

The Gospel of Mark (Greek Exegesis) NT 2I03 / 6J06

McMaster Divinity College
Instructor: Christopher D. Land, Ph.D.
landc@mcmaster.ca

Fall 2014 (Term 1)
Wednesday, 1:30–3:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will take seriously the idea that beginning with the original Greek can provide pastors and teachers with a deeper and richer encounter with the Gospel of Mark, so that the original language of Mark becomes a starting point for teaching and preaching rather than an esoteric and authoritative-sounding add-on. Through various readings and lectures, students will learn how to analyze Greek word groups and clauses, so that Mark's Gospel becomes more than a series of unrelated words. Students will also improve their ability to read the New Testament by learning some words that are especially common in Mark.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be encouraged to:

Knowing

- Learn more Greek vocabulary
- Learn how to analyze Greek word groups and clauses
- Become familiar with the Greek of Mark so as to be able to read and interpret it

Being

- Appreciate the importance of participating in respectful discussions about biblical texts
- Become humble interpreters who are moving towards competency in Greek
- Listen carefully to the wording of Mark

Doing

- Take time to look closely at Mark in its original language
- Practice analyzing Greek wordings so that it becomes easy to see how individual words fit together into larger structures
- Develop responsible exegetical skills, particularly those that are oriented towards the wording of the biblical text (e.g. textual criticism, grammatical analysis).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Prerequisite courses are: NT 1B03 and NT 1C03, or NT 1G03 and NT 1H03 (or equivalent)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*Please Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. All assignments must be submitted in PDF via Avenue to Learn (unless alternative arrangements are made with the professor in advance of a due date). A penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all late assignments. No assignments will be accepted after **December 12th**.*

1. Class Participation (10%). Students are expected to complete weekly readings and assignments on schedule, to attend class, and to participate in class discussions. For those weeks where a passage from the Gospel of Mark is being discussed, each student will be assigned a specific range of verses within the passage. The student will then receive credit for showing up to class prepared to read the verses aloud and then contribute some comments and/or questions concerning those verses. In the event that a student is unable to attend class *due to extenuating circumstances*, the relevant classes (to a limit of 2) will be factored out of the participation grade—provided the student discusses his or her absence with the professor in a punctual manner (preferably in advance of the missed class).
2. Vocabulary Quizzes (10%). On each of the starred dates in the calendar below, students will write a brief vocabulary quiz. The “Special Vocabulary” from Kubo, *A Reader’s Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975) will be included on every quiz, but each quiz will also cover a specific section of the Greek vocabulary included in Porter, Reed, and O’Donnell, *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010). The relevant vocabulary lists will be distributed electronically at the beginning of the semester, with the relevant sections highlighted.
3. Weekly Grammar Exercises (20%). Each week, students will learn some grammatical concepts and then apply those concepts to the analysis of Greek wordings. This will involve a lecture at the end of each class session, some reading from a forthcoming grammar textbook, and some exercises from that textbook. The grammar reading and exercises will be distributed electronically at the end of each class lecture. The exercises are then **due at 1:00pm** the following week, in accordance with the schedule below.
4. Weekly Exegetical Assignments (40%). Each week, students will examine an assigned biblical passage and then prepare both exegetical notes and an English translation. An overview of the weekly exegetical assignment will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. These assignments are **due at 1:00pm** on each day of class, according to the schedule below.

5. Final Examination (20%). Students must complete a final examination, which is scheduled for **December 10th** during the regular class time. This exam will test each student's familiarity with the Greek language and with the Gospel of Mark. First, students will be asked a variety of grammatical questions. Second, they will translate two passages from the Gospel of Mark.

Special Requirements for Repeat Professional Track Students:

1. Extra-Biblical Analyses (20%). *In place of the weekly grammar exercises*, professional track students who have already completed a Greek Exegesis course will read an assigned extra-biblical passage and then explicitly diagram certain clauses and word groups from the passage. These analyses will be worth 20% of the student's final grade.
2. Exegetical Paper (30%). *In place of the final examination*, repeat professional track students will submit a 3,500-word exegetical paper on a passage from the Gospel of Mark. The paper must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses* and must demonstrate careful interaction with the Greek text of Mark. It will be due on **December 10th at 11:59pm** and will be worth 30% of the student's final grade.

Special Requirements for Research Track Students:

1. Class Participation (0%). Research degree students will not receive credit for preparation and participation, although these will remain required elements of the course.
2. Weekly Exegetical Assignments (20%). Research track students are expected to include more detailed notes in their exegetical assignments, reflecting more careful reading and an advanced knowledge of exegetical and interpretive issues. These assignments will be worth 20% of the final grade.
3. Research Paper (30%). Research degree students will submit a research paper that employs a grammatical analysis in order to clarify or resolve a specific interpretive issue relevant to the Gospel of Mark. The paper must be *at least* 3,500 words, must include a focused analysis of the Greek text of Mark, and must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*. It will be due on **December 10th at 11:59pm** and will be worth 30% of the final grade.

