



The University of Manchester



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

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	20
Course Unit Title	Preaching the Gospels
Unit Code	8125
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	n/a
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Stephen I. Wright
ECTS	10

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit offers a brief overview of the Gospels, their genre, their origin and context in history and literature, and their use in Christian tradition and preaching. It introduces the Gospels as *stories*, with special reference to Jesus, the central character, and to the Evangelists' purpose as authors, and pays attention to the importance of this for preaching. The dynamics of preaching the smaller stories (e.g., parables, miracles, conflict stories, birth / passion / resurrection narratives) is explored, and principles are drawn out by which the Gospel story and stories can be related to the students' preaching.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To enable students to understand how the four Gospels may be used in preaching and to preach from a variety of Gospel passages with integrity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Describe and analyse the particular characteristics of each Gospel

Intellectual Skills

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

- Describe and analyse basic principles for the use of the Gospels in preaching
- Distinguish between preaching about Jesus, preaching about the Evangelists' message, and preaching about the significance of the Gospels as Scripture

Practical Skills

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

- Exegete different types of Gospel passage and use them appropriately in preaching
- Apply the message of Jesus and the evangelists to contemporary situations

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Use appropriate tools such as Bible commentaries
- Use of narrative and storytelling in communication

Employability Skills

The narrative and storytelling as effective components of communication, both in preaching and presentations and other forms of communication

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction: the Gospels and the Gospel
2. The Gospels - the Church's founding stories
3. Mark
4. Matthew
5. Luke
6. John
7. The central character - Jesus of Nazareth
8. The background story - Palestine in the first century CE
9. The greater story - the Gospels in the Bible
10. The intersection of stories - the Gospels and our lives and world today
11. From Gospels to sermon
12. Beginnings: preaching the stories of Jesus' early years
13. Words of power: preaching the stories of Jesus' teaching
14. The gathering of a people: preaching the stories of Jesus with his disciples
15. The master-storyteller: preaching the stories of Jesus' parables
16. Works of power: preaching the stories of Jesus' miracles
17. 'Who do you say that I am?': preaching the story of Jesus' identity
18. Tales of conflict: preaching the stories of Jesus with his opponents
19. Endings: preaching the stories of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection
20. Jesus in history and faith: the challenge and gift of the Gospels

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Distance learning

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: • A short essay	• 750-1000 words	n/a
Summative: • An essay • A sermon • A learning journal*	• 2000 words • Recording plus summary text of 2000 words	50% 50% 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

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	8103 Reading and Using 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>Graves, M., <i>The Sermon as Symphony: Preaching the Literary Forms of the New Testament</i> (Valley Forge: Judson, 1997)</p> <p>Marsh, C., and Steve Moyise, <i>Jesus and the Gospels</i> (London: T & T Clark, 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: Getting to the Heart of the Gospels</i> (London: SPCK, 2012)</p> <p>Wright, N.T., <i>Simply Jesus</i> (London: SPCK, 2011)</p> <p>Yoder Neufeld, Thomas R., <i>Recovering Jesus: The Witness of the New Testament</i> (Grand Rapids: Brazos; London: SPCK, 2007)</p>
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SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

n/a

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

200 hours

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC

Valid from Date (Publishing Date)