

Course Number... Bi103 – Spring, 2016

Course Name The Synoptic Gospels

Credit Hours 3

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**Bible Institute
at
New Life Christian Center**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Bi103 is a survey course covering the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Key elements to be studied during this course will include:

- What makes the synoptic gospels “synoptic”
- The narrative genres used in the synoptic gospels.
- The historic and cultural back ground of the synoptics
- The gospel parables and miracles
- Who is this Jesus presented in the synoptics.

PREREQUISITE:

- none

STATEMENT OF MISSION:

The Mission of the Bible Institute at New Life Christian Center is to be a center for ministry education and training for the Mother Lode Region we serve and the Central Pacific District. We strive to instruct and equip the saints who desire to enhance and increase their ability for service in the Kingdom of God through a Bible College setting in the local church.

This preparation is accomplished in the students' lives through:

- 1) The acquisition of biblical and theological knowledge,
- 2) The pursuit of general studies from a Christian perspective,
- 3) The development of their character and
- 4) The formation of ministry and leadership skills.

The Bible Institute helps to fulfill this mission in Bi 203 by giving students a thorough grasp of God's word as it is contained in the book of Acts , and by challenging the student to respond in the context of his or her life and ministry to the truth that will be discovered in the course of study.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

- Be able to explain the synoptic gospels, their similarities and their differences.
- Be able to properly interpret the gospel narrative genre.
- Be able to interpret and apply the gospel parables and miracles
- Be able to present the Jesus of the synoptics.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

Required: Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A survey of Jesus and the Gospels* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Required: Any Bible translation (must be a translation – not a paraphrase, Study Bible version helpful but not required)

Suggested: *The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)* copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV® Text Edition: 2011.

Alternate 1: *The NIV® Bible (The Holy Bible, New International Version®)* copyright © 2011 by Biblia, Inc, Published by Zondervan

Alternate 2: *The HCSB® Bible (The Holy Bible, Holman Christian Standard Version®)* copyright © 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers,

Required Daniel, Orville E. *A Harmony of the Four Gospels: 2nd Edition The New International Version* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1996

Recommended: Stein, Robert H. *Studying the Synoptic Gospels Origin and Interpretation 2nd Edition* Grand Rapids: 2001

Optional: Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus / Laminated Sheet* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015

Other readings as supplied in the course notebook.

ONLINE CLASS RESOURCE

Materials provided by the instructor including this syllabus, various charts and forms and most class notes will be available as ACROBAT pdf files through an online web site. To obtain these documents, set your web browser to: csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php. From there, they may be individually selected by course and downloaded.

Course information to guide your reading and preparation for the course assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1	Attendance - This class is a three-unit class and scheduled for thirteen three hour class periods during the semester. A student may miss 1 session without penalty. However, for each class session missed after that there will be a reduction of 10% in their attendance points. The student should always make arrangements with another student to obtain classroom notes as exams and quizzes include classroom lecture material.	40
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2	<p>Course Reading – There are both Biblical Text readings, and Text book readings due each week at the beginning of class. As readings are completed they are to be initialed and dated on the weekly Reading Assignment & Log Sheet (to be handed out Week 1). Completing a reading late, or not completing a reading will result in a loss of points as indicated on the Reading Assignment & Log Sheet.</p> <p>Note: The reading assignments are reduced for Audit Students. See the reading Assignment & Log Sheet for exact Audit reading requirements</p>	160
3	<p>Memory Work – There are 5 memorization assignments distributed throughout the semester. Upon memorization of a verse, the student is responsible to have an alternate student "listen" to confirm memorization and sign the "memorization log sheet." (To Be handed out week 1) Points for each memorization will be halved if it is not signed off on time.</p> <p>Note: Memory work is optional for AUDIT Students but they are encouraged to participate. See the memorization log sheet for the exact memorization assignments.</p>	(5@8) 40
4	<p>Ad Hoc Assignments – will be assigned throughout the semester. Each Ad Hoc assignment will be turned in the week following its distribution. The Ad Hoc work may be a short study, a prayer, an exhortation, a letter or even an expression of your creative talent. This is an excellent chance to apply the language and hermeneutical skills you have learned or to express in some other creative form the inner meaning of assigned passage or topic. NOTE: Ad Hoc assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be levied a 10% per day grade reduction.</p> <p>NOTE: Audit students are expected to participate in the Ad Hoc Assignments.</p>	(5@16) 80
5	<p>Exams</p> <p>There will be 2 one hour exams as indicated on the schedule. These exams will be incremental in nature.</p> <p>The first exam will cover class room lectures, notes, and course assignments from the beginning of class through session 4</p> <p>The second exam will cover class room lectures, notes and course assignments from class session 5 through session 9.</p> <p>The Incremental Exams may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer and essay questions.</p> <p>NOTE: Audit students are expected to participate in the EXAMS</p>	2@120 240

