King and His Kingdom*. Macon, GA: Mercer, 1984.
 Bultmann, Rudolf. *Jesus and the Word*. New York: Scribner, 1958 (1934).
 Charlesworth, James H. (ed.). *Jesus' Jewishness. Exploring the Place of Jesus within Early Judaism*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.
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 Cook, Michael J. *Mark's Treatment of the Jewish Leaders*. Leiden: Brill, 1978.
 Cook, Michael L. *The Jesus of Faith*. New York: Paulist, 1981.
 Crossan, John Dominic. *The Historical Jesus. The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.
 ———, Luke Timothy Johnson, and Werner H. Kelber. *The Jesus Controversy. Perspectives in Conflict*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.
 Dodd, C. H. *The Founder of Christianity*. New York: Macmillan, 1970.
 Dunn, James D. G. *Jesus, Paul, and the Law*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990.
 Efrogmson, David P. "Jesus: Opposition and Opponents." In *Within Context: Essays on Jews and Judaism in the New Testament*, eds. D. P. Efrogmson et al., 85-103. A Michael Glazier Book. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1993.
 Evans, Craig A. *Life of Jesus Research: An Annotated Bibliography*. NT Tools and Studies 13. Leiden:

- Brill, 1989.
- . “Life-of-Jesus Research and the Eclipse of Mythology.” *Theological Studies* 54 (1993): 3-36.
- Fredriksen, Paula. *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews: A Jewish Life and the Emergence of Christianity*. New York: Knopf, 1999.
- Freyne, Sean. *Galilee, Jesus, and the Gospels*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
- Galvin, John P. “From the Humanity of Christ to the Jesus of History: A Paradigm Shift in Catholic Christology.” *Theological Studies* 55 (1994): 252-273.
- Goergen, Donald J. *The Mission and Ministry of Jesus*. Wilmington, DE: Glazier, 1986.
- Grant, Michael. *Jesus. An Historian’s Review of the Gospels*. New York: Scribner, 1977.
- Harvey, A. E. *Jesus and the Constraints of History*. London: Duckworth, 1982.
- Hengel, Martin. *Victory over Violence: Jesus and the Revolutionists*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1973.
- . *Was Jesus a Revolutionist?* Philadelphia: Fortress, 1971.
- Holmen, Tom and Stanley E. Porter. *Handbook for the Study of the Historical Jesus*. Leiden: Brill, 2011.
- Horsley, Richard A. *Jesus and the Spiral of Violence. Popular Jewish Resistance in Roman Palestine*. New York: Harper, 1987; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1993.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *New Testament Theology: The Proclamation of Jesus*. New York: Scribner, 1971.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus. The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- Kasper, Walter. *Jesus the Christ*. New York: Paulist, 1976.
- Keener, Craig S. *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Klausner, Joseph. *Jesus of Nazareth*. Boston: Beacon, 1964 (1925)
- Küng, Hans. *On Being a Christian*. New York: Doubleday, 1976.
- Lane, Dermot. *The Reality of Jesus*. New York: Paulist, 1975.
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- Machovec, Milan. *A Marxist Looks at Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976.
- Mack, Burton. *A Myth of Innocence. Mark and Christian Origins*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
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- Manson, T. W. *The Servant Messiah*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1953.
- . *The Teaching of Jesus*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963 (1931).
- Meier, John P. *A Marginal Jew. Rethinking the Historical Jesus*. Vol 1, *The Roots of the Problem and the Person*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.
- . *A Marginal Jew. Rethinking the Historical Jesus*. Vol 2, *Mentor, Message and Miracles*. New York: Doubleday, 1994.
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- O’Collins, Gerald. *Interpreting Jesus*. New York: Paulist, 1983.
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- Porter, Stanley E.
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- . *The Religion of Jesus the Jew*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1993.
- Winter, Paul. *On the Trial of Jesus*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1961 (2d rev. ed., 1974)
- Witherington, Ben. *The Jesus Quest. The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*. 2d ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.
- Wright, N. T. *Who Was Jesus?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Zeitlin, Solomon. *Who Crucified Jesus?* New York: Bloch, 1964 (1942).