



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	GOSPEL OF MARK
UNIT CODE	B52021
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	A/B
PREREQUISITE/S	A/B51014 Studying the Scriptures 1 – Method & Hermeneutic
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Dr Mary Coloe and Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Mary Coloe
TEACHING STAFF	Dr Mary Coloe
DATE PREPARED	31 August 2006

Rationale

The study of *The Gospel of Mark* is basic to any engagement with New Testament scholarship. Scholarly study of *Mark* entails familiarity with and use of the following methodologies: historical critical study, literary and rhetorical study, social scientific, political and cultural study. This gospel is to be studied within its historical context, especially its inter-relation with first-century Judaism and Roman rule. The study of *Mark* is also pertinent to the ongoing scholarly debate concerning “the quest for the historical Jesus”. Contemporary issues that interact with study of *Mark* include issues of religious persecution, discipleship and the relation of religious expectations to socio-political realities.

Relation to program

This unit will build on introductory units by focusing on one of the Synoptic Gospels. The unit will develop students’ understanding of the gospel as a genre and the unique contribution Mark makes to New Testament theology. Issues such as the relationships between the Synoptic Gospels, the formation of the Gospel from oral tradition, and theories of the dating of Mark will be treated. Traditional historical critical methods will be combined with narrative critical methods to develop skills in analysing and interpreting the Gospel text.

Aims

The unit aims to introduce undergraduate students to a range of critical scholarship relating to the theological, literary, and historical significance of Mark. The unit will develop experience in the use of scholarly tools in dealing with biblical texts, especially Mark and its Synoptic parallels. Students will be encouraged to note distinctive features in the contents of Mark and their relevance for the Marcan community in its likely social, political and religious situation. The unit will assist students to assess critically a number of issues involved in the interpretation of Mark including: Mark's portrait of Jesus and his mission, the portrayal of disciples and the theological interpretation of Jesus' death as presented in the passion narrative.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Identify and explain the symbols, characters and structure of specific passages;
2.	Compare and analyse parallel primary sources, especially through redactional study;
3.	Establish the parameters of a passage and its relation to the surrounding context;
4.	Apply both historical and narrative critical methods to an analysis of a particular aspect of Mark's theology.

Content

- 1 The background and purposes of Mark
- 2 Methodologies used in a scholarly study of Mark
- 3 Mark's view of the Son of Man
- 4 The Messiah figure
- 5 The Kingdom of God
- 6 Concepts of salvation
- 7 Christology
- 8 Discipleship, particularly in relation to Judaism
- 9 Apocalyptic eschatology
- 10 Mark's Passion narrative
- 11 Various endings of Mark

Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time comprises lectures and tutorials and seminars, with tutorial papers presented during the tutorial. Tutorials also consist of group discussion of issues raised in lectures, the students' own reading and selected primary texts.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Exegetical paper, presented in a tutorial and submitted for assessment	2000	40%	Through semester	2, 3
2	Research essay	3000	60%	End-semester	1, 3, 4

Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student's knowledge of Mark by means of independent learning and the retrieval and use of relevant information, and the use of appropriate techniques in biblical study.

- Item 2 Will develop the student's coherent knowledge of Mark, use of appropriate techniques in biblical study and the ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement.

Bibliography

Textbooks

Aland, K et al (eds). *The Greek New Testament*. 3rd ed; Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 1983.

or

The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments with the Apocryphal/Deutero-Canonical Books. NRSV; Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1999.

and one of the following commentaries:

Moloney, FJ. *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2002.

Donahue, JR & DJ Harrington. *The Gospel of Mark*. Sacra Pagina 2; Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2002.

Recommended

For students working in English translation, an Interlinear Greek-English New Testament.

References – Books

Commentaries

a) On the Greek Text

Cranfield, CEB. *The Gospel According to St Mark*. The Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary; rev ed; Cambridge: CUP, 1977.

Taylor, V. *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*. 2nd ed; London: Macmillan, 1966.

b) On the English Text

Achtemeier, P. *Mark*. Proclamation Commentaries; 2nd ed; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.

Guelich, RA. *Mark 1-8:26*. Word Biblical Commentary 34a; Dallas: Word, 1989.

Gundry, RH. *Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Hare, DRA. *Mark*. Westminster Bible Companion; Louisville: John Knox, 1996.

Hooker, MD. *The Gospel According to St Mark*. Black's NT Commentary; London: A&C Black, 1991.

Mann, CS. *Mark*. Anchor Bible 27; New York: Doubleday, 1986.

Myers, C. *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988.

Williamson, L. *Mark*. Interpretation; Atlanta: John Knox, 1983.

General

Best, E. *Mark: The Gospel as Story*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1983.

Brown, RE. *The Death of the Messiah: From Gethsemane to the Grave: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels*. 2 vols; ABRL; New York: Doubleday, 1994.

Brown, RE. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Dowd, SE. *Reading Mark: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2000.

