



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels
Unit Code	123 (8123 for Distance learning version)
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for Distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Stephen I. Wright / Rev Robert J. May
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit introduces some of the key disciplines in biblical studies, and in particular explores the nature of and relationship between the Synoptic Gospels. A range of themes central to the mission of Jesus is discussed, including the kingdom of God, parables, miracles and discipleship. Throughout the unit students are encouraged to let their developing understanding of the story of Jesus inform their own understanding of Christian faith and life, and of the practices of the Church.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To introduce students to the study of the Synoptic Gospels and the historical Jesus and to explore some contemporary implications of the material studied.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

- By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Identify key characteristics of each of the Synoptic Gospels
 - Understand the significance of historical and literary context for interpreting passages within the Gospels

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Understand the challenges involved in the task of biblical exegesis
- Use appropriate critical skills to highlight and discuss key features of Jesus' mission and ministry as portrayed by the Synoptic Gospels

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills in biblical exegesis
- Make appropriate connections between the story of Jesus and the life and mission of the Church today

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Assess other people's views on texts
- Structure and communicate their ideas effectively in writing
- (123 only) Make a clear and concise presentation to their peers about a short Bible passage
- (123 only) Work in small groups

Employability Skills

Students will consolidate their ability to engage positively with a range of views and to organize and present their own ideas with confidence. These skills are important in a range of employment contexts.

SYLLABUS

- 1: Four Gospels, One Jesus
- 2: Three Gospels, One Story: the 'Synoptic Gospels'
- 3: Comparing the Gospels (Mt 9:1-8 / Mk 2:1-12 / Lk 5:17-26)
- 4: Jesus' proclamation of God's kingdom (Lk 9:23-27; Lk 17:20-25)
- 5: Works of power: the 'miracles' of Jesus (Mk 10:46-52)
- 6: Words of wisdom: the 'parables' of Jesus (Mk 4:26-29)
- 7: Forming a new community: disciples and discipleship (Mt 18:15-20)
- 8: Shaping a new community: the ethic of Jesus (Lk 6:32-36)
- 9: Arousing opposition: resistance to Jesus (Mt 22:15-22)
- 10: Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection (Mk 14:22-25)
- 11: The identity and significance of Jesus (Mt 28:16-20)

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

123: Interactive lectures and group presentations

8123: Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 123: Group presentation on a passage	3 minute report	n/a
• 8123: Presentation on a passage	Notional 500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 123: An exegetical essay	2000 words	100%
• 8123: An exegetical essay and a learning journal*	2000 words	100% Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.		

FEEDBACK METHODS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral feedback in class • Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days
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REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	112 Introduction to the Bible or equivalent
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

<p>Adams, Edward, <i>Parallel Lives of Jesus: Four Gospels, One Story</i> (London: SPCK, 2011)</p> <p>Bock, Darrell L., <i>Jesus according to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels</i> (Leicester: Apollos, 2002)</p> <p>Burridge, Richard A., <i>Four Gospels, One Jesus</i>, 2nd edn (London: SPCK, 2005)</p> <p>Dunn, James D.G., <i>A New Perspective on Jesus: What the Quest for the Historical Jesus Missed</i> (London: SPCK, 2005)</p> <p>Seccombe, David, <i>The King of God's Kingdom</i> (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002)</p> <p>Stanton, Graham, <i>The Gospels and Jesus</i> (Oxford: OUP, 2002)</p> <p>Wenham, David, and Steve Walton, <i>Exploring the New Testament, Vol. 1: The Gospels and Acts</i>, 2nd edn (London: SPCK, 2011)</p> <p>Wright, N.T., <i>How God became King</i> (London: SPCK, 2012)</p> <p>Yoder Neufeld, Thomas R., <i>Recovering Jesus: The Witness of the New Testament</i> (Grand Rapids: Brazos; London: SPCK, 2007)</p> <p>Please see electronic reading for some of these items, and others, at https://www.perlego.com/reading-list/335917/synoptic-gospels</p>
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SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)
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PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 hours (100 hours for distance learning version)
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ADDITIONAL NOTES

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APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
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Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	
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