GRADING SUMMARIESProfessional Students:

Preparation & Participation	10%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Grammar Exercises	20%
Exegetical Assignments	40%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Repeat Professional Students:

Preparation & Participation	10%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Extra-Biblical Analyses	20%
Exegetical Assignments	30%
Exegetical Paper	30%
Total	100%

Research Students:

Preparation & Participation	0%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Grammar Exercises	20%
Exegetical Assignments	20%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to possess the following:

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th–28th ed.), UBS (3rd–4th ed.) or Westcott-Hort.

A suitable Greek–English lexicon (see bibliography below).

A suitable commentary on the Gospel of Mark (see bibliography below).

Students are recommended to possess (or have access to) the following:

Porter, Reed, and O’Donnell, *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010).

Porter, Stanley E., *Idioms of the Greek New Testament* (2nd ed.; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994).

A parsing tool, such as biblewebapp.com, Bibleworks, Logos, or Accordance.

Metzger, Bruce Manning. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994. [A copy can be made available for consultation during the semester.]

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 304 The East Mall, Suite

100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca.
Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Grammar Exercise Due	Exegetical Assignment Due	Grammar Topic	Texts Assigned
Fundamentals				
Sep 10			Introduction to Linguistic Analysis	Mark 1:1–15 1 Clem 1
Sep 17			Orthography, Phonology, Morphology, Textual Criticism	Mark 1:21–34 1 Clem 2
Grammatical Structures				
*Sep 24	1	1	Grammatical Units and Structures	Mark 2:1–12 1 Clem 3:1–4:6
Oct 1	2	2	Word Group Structures	Mark 3:20–35 1 Clem 4
Oct 8	3	3	Clausal Structures	Mark 4:1–20 1 Clem 5
Grammatical Choices				
*Oct 15	4	4	Transitivity and Agency	Mark 4:21–41 1 Clem 6
Oct 22	5	5	Circumstances	Mark 6:7–29 1 Clem 7
Oct 29	6	6	Attitude and Remoteness	Mark 7:1–23 1 Clem 8
*Nov 5	7	7	Polarity, Person, Direct Address, Direct Discourse	Mark 8:22–9:1 1 Clem 9
Nov 12	8	8	Aspect, Conjunction, Apposition	Mark 11:1–19 1 Clem 10
Nov 19	9	9	Expression/Ordering of Elements	Mark 13:1–23 1 Clem 11
*Nov 26	10	10	Cohesive Devices	
Dec 3	Exam Review			
Dec 10	Final Examination (First Time Students) Exegetical Papers Due (Research & Repeat Students)			

SUITABLE GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICONS

Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Danker, Frederick W. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. [Available Online @ www.tlg.uci.edu/lsg/]

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889.

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, Abridged*. Simon Wallenberg Press, 2007.

Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.

Thayer, J.H., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. New York: American Book Company, 1897.

SUITABLE COMMENTARIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Cranfield, C.E.B., *The Gospel According to St Mark* (CGTC; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959).

France, R.T., *The Gospel of Mark* (NIGTC; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).

Gould, E.P., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to St Mark* (ICC; Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1901).

Guelich, R.H., *Mark 1-8:26* (WBC 34A; Dallas: Word, 1989); C.A. Evans, *Mark 8:27-16:20* (WBC 34b; Dallas: Word, 2001).

Gundry, R.H., *Mark: A Commentary on his Apology for the Cross* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).

Lagarange, M.-J., *Évangile selon Saint Marc* (EB; Paris: Gabalda, 1947).

Lohmeyer, E., *Das Evangelium des Markus* (MeyerK; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1967).

Marcus, J., *Mark 1-8* (AB 27; New York: Doubleday, 1999); *Mark 8-16* (AB 27A; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009).

Stein, Robert H., *Mark* (BENTC; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

Swete, H.B., *The Gospel According to St Mark* (3rd ed.; London: Macmillan, 1913).

Taylor, V., *The Gospel According to St Mark* (2nd ed.; London: Macmillan, 1966).

STATEMENT ON 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 Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty (<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>).

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for plagiarism detection. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com can submit an electronic copy of their work via email in PDF format and no penalty will be assigned, but all submitted work is subject to normal verification standards in order to ensure that academic integrity has been upheld (e.g. online search).

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

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.

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 to and including the first day of class.