



BIB 5132 GOSPELS: God's Means of Providing Redemption

Syllabus **Tuesdays (1:30-4:15 p.m.): August 20-December 10, 2013** **Don N. Howell, Jr.**

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will guide you through a chronological, synthetic study of the four Gospel records, emphasizing the time, place, circumstances, and persons involved in the events of Jesus' ministry. The Gospel writers narrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's appointed Redeemer of the world, who fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

II. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Howell, Don N. Jr. **BIB 5132 Gospels/Life of Christ Study Guide.**

Howell, Don N., Jr. *The Passion of the Servant. A Journey to the Cross.*
Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Resource Publications, 2009.

Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry, eds. *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels with Explanations and Essays.* San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.

Yancey, Philip. *The Jesus I Never Knew.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

*Supplementary text:

Howell, Don N. Jr. *Servants of the Servant. A Biblical Theology of Leadership.*
Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Trace the events and discourses in Jesus' life in a logical and chronological sequence, demonstrating their development and purpose.
- B. Understand the social, cultural, geographical, and historical background to the Gospels' portrait of the life of Christ.
- C. Perceive the theological and missiological significance of the major teachings and works of Jesus.
- D. Distinguish the unique contributions of each of the four Gospels in terms of their central themes, structure, and theology.
- E. Grasp the present implications of basic truths taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ in his earthly ministry, and identify at least two attitudinal and/or behavioral changes which are mandated as a result of this new understanding.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Read** through the entire *NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. The **Study Guide** is designed to facilitate this reading and to provide a framework in which to conserve the fruits of your study. It is recommended (not required) that you use the outlines in the **Study Guide** to jot down brief observations, insights, questions that come to you as you read. The class sessions will be most profitable if you read in advance the sections in the *Harmony* that are covered on a given class day (see Assignment Schedule).

Total time: 15 hrs

*Complete and turn in the attached **Harmony Reading Contract** (at end of the syllabus) by the last day of the semester, **Tuesday, December 10**.

2. **Read** Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* thoughtfully and prayerfully and take notes as you go along. **Write** a five page (double-spaced) critical review. This should not be a mere rehearsal of the contents, but should answer several of the following questions:

*How would you describe Yancey's spiritual journey as he moves from the Jesus he never knew to the Jesus he knows now?

*Where do Yancey's discoveries resonate with you, providing a fresh glimpse of the person of Jesus? Are there points of disagreement? If so, where and why?

*What is his style of writing and sources of his illustrations?

*What are the central themes, ideas, concerns that are expressed throughout the book?

*How would you summarize the factors that motivated Yancey to write this book? Is this a book that American evangelicals need to read? If so, why?

*What applications, behavioral or attitudinal, emerge from your reading?

Total time for reading (275 pages) and review: **20 hrs**

*Due **Tuesday, November 12**.

3. **Unit Examinations**

Take notes on class lectures and participate in discussions. The **Study Guide** provides outlines in which to take class notes. Selected sections will be given special coverage in the class lectures and will also comprise the main content areas to be covered on the **Unit Exams**. Thus class attendance is crucial. Two 75 minute Unit Exams will cover the sections listed in the Assignment Schedule. **Study questions** will be prepared over the content of sections given special focus in the class lectures. The exams will be taken from these questions and will require short essay-style answers assessed according to their thoroughness and clarity.

*Estimated time of preparation for each unit exam: **8 hours** (see Assignment Schedule)

4. **Study Guide Written Assignments**

The **Study Guide** includes required written assignments that are block-identified. The filled-in **Study Guide** will be submitted at intervals according to the sections indicated in the Assignment Schedule below. They can be handed in hard-copy or as e-mail attachments (dhowell@ciu.edu).

*Total time (including class attendance): **84 hours**

*The **Study Guide** contains three kinds of written assignments:

- (i) **Observation (O)**: This involves looking for patterns, themes, central points, and main lessons of the section under study. There are articles to read and to record on areas that illumine the cultural or historical setting of an event.

