

**Alabama Course of Study School  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Spring 2019 - March 15-16 and April 5-6  
Assignments and Course Requirements**

**Course:** COS 321 – Bible III: Gospels  
**Instructor:** Jason Borders  
Professor of New Testament  
Chair, Department of Religion Huntingdon College  
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Course Description

This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis will be emphasized.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
2. Exegete this form of literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Required Books

Murphy, Frederick J. *An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. (ISBN 9781426749155)

Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009 (ISBN 9780801028687).

Suggested Books for your Library (not required for class)

Culpepper, R. Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1983. (ISBN 9780800620684)

Ringe, Sharon. *Luke* (Westminster Bible Companion). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. (ISBN 9780664252595)

Smith, D. Moody. *John* (Abingdon New Testament Commentaries). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. (ISBN 9780687058129)

*All written work should be well written and grammatically correct. Proofread your work for misspellings, typos, and other avoidable errors. It is often helpful to have someone else proofread your paper as well. All work must be TYPED and double-spaced. Late papers will be penalized no less than one letter grade. All work should be gender inclusive when referring to people; in particular, avoid using the pronoun "he" to reference a generic pastor.*

**Your work for Sessions One and Two should include an ALCOS Cover Sheet.**

### **Reading and Writing Assignments for Session One (pre-course work)**

The following reading assignments should be completed by the beginning of session one. Both written assignments for session one are due at the beginning of class on Friday, March 15.

**Read Powell:** Preface and Chapters 1-4

**Read Murphy:** Chapters 1-2

**Write:** Write a 4-page paper (double-spaced) based upon the assigned reading in which you discuss:

1. at least two new insights about the world of the first century and how those insights help you better understand the New Testament:
2. at least two new insights about the Gospel genre that make you a better preacher and teacher of the Gospels.

**Read:** Gospel of Mark; Powell, Chapter 6; Murphy, Chapter 3

**Read:** Gospel of Matthew; Powell, Chapter 5; Murphy, Chapter 4

**Write:** Write a 4-page paper (double-spaced) in which you discuss some of the main characteristics of the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Matthew.

### **Reading and Writing Assignments for Session Two (mid-course work)**

The following reading assignments should be completed by the beginning of session two. Written assignments for session two are due at the beginning of class on Friday, April 5.

**Read:** Gospel of Luke

**Read:** Gospel of John

**Read Powell:** Chapters 7-8

**Read Murphy:** Chapters 5-6 (skip sections on Acts of the Apostles and Letters of John)

**Write:** **Paper 1:** Choose one of the following passages in Luke: Luke 2:8-20; Luke 6:20-26; Luke 15:1-10; Luke 17:11-19; Luke 22:24-30.

In a 4-page paper (double-spaced), answer the following questions concerning the passage you selected:

- a. Form and context: What kind of text is this (parable, etc.)? In what part of Luke's Gospel does this passage occur? What comes right before and after it, and how does that affect our reading of passage?
- b. Theme(s): What theme(s) that are important to Luke do you see in this passage?
- b. Reflection: What is God's word to and for us in this text? What would you stress in preaching this text?

**Paper 2:** Based upon the assigned readings, write a 3-page paper in which you discuss major difference between John's Gospel and the synoptic gospels. Discussion topics might include chronology, themes, structure, content, audience, Christology, etc.

### Final Test

A test will be given on Saturday afternoon of the second session. Details will be provided during the first session.

### Grade Determination

Pre-course Papers	30%
Mid-course Paper	30%
Final Test	30%
Class Participation	10%

### **PreCourse / MidCourse / PostCourse Work Policy**

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:
  1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
  2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
  3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of "F" will be given in the course.
  4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.