



McMaster Divinity
College

NT 3XM3:
The Gospel of Matthew



Programs: MDiv, MTS, Cert CS
Specializations: Biblical Studies (BS),
Pastoral Studies (PS)

Instructor: Phil Strickland, PhD (cand)

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Summer, 2018

June 18–22

Mon: 11:30–4:00, Tues–Thur: 9:00–4:00, Fri: 9:00–12:00

Room: TBA

I. Course Description: This is an in-depth study of the Gospel of Matthew. This course will explore various historical, literary, and theological themes of the Gospel in order to understand better Matthew's unique portrait of Jesus, and Matthew's place among the four Gospels of the New Testament. Additionally, we will also spend a significant amount of time exploring some of the social, theological, and ethical questions Matthew poses for the church past and present. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: Jesus and Judaism, Christology in Matthew, Matthew and Eschatology, and Discipleship and Social Justice in Matthew.

II. Course Objectives:

Knowing

- Have a good grasp of the content and message of Matthew.
- Understand Matthew's historical context and its relevance for today.
- Gain awareness of important exegetical and theological issues related to the interpretation of Matthew.

Being

- Be shaped intellectually and spiritually by a deeper encounter with the message of Matthew's Gospel.
- Become more adept at interpreting and applying the message of Matthew.

Doing

- Master the content of Matthew.
- Identify and explain important literary and theological themes in the Gospel of Matthew.
- Develop greater competency in interpreting and expositing texts from the New Testament.

III. Course Requirements:

Required Texts

France, R.T. *Matthew: Evangelist and Teacher*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1989.

Kingsbury, Jack D. *Matthew as Story*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.

Tomasino, Anthony J. *Judaism Before Jesus: The Events and Ideas that Shaped the New Testament World*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

A standard English translation of the Holy Bible (e.g., CEB, NRSV, TNIV).

** 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, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

*** Other course materials will be posted on the course website on Avenue2Learn. Access to the website will be given upon registration in the course.

Recommended Resources

Allison, Dale C., Jr. *Studies in Matthew: Interpretation Past and Present*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Brown, Raymond. *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke*. New York: Image books, 1979.

_____. *The Death of the Messiah: From Gethsemane to the Grave. A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels*. 2 vols. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

Blomberg, Craig. *Matthew*. NAC 22. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.

Carter, Warren. *Matthew and Empire: Initial Explorations*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2001.

Carson, D.A. *Matthew*. EBC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Davies, W.D. and Dale C. Allison Jr. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to Saint Matthew*. 3 vols. ICC. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1988.

France, R. T. *The Gospel of Matthew*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Hagner, Donald A. *Matthew*. WBC 33a-b. Dallas: Word, 1993, 1995.

Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of Matthew: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

Luz, Ulrich. *Matthew: A Commentary*. 3 vols. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989, 2001, 2005.

Nolland, John. *The Gospel According to Matthew: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Pennington, Jonathan. *Heaven and Earth in the Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Runesson, Anders. *Divine Wrath and Salvation in Matthew: The Narrative World of the First Gospel*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

Wilkins, Michael J. *Matthew*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Assignments

1. *Participation* – Attendance in all class periods is mandatory. Students are expected to come prepared and ready to engage in class discussion and activities. **Value: 5%**

2. *Reading Report* – Students must have completed all required course readings, and will be asked to provide a report on the percentage of readings they have done. *DUE July 20.* **Value: 10%**

3. *Matthew Film* – Students will have the choice of watching and reviewing one of the following contemporary film renditions of Matthew’s Gospel. The course instructor will ensure that these films are accessible to students. *DUE June 22.* **Value: 15%**

- + *The Gospel According to Matthew* (1993; Regardt Van den Bergh, Director)
- + *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* (1964; Pier Paolo Pasolini, Director)

Movie reviews should be 3-5 pages double-spaced, and should address the following questions:

- What did you think about the presentation of Matthew’s Gospel in this film?
- Did you find the director’s interpretation of any particular episodes from Matthew to be surprising? How so?
- How “accurate” do you believe the film was?
- How would you characterize the film’s portrayal of Jesus, the disciples, and his opponents?

