

BT709 ADVANCED NEW TESTAMENT SYNTHESIS I (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts)

Course:	BT709 Advanced New Testament Synthesis I
Credit:	3 Semester Hours
Semester:	Summer 2025 Session 1
Date:	May 12 – June 27, 2025
Time:	Tuesday 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central time
Place:	Microsoft Teams
Professor:	Dr. Dan Fabricatore

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical backgrounds, arguments, biblical theology and interpretive issues of the four canonical gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the book of Acts. Students will critique the philosophy and methodology behind source criticism, form criticism, and redaction criticism as related to the gospels. Students will do exegetical studies in the Greek text of these NT books.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus (in class) and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person; online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved: The student will:

1. Explain the arguments of the following NT books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts (PLO 1, 2, 5) (A 2, 4, 8)
2. Explain the various views on the authorship, recipients, date and place of writing and purposes of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts (PLO 2, 3, 5) (A 2, 4, 8)
3. Identify the major interpretive problems for Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts and give possible solutions to them (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9)

Our Mission: "to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview"

Specific competencies to be achieved: The student will:

1. Read and translate selected texts in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts in the Greek New Testament (PLO 1) (A 9)
2. Validate the correct interpretation of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts using the grammatical historical hermeneutic (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 6, 7, 9)
3. Present a research paper to the class and answer questions related to the interpretation of a text selected from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 9)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations like NLT and NIV may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have any questions about a particular translation or version.

Green, Joel, editor. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Second edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8308-2456-4 Cost: \$57.80

Schnabel, Eckhard. *Acts*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN 13: 978-0310243670 Cost: \$59.99

Wright, N.T. and Michael Bird. *The New Testament In Its World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019. ISBN 978-0-281-08271-1 Cost: \$50.99

REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance, Bible Works, Logos)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, a *Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

Assignment 1: Read 10 articles in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* and write a summary critique of each of the ten articles. The summary/critique must be a minimum of 8 double spaced pages. (100 points)

Assignment 2: Write a detailed exegetical outline of The Gospel According to Matthew. Make sure you use full sentences for each main point and subpoint in the outline. Each outline point should have a chapter and verse reference after the outline point. (100 points)

Assignment 3: Read the following sections in N. T. Wright's book *The New Testament In Its World*: “Reading the New Testament” (pages 38-85), “The World of Jesus and the Early Church” (pages 86-171) and “Jesus and the Victory of God” (pages 172-263). Write a summary critique of each of these sections in the book. The summary/critique must be a minimum of 8 double spaced pages (100 points)

Assignment 4: Read ten more articles in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* and write a summary critique of each of these ten articles. The summary critique must be a minimum of 8 double spaced pages. (100 points)

Assignment 5: Read “The Gospels and the Son of God” (pages 554-701) in the book *The New Testament and Its World* by N.T. Wright and write a summary critique of his views on each of the four gospels. The summary critique must be a minimum of 8 double spaced pages (100 points)

Assignment #6: Read through the book of Acts and 300 pages from the commentary on Acts by Schnabel. Type a review of the 300 pages read listing what you agree with and what you disagree with in the order of the chapter and verses given in the commentary. (For example read Acts 2:41-47 and list what you agree with in Schnabel's commentary and what you disagree with on his comments on the Church in Jerusalem).. Be sure to give the exegetical reasons why you agree or disagree with his commentary for each section you choose to read (100 points)

Assignment #7: For the class translate at least 5 verses from the Greek New Testament from one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) or the book of Acts and share 5 observations on the Greek NT text, one interpretation problem and a possible solution to the exegetical problem with the class. You are encouraged to use Powerpoint for your presentation. Each student will present on a different text of scripture (first come, first served). (100 points).

Assignment #8: Write an exegetical research paper (25-30 pages double spaced and following Turabian style format) on a text from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John or Acts that is selected by you and approved by the professor. Present the results of your research in the last class. The exegetical research paper should include: your translation of the Greek text, context, exegetical outline and exegetical idea, your commentary explaining the meaning of the verses in context, biblical theology, textual criticism problem, applications and annotated bibliography of sources used in your research (300 points)

FINAL GRADE BASED ON 1000 POINTS

960-1000 points	A
940-959 points	A-
920-939 points	B+
880-919 points	B
860-879 points	B-
0-859 points	F

PROPOSED SCHEDULE/TOPICS

Week 1: Introduction to the Gospels

Week 2: Matthew 1-12

Week 3: Matthew 13-28

Week 4: Mark

Week 5: Luke

Week 6: John

Week 7: Acts

Week 8: Student Research Papers

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Academic Accommodations Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STUDENTS

Attend class in Microsoft Teams. Each PhD student is expected to be at every class on time. Make class attendance a priority.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content on student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (F) grade and the student will be reported to the Ph.D. director.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Osborne, Grant. *Matthew*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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