

MTG204.7 Synoptic Gospels Exegesis and Theology for Proclamation

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)
Synoptic Gospels Exegesis and Theology for Proclamation (MTG204.7)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Bachelor	One semester	Advanced	Dr Chris Johnstone

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core or Elective: Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministry
 Elective: Bachelor of Intercultural Studies

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Prerequisite: MTG201.7 Interpreting the New Testament

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS**Brief description of the content of the unit**

This advanced exegetical unit facilitates in-depth exegetical and theological analysis of the Synoptic Gospels and their proclamation in diverse contemporary contexts. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. Students critically engage with current issues in Jesus and Gospel studies with specific focus on one of the Synoptic Gospels in its theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts and its proclamation in contemporary Christian communities. On completion of this unit, students will confidently and faithfully proclaim the Synoptic Gospels to various audiences today.

Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Analyse contemporary issues in Jesus and Gospel studies, explaining the significance for interpreting one of the Synoptic Gospels
- 2) Analyse the theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts for Jesus and the Gospel traditions, explaining the significance for interpreting one of the Synoptic Gospels
- 3) Critically apply hermeneutical theory, exegetical methods and skills to the interpretation of one of the Synoptic Gospels in its theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts
- 4) Creatively communicate clear, coherent and appropriately targeted expositions of one of the Synoptic Gospels to diverse audiences

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Quizzes Students complete 10 short online quizzes based on their assigned reading of the textbooks. (700 words equiv.)	1 & 2	Wks 4 & 8	10%
2. Critical Issue Paper The prescribed textbooks include chapters dedicated to critical issues in Jesus and Gospel studies. These discussions will introduce students to the issues and their significance. Students will select one issue for a more detailed analysis and explain the significance for the interpretation of one of the Synoptic Gospels. A minimum of 8 resources is required, including the prescribed textbooks. (1500 words)	1	Wk 6	30%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>3. Exegetical Paper</p> <p>Students critically engage with the theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts for Jesus and the Gospel traditions and apply hermeneutical theory and specific exegetical methods and skills to interpret a select passage from one of the Synoptic Gospels (options provided) and present their work in a formal academic paper.</p> <p>A minimum of 12 resources is required, including at least 3 intermediate level commentaries. (1800 words)</p>	2 & 3	Wk 9	40%
<p>4. Proclaiming the Text</p> <p>Based on their exegetical paper (see assessment task 3), students produce and deliver:</p> <p>a) a 15-minute narrative-style sermon or teaching session, with an accompanying multimedia presentation, designed to a target audience of their choosing, and</p> <p>b) a 7-minute devotional designed to a target audience of a different demographic to that in a.</p> <p>(1000 words equiv)</p>	4	devotional Wk 11 sermon & teaching Wk 13	20% (sermon & teaching 15%; devotional 5%)

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Prescribed reading:

Pennington, Jonathan T. *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*. Baker Academic, 2012.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Wright, N.T. *How God Became King: Getting to the Heart of the Gospels*. London: SPCK, 2012.
(republished: Wright, N.T. *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2016)

Recommended reading:

Aland, K., ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Greek-English Edition of the Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*. 15th ed. Stuttgart: German Bible Societies, 2013.

Allen, O. Wesley. *Reading the Synoptic Gospels: Basic Methods for Interpreting Matthew, Mark, and Luke*. Revised and Expanded. St Louis, MO: Chalice, 2013.

Bird, Michael F. *The Gospel of the Lord: How the Early Church Wrote the Story of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Bock, Darrell L, and Benjamin I Simpson. *Jesus According to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic; Apollos, 2017.

Brown, Jeannine K. *The Gospels as Stories: A Narrative Approach to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Dunn, James D.G. *Jesus, Paul, and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.

Green, J. B. ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Green, J. B., J. K. Brown, and N. Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2013.

Harding, M., and A. Nobbs, eds. *The Content and Setting of the Gospel Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*. Waco, TX: BUP, 2016.

Horsley, Richard A. *Jesus and the Powers: Conflict, Covenant, and the Hope of the Poor*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2011.

Keener, Craig S. *Christobiography: Memory, History, and the Reliability of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019.

Mangum, Douglas, and Douglas Estes, eds. *Literary Approaches to the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2018.

Marsh, Clive, and Steve Moyise. *Jesus and the Gospels*. 3rd ed. London; New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015.

Mclver, Robert K. *Memory, Jesus, and the Synoptic Gospels*. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

McKnight, S. *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

McKnight, S., and J. B. Modica, eds. *Jesus is Lord: Caesar is Not: Evaluating Empire in New Testament Studies*. Downer's Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.

Porter, S. E., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Criticism and Interpretation*. London: Routledge, 2009.

Thiessen, Matthew. *Jesus and the Forces of Death: The Gospels' Portrayal of Ritual Impurity within First-Century Judaism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

Wiarda, Timothy. *Interpreting Gospel Narratives: Scenes, People, and Theology*. Nashville, TN: B & H, 2010.