4. *Mini Paper 1* – Write a short paper (4-5 pages double-spaced) on a significant person, cultural issue, or event from either the Greco-Roman world or Second Temple Judaism and how this person, cultural issue, or event relates to how we read and interpret Matthew. Topics will be selected during the first class meeting. *DUE June 25.* **Value: 15%**

5. *Mini Paper 2* – Write a short paper (4-5 pages double-spaced) on a significant literary theme in Matthew’s Gospel. Be sure to discuss how this theme contributes to the overall message of Matthew, and discuss specific passages. Kingsbury is helpful, but other sources should be used as well. Topics will be selected during the first class meeting. *DUE July 2.* **Value: 15%**

6. *Mini Paper 3* – Write a short paper (4-5 pages double-spaced) on a significant theological, social, or ethical issue addressed in Matthew’s Gospel. Be sure also to explore the significance of that issue as it relates to the contemporary church. Be specific. *DUE July 9.* **Value: 15%**

7. *Final Project* – Students will do a project in line with their chosen specialization. *DUE July 20.* **Value: 25%**

*Pastoral Studies (PS) – Those in the Pastoral Studies stream will prepare and deliver a 15-minute homily on a text from Matthew’s Gospel. Students must provide a sermon outline and manuscript, exegetical notes, and a video recording of their sermon to be uploaded on the course Dropbox.

*Biblical Studies (BS) – Those in the Biblical Studies stream will write a 10–15 page research paper on an issue or passage in Matthew’s Gospel. This paper should address relevant historical, interpretive, text-critical, and linguistic facets of the text. There should also be a clear thesis, methodology, and line of argumentation throughout the paper. Completed papers should be uploaded to the course Dropbox.

IV. Course Schedule:

Format

One-week intensive courses are administered accordingly: 11:30am—4:00pm on Monday; 9:00am—4:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (with lunch from 12:00pm—1:00pm); and 9:00am—12:00pm on Friday. The College will provide students with a free lunch on Monday, and a short chapel will take place on Wednesday as well. After the in-class meeting dates are concluded, course assignments will be due on scheduled dates during the following four-week period.

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
18-June	Intro to Matthew \ Jesus and Judaism \ Genealogy and Birth Narrative (1:1-2:23) \ John the Baptist (3:1-17) \ Defining Jesus’ Ministry (4:1-25)	Matthew 1—4; France, 13-80; Kingsbury, 1-77; Tomasino, 13-68
19-June	Jesus and Empire \ Jesus and the Old Testament \ Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29) \ Discipleship and Social Justice in Matthew \ Miracles of Jesus (8:1-9:38) \ Sending of the Twelve (10:1-42)	Matthew 5—10; France, 206-41, 279-317; Kingsbury, 78-133; Tomasino, 69-136
20-June	Christology in Matthew \ Concerning “This Generation” (11:1-12:50) \ Parables (13:1-58) \ “Feeding” narratives (14:1-15:39) \ The Kingdom in Parables Matthew and the Church (16:1-18:35) \ “Hardness of Heart” (19:1-20:34)	Matthew 11—20; France, 242-78; Tomasino 137-212

21-June	Eschatology in Matthew \ Jesus in Jerusalem (21:1-23:39) \ The Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46) \ Crucifixion and Resurrection \ Jesus' Passion and Resurrection (26:1-28:15)	Matthew 21—27; Tomasino, 213-277
22-June	Matthew and Mission \ “The Great Commission” (28:16-20) \ Matthew and the Church Today	Matthew 28; Tomasino, 278-306 Matthew Film Reviews Due
25-June		Mini Paper 1 Due
02-July		Mini Paper 2 Due
09-July		Mini Paper 3 Due
20-July		Final Projects Due \ Reading Reports Due

Syllabus subject to change

V. Rules and Regulations:

Academic Honesty

McMaster Divinity College is a religious community of people training for and engaged in Christian ministry. As part of their commitment to Christian faithfulness, members of the Divinity College community are expected to maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct in all fields. 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>.

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.

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, which can conveniently be found online at <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Attendance

Attendance in all class periods is mandatory. Students are expected to come prepared and ready to engage. In the event of an emergency (e.g., serious health issue, family emergency), please be sure to contact the course instructor, who will help to make appropriate arrangements for making up assignments.

Technology in the Classroom

Students are encouraged to bring their laptops or tablets to class for the purpose of taking notes and interacting with course materials as needed. However, the use of social media, or of anything not related to the course, is prohibited. Additionally, out of respect for others, cell phones must either be placed on vibrate, silent, or turned off.