- Fowler, RM. *Let the Reader Understand: Reader-Response Criticism and the Gospel of Mark*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.
- Hengel, M. *Studies in the Gospel of Mark*. London: SCM, 1985.
- Kingsbury, JD. *The Christology of Mark's Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.
- Kingsbury, JD. *Conflict in Mark: Jesus, Authorities, Disciples*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989.
- Malina, BJ & RL Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1992.
- Matera, FJ. *What are they saying about Mark?* New York: Paulist, 1987.
- Painter, J. *Mark*. London: Routledge, 1996.
- Rhoads, D & D Michie. *Mark as Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.
- Robbins, VK. *Jesus the Teacher: A Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation of Mark*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.
- Senior, D. *The Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.
- Struthers Malbon, E. *Hearing Mark: A Listener's Guide*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 2002.
- Telford, WR (ed). *The Interpretation of Mark*. Rev ed; Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1995.
- Tolbert, MA. *Sowing the Gospel: Mark's World in Literary-Historical Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989.
- Van Iersel, B. *Reading Mark*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1989.

References - Journals

- Barton, S.C. "Mark as narrative: The story of the anointing woman (Mk 14:3-9)". *Expository Times* 102 (1991), 230-234.
- Boring, ME. "Mark 1:1-15 and the Beginning of the Gospel". *Semeia* 52 (1991), 43-71.
- Dowd, S & E Struthers Malbon. "The Significance of Jesus' Death in Mark: Narrative Context and Authorial Audience". *JBL* 125 (2006), 271-297.
- Gibson, J. "The rebuke of the disciples in Mark 8:14-21". *JSNT* 27 (1986), 31-47.
- Horsley, R. "Like one of the prophets of old': Two Types of Popular Prophets at the Time of Jesus". *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 47 (1985), 435-463.
- Iverson, KR. "A Final Word on Final ...". *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 68 (2006), 79-94.
- Keegan, TJ. "The Parable of the Sower and Mark's Jewish Leaders". *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 56 (1994), 501-518.
- Lowe, MF. "From the Parable of the Vineyard to a Pre-Synoptic Source". *NTS* 28 (1982), 257-263.
- Marcus, J. "Blanks and Gaps in the Markan Parable of the Sower". *Biblical Interpretation* 5 (1997), 247-262.
- Matera, F. "The Prologue as the Interpretive Key to Mark's Gospel". *JSNT* 34 (1988), 3-20.
- Murphy-O'Connor, J. "What Really Happened at the Transfiguration: A Literary Critic Deepens Our Understanding". *Bible Review* 3 (1987), 8-21.
- Rhoads, D. "Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman in Mark: A Narrative-Critical Study". *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 62 (1994), 343-375.
- Struthers Malbon, E. "Fallible Followers: Women and Men in the Gospel of Mark". *Semeia* 28 (1983), 29-48.
- Swartley, WM. "The Role of Women in Mark's Gospel: A Narrative Analysis". *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 27 (1997), 16-22.
- Tolbert, MA. "How the Gospel of Mark Builds Character". *Interpretation* 47 (1993), 347-357.
- Weren, WJ. "The Use of Isaiah 5:1-7 in the Parable of the Tenants (Mark 12:1-12; Matthew 21:33-46)". *Biblica* 79 (1998), 1-26.

References - Online and Other IT resources

On-Line Refereed Journals

Biblica Online <http://www.bsw.org/project/biblica/>

Denver Journal: An Online Review of Current Biblical and Theology
<http://www.denverseminary.edu/dj/>

Filologia Neotestamentar: <http://www.bsw.org/index?I=72>

Journal of Biblical Studies <http://journalofbiblicalstudies.org/issue9.html>

Journal of Hebrew Scriptures <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/JHS/>

Novum Testamentum

<http://oberon.ingentaselect.com/vl=2368794/cl=35/nw=1/rpsv/cw/brill/00481009/contpl.htm>

Review of Biblical Literature <http://www.bookreviews.org/> [book reviews only]

Seachange <http://www.wsrt.com.au/seachanges/>

Map of Israel <http://www.historicjesus.com/maps/index.html>

Bible Resources Links

Baker's Evangelical Bible Dictionary 1996

<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Dictionaries/BakersEvangelicalDictionary>

Online Study Bible (Concordance, Dictionaries etc) <http://bible.crosswalk.com/>

Old Testament Apocrypha and Extra Biblical Writings (Dead Sea Scrolls, Gospel of Thomas, Nag Hamadi) <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/bible/links.html>

Old Testament Pseudepigrapha

http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/writings.htm

Early Christian Writings incl. *Mark* <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/mark.html>

Online Databases

ATLA Religion Index [database on-line] Chicago, IL: American Theological Library Association; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.

ProQuest Religion [database on-line] Ann Arbor, MI: ProQuest Information and Learning; available from <http://proquest.umi.com>.

Religion & Philosophy Collection [database on-line] Ipswich, MA: EBSCO Publishing; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.