

<b>Unit Code</b>
B7254
<b>Unit Name</b>
Synoptic Gospels
<b>Unit Weighting</b>
9 cps
<b>Type of Unit</b>
Intermediate
<b>Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions</b>
<b>9 B cps prerequisite</b>
<b>Academic Staff</b>
Dr Michele A. Connolly, BA, ANU 1976; Dip Ed, UNE 1982; BTh(Hons) YTU 1990; MA(Theol) CTU Chicago, IL 1991; PhD, GTU Berkeley, CA 2008. The SCD Registry of Teachers lists all teachers accredited to teach this course unit.
<b>Curriculum Objectives</b>
This Course Unit builds on any Biblical Studies Introductory Course Unit and contributes towards the sub-major sequence in Biblical Studies. It enables students to develop the ability to research in Biblical Studies through reading the Synoptic Gospels in the light of relevant contemporary scholarly literature.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, socio-cultural and religious background of the Synoptic Gospels.</li> <li>2. Identify the literary forms and theological themes of the Synoptic Gospels.</li> <li>3. Exegete selected passages from the Synoptic Gospels.</li> <li>4. Integrate into formal essay writing, scholarly research on the Synoptic Gospels</li> <li>5. Employ their acquired knowledge in preaching, liturgy and spiritual leadership.</li> </ol>
<b>Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit</b>
Threshold concepts to be acquired in this unit are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship of the Synoptic Gospels to history, as envisaged at the times both of their composition and of their contemporary reception.</li> <li>• The relationship between academic scholarship on the Synoptic Gospels and a particular church tradition.</li> <li>• The relationship between historical critical scholarship and personal Christian faith.</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The historical, geographical and socio-cultural context of the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE Roman Empire.</li> <li>2. The religious context of 1<sup>st</sup> century CE Palestinian Judaism.</li> <li>3. The literary genre of Gospel and the literary forms within the gospels.</li> <li>4. The distinctive theological themes of each Synoptic Gospel.</li> <li>5. Contemporary historical-critical methodologies for studying the Synoptic Gospels.</li> <li>6. Research and essay writing skills for New Testament Gospels.</li> <li>7. Application of critically researched knowledge of the Gospels to various church activities.</li> </ol>
<b>Teaching Methods</b>
Teaching methods might include Group Projects, Tutorials whether in a classroom or online, Lectures, Role Plays, Student Presentations.
<b>Assessment Profile</b>
<b>To achieve the assessment outcomes, a student will be required to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present a critically informed aspect of a key Markan theme. [Outcomes 1, 2, 4]</li> <li>2. Examine a selection of related pericopes from either Matthew or Luke for their theological themes and application to contemporary living. [Outcomes 2, 4, 5]</li> </ol>

3. Write an exegesis of at least three (3) passages in the Gospel of either Matthew or Luke (whichever not written on in Task #2), at least one with a parallel in the Gospel of Mark, to show the distinct theological interests of the Gospel chosen. Show the application of this theme to a liturgical or pastoral situation. [Outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5]

### Representative References

- Collins, Adela Y. *Mark*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2007.
- Donahue, John R. and Daniel J. Harrington. *The Gospel of Mark*. Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier, 2002.
- Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Green, Joel B. *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Harrington, Daniel J. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Collegeville: Michael Glazier, 1991.
- Johnson, Luke T. *The Gospel of Luke*. Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1991.
- Malina, Bruce J., and Richard L. Rohrbaugh (eds.). *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1992.
- Meier, John P. *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus*. 3 vols. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1991, 1994, 1997.
- Moloney, Francis J. *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary*. Peabody, MA: Hendricksen, 2002.
- Riches, John, William R. Telford and Christopher M. Tuckett, eds. *The Synoptic Gospels*. Introduction by Scot McKnight. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.
- Schnackenburg, Rudolf. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Transl. Robert R. Barr. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2002.
- Throckmorton, Burton H. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels: with Alternative Readings from the Manuscripts and Noncanonical Parallels*. 5th ed. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1992.
- The New Interpreter's Bible: General Articles & Introduction, Commentary, & Reflections For Each Book Of The Bible, Including The Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*. Vol 8, General articles on the **New** Testament; Matthew; Mark. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, c1994-.