*Average estimated time for each Observation assignment: **30 minutes**.

(ii) **Interpretation (I)**: Beyond the initial step of observation, the student is asked to probe the meaning of a particular saying or action of Jesus. Attention must be given to context in order to arrive at correct interpretation. Assessment of alternative viewpoints, usage of the Old Testament, definition of terms, theological implications all fit into these Interpretation assignments.

*Average estimated time for each Interpretation assignment: **45 minutes**.

(iii) **Application (A)**: What behavioral and attitudinal responses are evoked from the passage? Areas of personal and concrete application to one's life should be framed in statements in the first person singular, avoiding vague generalities.

*Average estimated time for each Application assignment: **15 minutes**.

***Suggested resources** for the Study Guide assignments include the following (see **Bibliography** for major works on the life and ministry of Christ and major commentaries on Gospels):

Joel B. Green and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels* (1992)
 Merrill C. Tenney, ed. *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (5 vols)
 J. Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus* (1969)
 Bo Reicke, *The New Testament Era* (1968)
 F. F. Bruce, *New Testament History* (1972)
 Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (1971)
 Emil Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* (4 vols)
 F. F. Bruce, *The Hard Sayings of Jesus* (1983)

V. COURSE EVALUATION AND ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

<i>NIV Harmony</i> reading	10%	15 hrs
Reading and review of Yancey, <i>The Jesus I Never Knew</i>	10%	20 hrs
Study Guide written assignments (incl. class participation):	50%	84 hrs
Two Unit Examinations	<u>30%</u> (2x15)	<u>16 hrs</u> (2x8)
	100%	135 hrs

VI. ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

The Tuesday afternoon class will be divided into two class sessions:

Session #1: 1:25-2:45 p.m.

Break 2:45-3:00 p.m.

Session #2: 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Week #1: August 20

Session #1: Introduction to the Course

Session #2: Preview and Early Years of John the Baptist (**Study Guide/Harmony Secs. 1-8**)

Week #2: August 27

Session #1: Early Years of Jesus and Public Ministry of John (**Secs. 9-23**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 1-19**
(seven **O**; three **I**; 5 hrs 45 min)

Session #2: Jesus' Baptism and Temptation (**Secs. 24-27**)

Week #3: September 3

Session #1: Early Judean Ministry (**Secs. 28-36**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 20-40**
(six **O**; three **I**; 5 hrs 15 min)

Session #2 Early Galilean Ministry (**Secs. 37-52**)

Week #4: September 10

Session #1: Appointment of the Twelve; Sermon on the Mount (**Secs. 53-54**)

Session #2: Sermon on the Mount, cont. (**Sec. 54**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 41-54**
(five **O**; three **I**; four **A**; 5 hrs 45 min)

Week #5: September 17

Session #1: Middle Galilean Ministry I (**Secs. 55-63**)

Session #2: Parables of the Kingdom (**Sec. 64**)

Week #6: September 24

Session #1: Middle Galilean Ministry II (**Secs. 65-77**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 55-77**
(five **O**; four **I**; two **A**; 6 hrs)

- Session #2:** Later Galilean Ministry I (**Secs. 78-86**)
*Handout: Study Guide Questions for Unit Exam #1 (**Secs. 1-77**)

Week #7: October 1: No Class: Prayer Day

Week #8: October 8

- Session #1:** **Unit Examination #1: Study Guide/Harmony Sections 1-77**
- Session #2:** Later Galilean Ministry II (**Secs. 87-95**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 78-95**
(five **O**; three **I**; five **A**; 6 hrs)

Week #9: October 15

- Session #1:** Later Judean Ministry (**Secs. 96-111**)
- Session #2:** Early Perean Ministry (**Secs. 112-119**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 96-111**
(six **O**; two **I**; three **A**; 5 hrs 15 min)

Week #10: October 22

- Session #1:** Later Perean Ministry (**Secs. 120-127**)
- Session #2:** Triumphal Entry and the Fig Tree (**Secs. 128-131**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 112-127**
(five **O**; four **I**; three **A**; 6 hrs 15 min)

