

COS 321 – Bible III: Gospels
ALPS/Memphis/TN/Holston Course of Study
Martin Methodist College
March 31-April 1 and May 12-13, 2017

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Course Content and Learning Goals

This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers.

By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
2. Demonstrate faithful and fruitful exegesis of selected portions of these biblical books.
3. Apply the fruits of exegesis to preaching, to other pastoral responsibilities, and to issues of the present day.

Required Texts

Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: a Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (Baker Academic, 2009) ISBN 978-0-8010-2868-7

Frederick J. Murphy, *An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels* (Abingdon Press, 2005) ISBN 0-687-49692-6

R. Alan Culpepper, *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: a Study in Literary Design* (Fortress Press, 1983) ISBN 0-8006-2068-2

Supplementary Texts

Sharon H. Ringe, *Luke* (Westminster Bible Companion: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995) ISBN 0-664-25259-1

D. Moody Smith Jr., *John* (Abingdon New Testament Commentaries: Abingdon Press, 1999) ISBN0-687-05812-0

Required Written Work

1. A pre-course paper
2. A mid-course paper
3. Final exam

Grading System

The pre-course paper	30 %
The mid-course paper	30 %
The final exam	30 %
Class participation	10 %

The Pre-Course Paper Assignment

Read the entirety of the Gospel of Mark, from beginning to end, in one sitting. It will take you about an hour. Then read Powell (pages 125-45) and Murphy (pages 89-137).

The Gospel of Mark conveys a story, and the message of that story can be viewed as having two primary foci: Jesus and the disciples.

Drawing on your own reading of Mark, and your reading of Powell and Murphy, summarize what Mark says about Jesus, including his *actions* (proclaiming the kingdom of God, healings, exorcisms, and other miracles) and his *identity* (Messiah/Christ, Son of God, and Son of Man).

Summarize, also, what Mark says about the disciples and discipleship.

Your paper should be approximately 1500 words (five typed, double-spaced pages, twelve-point font). It is due at the beginning of the first session of the class.