Course Syllabus for NT 421: Studies in the Gospels,
*Christ’s Discipleship Methods in the Gospels*
A course offered at BMATS
Fall 2011

Instructor:  Mr. David G. Hellwig
Contact Information:
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- Seminary email dhellwig4@bmats.edu

Course Description:

According to the catalog, this course is defined as follows: “Topical and exegetical studies are made in the Synoptic and/or Johannine gospels with emphasis on important theological concepts and great events in the life of Christ, such as the Messianic consciousness of Jesus, His miracles, and His parabolic teachings.” This particular course is a focus on the four Gospels with a particular emphasis on the discovery of Christ’s discipleship methods He employed in training His disciples for ministry. A close examination of key texts in the Gospels will be studied throughout this course that detail the teaching and training methods of Jesus.

Required Course Textbooks:

- The Holy Bible

Course Objectives:

*By the end of this course, the student should . . .*

- possess a firm *knowledge* of the way Christ discipled the Twelve from the Gospel accounts.

- be able to *apply* those discipleship methods in light of personal relationships or ministry setting.

- be able to *analyze* and *appraise* the various stages of discipleship that Christ took His disciples through.
- be able to *comprehend* more fully the various texts in the Gospels that touch on
  Christ’s discipleship of the Twelve.

- possess a greater appreciation for the Gospels as prime material to utilize in
  making disciples.

**Course Requirements:**

*Writing Assignments:*

1) Each student will write an 8-10 page research paper on any topic or passage
related to the Gospels with a focus on discipleship. The paper should contain
the following:

- title page
- contents page
- footnotes (Times New Roman 12 pt. font)
- bibliography (at least 8 sources, including one journal article)
- body of the paper should be 8-10 pages

The body of the paper should be double-spaced using Times New Roman,
12 pt. font, and written according to Turabian, 7th edition. The paper will be
graded on grammar, sentence structure, logical flow of thought, and neatness.

2) Each student will write a critical review of Bill Hull’s book. This review will
be written according to the rubric for writing a critical book review that will
be given on the first day of class. This critical review is to be 2-3 pages in
length double-spaced.

*Reading Assignments:*

1) Each student will read through the four Gospels using the *Harmony of the
Gospels* textbook so that the parallel accounts may be read together.

2) Each student will read the book by Bill Hull on *New Century Disciple Making*
according to the class schedule included with this syllabus.

**Policy on Late Work:**

Students are expected to turn in assignments on time. Any late work will be deducted 2%
points for every day it is late.
Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each class session. According to the catalog, missing more than ¼ of class sessions constitutes grounds for failure in the course. The seminary has a fifteen week semester, so missing four or more classes places one over the limit. Guard your absences carefully!! Five points will be deducted from your class attendance and participation grade for each class period that is missed. Also, three tardies equals one absence. It is important to be on time for class!!

Course Exams:

Two exams will be given in this course, a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative, but covers only the material in the latter half of the course. Tests must be taken on the day they are scheduled.

Course Grading:

There are a total of 1,000 points that can be earned for this course. Each percentage point must be earned as grades will not be rounded up. For example, if you earn 907 points for the course, your grade will be a 90.7%, which is a B. The breakdown of the point totals and percentage points are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>250 pts.</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
<td>( 5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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BMATS Grading Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Withdrawal while passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdrawal while failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule:

Aug. 30 – Introduction to the course

Sept. 6 – The Hunger of the Heart (Hull, 15-23)

13 – Eyes that Begin to See (Hull, 24-39)

20 – Creative Persuasion (Hull, 40-62)

27 – The Taste of New Wine (Hull, 65-82)

Oct. 4 – Confirmation of the Call (Hull, 83-94)

11 – Both Feet in the Real World (Hull, 95-113)

18 – Our Spiritual Bonding Force (Hull, 114-28)

25 – MID-TERM EXAM

Nov. 1 – It is For Life (Hull, 131-40)

8 – A Labor of Love (Hull, 141-52)

15 – Becoming More Like the Master (Hull, 153-78)


Dec. 6 – FINAL EXAM

* The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus and course schedule at his discretion.

* This class will meet each Tuesday from 8 AM to 12 noon. Chapel will begin at 10:00 AM, and class will resume at 11:05 AM following chapel.

* This class will meet in the Mt. Olive room.
Addendum to NT 421 Syllabus

This course is a Bachelor’s level course. This particular course is focused on the exegetical study of various passages throughout the Gospels. This course is intended to advance student learning primarily through application and analysis (although some knowledge and comprehension will be gained from the biblical texts, as well as the appraisal of the various discipleship stages Jesus carried His disciples through).

Course Learning Outcomes

The assignments for this course are based on the learning outcomes which are intended to help the student perform in the semi-advanced levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy.¹ The writing of a research paper will allow the student to dig deeper into areas of discipleship regarding the Scripture text and will help the student to achieve course objectives #1-4. The reading from the Gospels and Hull’s book will help the student achieve course objectives #1, 3, 4, 5. The critical review will help the student to achieve course objective #3. The exams for this course will help the student achieve course objectives #1, 3, 4.

Program Outcomes

Every degree program at BMATS has a list of program objectives that should be obtained by each student in that program. For those in the BAR program, this course should help the student to achieve objectives #2 (function effectively in the various support roles required in Christian ministry) and #5 (understand and be able to communicate fundamental biblical and theological truths in the context of Christian ministry).

¹ Bloom’s Taxonomy is a chart that was developed to show the various levels of educational objectives in the cognitive domain. There are six levels on the Bloom’s Taxonomy chart. These levels begin at the lowest level of learning and rise to the higher levels of learning. The first level is KNOWLEDGE, which entails rote memory and recall of specifics. The second level is COMPREHENSION, which entails basic understanding and putting an idea into your own words. The third level is APPLICATION, which entails applying a general principle to a new and concrete situation. The fourth level is ANALYSIS, which entails breaking the information into component parts in order to examine it and develop divergent conclusions. The fifth level is SYNTHESIS, which entails creatively or divergently applying prior knowledge and skills to produce a new or original whole. The sixth level is EVALUATION, which entails judging the value of material based on informed personal values/opinions resulting in an end product without a distinct right or wrong answer. A further description of these levels can be accessed at http://classweb.gmu.edu/ndabbagh/Resources/Resources2/bloomstax.htm
Course Syllabus Contract

I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

I have duly noted the due dates on the course schedule and agree that I will turn in all assignments on time.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that tests must be taken on the day they are scheduled.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course, and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing class will result in 5 points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade for each day that is missed. I further understand that three tardies is equal to one absence according to the BMATS catalog.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Date ______________ Signature ____________________________

Printed name ____________________________
Bibliography

Gospel of Matthew


Gospel of Mark


*The Gospel of Luke*


*Gospel of John*