Week #11: October 29

- Session #1:** Conflict in the Temple Courts (**Secs. 132-138**)
- Session #2:** Olivet Discourse (**Secs. 139**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 128-139**
(three **O**; five **I**; two **A**; 5 hrs 45 min)

Week #12: November 5

- Session #1:** Last Supper (**Secs 140-148**)
- Session #2:** Upper Room Discourse (**Secs. 149-150**)

Week #13: November 12

- Session #1:** Intercessory Prayer and Gethsemane (**Secs. 151-152**)
- Session #2:** Betrayal, Arrest, Trial (**Secs. 153-161**)
*Due: Review of P. Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (five pages, double-spaced)

Week #14: November 19

Session #1: Crucifixion and Burial (**Secs. 162-168**)
*Hand in Study Guide Block Assignments: **Sections 140-168**
(three **O**; two **I**; 3 hrs)

Session #2: Resurrection Appearances and Ascension (**Secs. 169-180**)
*Handout: Study Questions for **Unit Exam #2 (Secs. 78-168)**

Week #15: November 26: No Class—Thanksgiving Break (Nov 25-30)

Week #16: December 3

Session #1: **Unit Examination #2: Study Guide/Harmony Sections 78-168**

Session #2: Great Commission (**Secs. 181-184**)

Week #17: December 10: No Class

*Hand in the completed **Harmony Reading Contract** (see below)

*Fill out the course evaluation online by accessing BIB 5132 (Section 01) at courses.ciu.edu.

Academic Success Center

Students with physical, emotional, ADHD, or learning disabilities who need academic accommodations should make requests through the Academic Success Center. These requests will be kept confidential and will be used only to provide academic accommodations. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests should be made as early as possible. You may contact the Academic Success Center by phone at 1-803-807-5611, or by email at academicsuccess@ciu.edu. If you already receive services through ASC, please contact that office so they can help make your academic experience in this course as successful as possible.

SSM Stylesheet

The official guide for all written work in connection with this course is the *SSM Stylesheet*, which is available from the Faculty Administrative Assistant's office. It is based on the Chicago Manual of Style as summarized in the latest edition of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. It includes guidelines related to grammar and style, organization of papers, abbreviations and numbers, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, quotations, using Greek and Hebrew words, using and citing sources, footnotes, bibliography and using the internet. The instructor reserves the right to return written work that displays poor spelling, consistent grammatical errors, incorrect style and/or poor general appearance. The basic parameters are set out in the *Stylesheet*. If your work is returned for any of these reasons, you may resubmit it within two weeks of its return. If you do not revise and resubmit your work, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

*To find an electronic copy of the Stylesheet, you may follow this path:

CIUOnline>Student Life>Seminary Information>Resources>Stylesheet

Plagiarism

CIU SSM expects you to be honorable in your studies and responsible for your own academic work. Dishonesty in assignments, examinations, written papers, or other work is contrary to scriptural principles of Christian living and an affront to fellow students and your instructors. Plagiarism occurs when you present another person's ideas or words as your own, or when you intentionally or unintentionally fail to acknowledge or cite the source of the ideas you use.

Acknowledging and citing sources involves placing quotation marks around all the material you have taken (or paraphrased) from books, articles, internet sites, other students' papers, or other work you have not personally produced. It also involves listing full information about that source in a footnote or a parenthetical reference. See the *SSM Stylesheet* for examples of how to cite sources correctly.

Specific examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following:

1. Borrowing the words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment from a source (e.g., a book, an article, another student's paper, a tape/video, an internet site) without acknowledging the source.
2. Submitting work done by another student—in part or in whole—in place of original work.
3. Submitting assignments received from the Internet, from commercial firms or from any other person or group.
4. Knowingly aiding another student in plagiarizing an assignment as defined above.