6	<p>Final</p> <p>There will be a two hour comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the course. It will be based on lectures, assigned course reading, memory work and related study material including any study sheets or instructor prepared notes.</p> <p>The Final Exam may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.</p> <p>NOTE: The Final Exam is optional for AUDIT Students.</p>	240
7	<p>Activity / Exegesis Project – Each student will select a topic / passage and prepare a paper based on it. Details for topics and paper requirements will be distributed during class week 04.</p> <p>NOTE: An optional Oral Presentation of the project may be given W11, for a 60 point bonus in the final grade.</p> <p>NOTE: The Activity//Exegesis project is optional for AUDIT Students.</p>	200

Total Grade Points	1000 Pts
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COURSE GRADING SCALE:

F	D	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
< = 59	60-69	70-72	73-78	79-80	81-83	84-88	89-91	92-94	95-100

NOTES REGARDING GRADING:

- 1) Final Scores will not be rounded off, 88.99 will be a "B", etc.
- 2) Exams may be retaken if a failing grade is received. The two scores would then be averaged out allowing the student to increase their exam score. The student will need to take the initiative contacting the course instructor in order to retake a failed exam. Please note that other than the retaking of a failing exam there are no other make-ups or bonus options that will impact grading. Please do the assignments as noted in the Course Syllabus, and the various reading and memorization logs. In all cases it is the student's responsibility to arrange for an exam retake within a week of the return of a graded exam.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES:

1. ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Assignments may either be submitted in paper form, or be eMailed to the instructor's eMail of record but it is the student's responsibility that the eMail arrives prior to the start of class and in a format readable by the instructor¹. Unexcused late work will receive the reduction of one grade (or 10%) for each day late, including Saturdays. Late work will only be accepted in the case of illness or emergency.

It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to call and inform the professor **BEFORE** such a case exists. Arrangements will be made by the course instructor at that time as to when the work will be due because of the mitigating circumstances.

¹ Preferred format is *.doc; Also acceptable are *.rtf, and *.pdf

2. If necessary, the course instructor will dismiss any student from class for rude, interruptive or other inappropriate behavior (or dress). This includes sleeping in class or doing homework in class. If noted, the professor will ask the student to leave and the student will receive an absence for that class.
3. **ALL CELL PHONES**, pagers, or any other type of "attention getting devices" are to be turned off before the beginning of class to avoid interfering with class time. If it is critical that you be reached then make sure that your device(s) is(are) on a QUIET setting so that the rest of class is not disturbed.
4. **COMPUTER USAGE** during class to aid in note taking and interacting with the course material is encouraged. However this time is NOT to be used for email, chatting, blogging, surfing, gaming or any other activities which might interfere with others participating in class.
5. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with the Registrar as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of the course requirements
6. **WRITTEN DOCUMENT FORMATTING:** All written assignments are expected to conform to basic MLA standards. These can be summarized as:
 - a) Use one inch margins on all page borders.
 - b) Use 12pt Times New Roman for the page body font.
 - c) Use standard double spaced lines for all paragraphs.
 - d) Place the page number on every page in the header prefixed by the student's last name.
 - e) The first page of any written assignment should contain:
Student Name and Student Email,
The Instructors Name; The course ID and Course name,
The Due Date for the assignment.
 - f) A basic MLA reference document is available on the course material website. The course website is: http://csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php
 - f) A Word format² and Acrobat Format "template" file will be available for anyone that would like to use it.

NOTE: If a paper is submitted that does not conform to these requirements the paper will receive a reduction in grade of one level.

² uSoft 2003 *.doc

CLASS SCHEDULE Bi103, Spring 2016 Thursday, 6:15pm to ~9:15pm

Date	Lecture	In-Class Activity	Reading Assignment	Assignment(s) Due
W01 Feb 04	Introduction The Gospels			
W02 Feb 11	Gospels, Origin and Nature		Reading #01	HW #01
W03 Feb 18	Historical Religious Social Cultural settings		Reading #02	Memory #01
W04 Feb 25	Miracles & Parables		Reading #03	HW #02
Mar 03				
W05 Mar 10	Matthew, Introduction	Exam #1	Reading #04	Memory #02
W06 Mar 18	Jesus, Opening Ministry		Reading #05	HW #03
Mar 25				
W07 Mar 31	Ministry in Galilee Part 1		Reading #06	Memory #03
W08 Apr 07	Ministry in Galilee Part 2		Reading #07	HW #04
W09 Apr 14	With drawl from and Closing Galilean Ministry	Exam #2	Reading #08	Memory #04
W10 Apr 21	Judea, Perea, and entering Jerusalem		Reading #09	HW #05
W11 Apr 28	Final Days, Death and Resurrection	Optional Oral Presentation	Reading #10	Expository Paper
W12 May 5	Mark, Luke, & Class Review		Reading #11	Memory #05
W13 May 12		Final		Reading / Memory Log Sheets

Note: March 03, and 25th are NO Class Days.

Audit Students will only be expected to complete those In Class Activities and Assignments that are highlighted in **YELLOW**.

Please review the Reading Log sheet for both Audit and Credit reading assignments.

Please review the Memory Log sheet for both Audit and Credit memory assignments

The Exegesis Project will be assigned in Week 06.

Revision History: