

NT 351 - MATTHEW

Spring Semester, 2009
Thursday, 6:30-9:20 PM
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John Kampen
Office Hours:
Thursday, 1:00-3:00
or by appointment (ext. 3482)

1. Purpose of Course:

This course examines the gospel of Matthew within the perspective of the developments within Second Temple Judaism. It also encompasses the variety of modern methods of biblical study which have been employed in the evaluation of the meaning and significance of this gospel. Major commentaries on the first gospel are examined and evaluated. Particular attention is paid to the methods of sociological analysis and social history. An exegesis of selected texts is required.

2. Textbooks:

Warren Carter, *Matthew and Empire: Initial Explorations*. Harrisburg: Trinity, 2001
J. Andrew Overman, *Church and Community in Crisis: The Gospel According to Matthew*. The New Testament in Context series. Valley Forge: Trinity, 1996
Amy Jill Levine, ed., *A Feminist Companion to Matthew*. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 2004 (orig. T & T Clark, 2001)
Dale C. Allison, Jr. ed., *Matthew: A Shorter Commentary*. London: ICC. T & T Clark, 2006
Richard A. Horsley, *Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003
Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: Revised and Expanded Edition. A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2009
NRSV Bible

Recommended:

Gospel Parallels by Burton H. Throckmorton or *New Gospel Parallels* by Robert Funk or *Synopsis Quattor Evangeliorum* by Kurt Aland or *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: English Edition*, UBS

3. Class Requirements:

a. Read the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. You will be expected to bring questions to class on each reading.

b. Each student will research and make a presentation on one of the following groups from first century Judaism. A few of you may choose to make a joint presentation:

Essenes
Hasidim
Pharisees
Priests

Sadducees
 Samaritans
 Scribes
 Sicarii
 Zealots

The research paper should be about 5 pages long (1250 words), no more than 7 pages, and will be posted on the Sharepoint site for the class. This will make the information available for any student to use while they are engaged in their further research project in the class. The topics covered should be the following:

- 1) Primary sources for information about the group
- 2) Major theories concerning their identity and significance for first century Judaism
- 3) Critical appraisal of those theories and a thesis with the authors' conclusions and their justification

For each joint presentation, students can elect whether to hand in a joint paper or each person hand it in separately.

Class presentations will need to be limited to 10 minutes plus questions.

A preliminary bibliography for this assignment can be found at the end of this syllabus.

c. Each student will choose one pericope from Matthew and write an exegetical paper of at least 10 pages (2500 words) in length. These papers will be discussed in class. To facilitate this process, the papers will be posted on Sharepoint by Tuesday noon prior to the class in which they are being discussed. Guidelines for writing an exegetical paper will be distributed in class and discussed. In this course it is expected that you will have incorporated into your exegetical paper some of the insights from social history. All papers are expected to be written according to the style outlined in *A Manual for Writers* (5th ed.) by Kate Turabian. The final copies of the paper will be due one week after presentation. I will notify you of any changes from this policy for seniors.

d. Each student will be expected to have read the exegesis papers in advance of the class session and the section in the textbook commentaries concerning the pericopes to be presented. They should also choose two additional commentaries (marked with an * in the bibliography) for the same purpose. On the basis of your readings you will come to class having prepared at least one question in advance for each paper. The entire class period will be a discussion of the paper and not a presentation of the material.

e. In lieu of a final examination you will write a 2-page (500 word) reflection paper of your thoughts on the implications of our study: "The Implications of the Study of the Gospel of Matthew for the Life of the Church." Identify three important points around which to focus your summary. These papers will form the basis for the final session on May 21. They will be handed in to the instructor.

This is meant to be a reflection paper of your developing and concluding thoughts on this subject as you complete your study of this gospel. In order to prepare yourself for this final exercise I would recommend that you keep a journal of your thoughts on the subject as the semester progresses and as thoughts pop into your mind. You will then have a ready resource for your own creative reflection on the topic.

f. More than one unexcused absence will result in the loss of one letter grade. Late papers cannot be tolerated and will result in the loss of one letter grade. By seminary policy more than 3 absences results in a grade of “F”.

g. Any plagiarism of assignments or evidence of the use of these assignments in another course without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a grade of “F” for the course. See the description of the policy in the MTSO Student Handbook.

4. Grades:

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| Paper #1 and class presentation | 20% |
| Paper #2 | 40% |
| -class presentation and discussion of paper | 10% |
| Final Paper | 15% |
| Class Participation | 15% |

5. Class and Reading Schedule:

Feb. 5 Introduction to course and the course syllabus

Feb. 12 Palestine in the Roman Period

Readings:

Horsley, *Jesus and Empire*, 1-63
 Carter, *Matthew and Empire*, 9-34
 The Gospel of Matthew

Feb. 19 The methods of sociology and social history

Readings:

Steve Barton, “Historical Criticism and Social-Science Perspectives,” in *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation* (ed. Joel B. Green; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 61-89 (e-copy available)
 Lester Grabbe, “When is a Sect is a Sect -- Or Not? Groups and Movements in the Second Temple Period,” in *Sectarianism in Early Judaism: Sociological Advances* ((London: Equinox, 2007), 114-32 (e-copy available)
 Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), 29-47 (e-copy available)
 The Gospel of Matthew

Feb. 26 Presentations on Jewish Groups in First-Century Israel

Mar. 5 Introduction to the study of Matthew and Exegesis

Readings:

Carter, *Matthew and Empire*, 35-53
 Davies and Allison, *Matthew: A Shorter Commentary*, xi-xxix
 Joseph Michael Brown, “Matthew, Gospel of,” *NIDB* 3:839-52 (on reference)
 Overman, *Church and Community*, 1-27

The Gospel of Matthew
Skim Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*

Mar. 19 Matthew and the Galilee

Readings:

Richard Horsley, *Archaeology, History and Society in Galilee: The Social Context of Jesus and the Rabbis* (Valley Forge: Trinity, 1996), 15-65 (e-copy available)
Carol Selkin Wise, "Miqwā'ôt and Second Temple Sectarianism," in *The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the "Other" in Antiquity, Studies in Honor of Eric M. Myers* (eds. Douglas R. Edwards and C. Thomas McCollough; ASOR Annual 60/61; Boston: ASOR, 2007), 181-200 (e-copy available)
Katharina Galor, "The Stepped Water Installations of the Sepphoris Acropolis," in *The Archaeology of Difference*, 201-13 (e-copy available)

Mar. 26 Matthew 5:3-48: The Sermon on the Mount

Readings:

Davies and Allison, *Matthew*, 64-87
Overman, *Church and Community*, 73-111
George J. Brooke, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament* (Minneapolis: Fortress,

Apr. 2 Matthew 9:18-26; 15:21-28

Readings:

Amy-Jill Levine, *Feminist Companion*, 13-51, 70-87, 114-70
Davies and Allison, *Matthew*, 139-42
Overman, *Church and Community*, 132-33

Apr. 16 Matt 11:25-30

Carter, *Matthew and Empire*, 108-29
Levine, *Feminist Companion*, 88-113
Grant Macaskill, *Revealed Wisdom and Inaugurated Eschatology in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (JSJSupp 115; Leiden: Brill, 2007), 115-55 (e-copy available)

Apr. 23 Matthew 27:11-26

Carter, *Matthew and Empire*, 57-107, 145-68
Davies and Allison, *Matthew*, 501-15
Overman, *Church and Community*, 353-92

Apr. 30 Class Presentations

May 7 Class Presentations

May 14 Class Presentations

May 21 Final wrap-up session

7. Bibliography:

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- *Allen, W. C. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to St. Matthew*. ICC. 3d ed. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1912
- Allison, Dale C. *The New Moses: A Matthean Typology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994
- Balch, David L., ed. *Social History of the Matthean Community: Cross-disciplinary Approaches*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991
- Bauer, David R. *The Structure of Matthew's Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Sheffield: Almond, 1988
- *Beare, Francis W. *The Gospel According to Matthew: A Commentary*. New York: Harper & Row, 1982
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- *Boring, M. Eugene. *Matthew*. NIB 8. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995
- Bornkamm, Günther, Gerhard Barth and Heinz Held. *Tradition and Interpretation in Matthew*. Trans. Percy Scott. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963
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- *Brown, Michael Joseph. *The Gospel of Matthew*. In *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Ed. Brian K. Blount. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.
- *Brown, Raymond E. *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1977
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- Davies, W. D. *The Setting of the Sermon on the Mount*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976
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- Farrer, Austin. *St Matthew and St Mark*. Westminster: Dacre, 1954
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- Garland, David E. *The Intention of Matthew 23*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1979
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- Guelich, Robert A. *The Sermon on the Mount: A Foundation for Understanding*. Waco: Word, 1982
- *Gundry, Robert H. *Matthew: A Commentary on His Handbook for a Mixed Church Under Persecution*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994
- Gurtner, Daniel M. and John Nolland. *Built Upon the Rock: Studies in the Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008
- *Hagner, Donald A. *Matthew 1-13; Matthew 14-28*. 2 vols. WBC 33a, b. Dallas: Word, 1993, 1995
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- *Hare, Douglas R. A. *Matthew*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox, 1993
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- *Harrington, Daniel J. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Sacra Pagina. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, Glazier, 1991
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- Howard, George. *The Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*. 2d ed. Macon: Mercer University Press, 1987
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- *Keener, Craig S. *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999
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* Important commentaries that can be used for comparative purposes.

8. Preliminary Bibliography for Research on Jewish Groups

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