You may not submit work that is part of a group consultation unless it is related to an assignment your syllabus specifically indicates is to be completed as part of a group. If you study for an exam with a review group, you may not reproduce any answers that others have written and submit it as your own work. You may not share with others answers to exam questions you have composed in advance. Any of these actions will be considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in academic penalty, and may result in failure in the assignment, failure in the course, and further disciplinary action. When appropriate, your Student Life chaplain will be informed.

**BIB 5132: Gospels/Life of Christ
*NIV Harmony Reading Contract***

NAME: _____

Box No. _____

* Mark **R** beside each section when reading is completed (not scanning).

Part One: A Preview of Who Jesus Is (**Secs. 1-3**) _____

Part Two: The Early Years of John The Baptist (**Secs. 4-8c**) _____

Part Three: The Early Years of Jesus Christ (**Secs. 9-19**) _____

Part Four: The Public Ministry of John the Baptist (**Secs. 20-23**) _____

Part Five: End of John’s Ministry and Beginning of Christ’s Public Ministry
 (**Secs. 24-36**) _____

Part Six: The Ministry of Christ in Galilee
 Opposition at Home and a New Headquarters (**Secs. 37-40**) _____

Disciples Called and Ministry throughout Galilee (**Secs. 41-48**) _____

Sabbath Controversies and Withdrawals (**Secs. 49a-52**) _____

Appointment of the Twelve and Sermon on the Mount (**Secs. 53-54i**) _____

Growing Fame and Emphasis on Repentance (**Secs. 55-59**) _____

First Public Rejection by Jewish Leaders (**Secs. 60-63**) _____

Secrets about the Kingdom Given in Parables (**Secs. 64a-64k**) _____

Continuing Opposition (**Secs. 65-69**) _____

Final Galilean Campaign (**Secs. 70a-71b**) _____

Part Seven: The Ministry of Christ around Galilee
 Lesson on the Bread of Life (**Secs. 72a-76b**) _____

Lesson on the Leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians (**Secs. 77-81b**) _____

Lesson of Messiahship Learned and Confirmed (**Secs. 82-86**) _____

Lessons on Responsibility to Others (**Secs. 87-92**) _____

Journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (**Secs. 93-95**) _____

Part Eight: The Later Judean Ministry of Christ
 Ministry Beginning at the Feast of Tabernacles (**Secs. 96a-101b**) _____

Private Lessons on Loving Service and Prayer (**Secs. 102a-105**) _____

Second Debate with the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees (**Secs. 106-111**) _____

Part Nine: The Ministry of Christ around Perea
Principles of Discipleship (**Secs. 112-119**) _____

Teaching while on Final Journey to Jerusalem (**Secs. 120a-127b**) _____

Part Ten: The Formal Presentation of Christ to Israel and the Resulting Conflict
Triumphal Entry and the Fig Tree (**Secs. 128a-131**) _____

Official Challenges to Christ's Authority (**Secs. 132a-135**) _____

Christ's Response to His Enemies' Challenges (**Secs. 136-138**) _____

Part Eleven: Prophecies in Preparation for the Death of Christ
The Olivet Discourse: Jesus Speaks Prophetically about the Temple
and His Own Second Coming (**Secs. 139a-139g**) _____

Arrangements for Betrayal (**Secs. 140-142**) _____

The Last Supper (**Secs. 143-148**) _____

Discourse and Prayers from the Upper Room to Gethsemane (**Secs. 149-152**) _____

Part Twelve: The Death of Christ
Betrayal and Arrest (**Sec. 153**) _____

Trial (**Secs. 154-161**) _____

Crucifixion (**Secs. 162-164**) _____

Burial (**Secs. 167a-168**) _____

Part Thirteen: The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ
The Empty Tomb (**Secs. 169-172**) _____

The Post Resurrection Appearances (**Secs. 173-183**) _____

The Ascension (**Sec. 184**) _____

*I completed the reading of the sections of the *NIV Harmony* as indicated above.

Signature _____

Date _____