



BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

UNIT OUTLINE GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	GOSPEL OF MARK
UNIT CODES	B74021
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	A/B
PREREQUISITE/S	A/B51014 Studying the Scriptures I
INCOMPATIBLES	B52021 is incompatible with B74021
POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13 week semester. Separate weekly seminars (1 hour) for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Dr Mary Coloe
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Mary Coloe
TEACHING STAFF	Dr Mary Coloe
DATE PREPARED	19 January 2004

Rationale

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. 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 Course

This unit will contribute to the wider field of biblical studies by concentrating attention on a distinctive canonical gospel. While comparisons will be made with the synoptic and non-canonical gospels, the focus of this unit will give students an appreciation of the unique contribution of Mark within New Testament theology. A number of issues pertinent to postgraduate study of the gospels will be canvassed, including study of a range of different hermeneutical approaches to interpreting Mark. Students will be introduced to the use of the critical apparatus for Text criticism.

Aims

This unit aims to enable postgraduate students to deal with critical scholarly study of the theological, literary, and historical significance of Mark and to gain mastery in using scholarly tools to analyse primary sources, especially the text of Mark. Students will be enabled to discern and study distinctive features of the contents, aims and contexts of Mark and its relevance to contemporary society in the light of its social, political and religious situation. The unit will develop skills to assess critically a number of issues involved in the interpretation of Mark including: Mark's portrait of Jesus and his mission within first century Jewish Messianic ideas, discipleship, the literary form of this gospel, the relation of the passion narrative to the gospel's aims and its dramatic ending.

Learning Outcomes

On the successful completion of this unit, students will demonstrate expertise in being able to

1. work from both canonical and non-canonical Christian and Jewish literature (1st and 2nd century CE).
2. analyse the symbols, characters and structure of specific passages.
3. compare and analyse parallel primary sources, especially through redactional study
4. establish the parameters of a passage and its relation to the surrounding context
5. demonstrate a capacity to engage with different interpretations of the primary text
6. lead and facilitate discussion in an academic study group
7. present a systematic analysis of a particular aspect of Mark's theology.

Content

Important issues that will be studied in regard to the contents, contexts and literary shape of the Gospel of Mark will include the following:

1. The background and purposes of Mark
2. Methodologies employed in a scholarly study of Mark (postgraduate students will be introduced to Text Criticism in a seminar).
3. The following particular issues in regards to Mark will be addressed:
 - Mark's view of the Son of Man.
 - What pictures or expectations of a 'messiah figure' were current in the Judaism of Jesus' day?* How does Mark reinforce or alter any of those pictures?
 - The meaning for Mark of the Kingdom of God*
 - Mark's concepts of salvation.*
 - Mark's approaches to Christology*
 - The Markan views of discipleship, particularly in relation to Judaism
 - Mark's apocalyptic eschatology*
 - The development of Mark's Passion narrative.
 - the various endings of Mark's Gospel.

*Postgraduate students will examine these issues at greater depth in seminars.

Organisation and Teaching Strategies

The contact time of three hours per week over a period of thirteen weeks will include both lectures and tutorials. The basic program will be:

- 60 minutes Lecture
- 15 minutes Break
- 50 minutes Lecture
- 5 minutes Break
- 50 minutes Tutorial/Seminars

The tutorials/seminars will be in separate groups for Postgraduate and Undergraduate students.

Assessment

- a) One medium length exegetical paper of 2,500 words. [40%]
Topics will be from the tutorial selections and the paper will be presented in a tutorial prior to submission.
Sample passages for exegesis: Mark 1:21-28; 7:24-30, 13:14-31 (Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 6)
- b) One essay of 4,000 words which focuses on a significant theme and which demonstrates proficiency in the objectives of the unit. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7.) [60%]

Sample topics:

1. Jesus – a man in conflict.
Examine the different conflicts in Mark’s portrait of Jesus. Demonstrate how these conflicts are an essential aspect of Mark’s Christology and Pastoral concern.
2. In what way does Mark’s presentation of Jesus both confirm and challenge Israel’s messianic ideas?
3. What is meant by the phrase ‘The Basileia tou Theou’? In what way does Mark announce the presence of the Basileia through his use of miracle stories or parables?

Generic Skills

- Advanced skills in research, including the use of primary and secondary texts.
- Advanced skills in the integration of a variety of research material.
- Advanced skills in use of electronic catalogues, data bases and search engines.

Text Books

Required

K. Aland, M Black, C. M. Martinia, B. M. Metzger, and A. Wikgren, 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.

One of the following Commentaries

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

Donahue, J. R. & Harrington, D. J. *The Gospel of Mark*. Sacra Pagina 2. Collegeville: Liturgical Press 2002.

Recommended

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

Academic and General Resource Requirements

References - Books

Commentaries

(a) On the Greek Text

Cranfield, C. E. B. *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 Press, 1986.

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

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

Hare, D. R. A. *Mark*. Westminster Bible Companion; Louisville: John Knox, 1996.

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

Mann, C. S. *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, R. E. *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, R. E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997
Collins, A. Y. *Is Mark's Gospel a Life of Jesus? A Question of Genre*. Milwaukee: Marquette University, 1990.
[Postgraduate]
Collins, A. Y. *The Beginning of the Gospel. Probing of Mark in Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
[Postgraduate]
Dowd, S. E. *Reading Mark: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2000.
[Undergraduate]
Fowler, R. M. *Let the Reader Understand: Reader-response Criticism and the Gospel of Mark*.
Minneapolis:Fortress Press, 1991
Hengel, M. *Studies in the Gospel of Mark*. London: SCM, 1985.
Kingsbury, J. D. *The Christology of Mark's Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.
Kingsbury, J. D. *Conflict in Mark: Jesus, Authorities, Disciples*. Fortress, 1989.
Malina, B. J. & Rohrbaugh, R. L. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Philadelphia: Fortress,
1992.
Matera, F. J. *What are they saying about Mark?* New York: Paulist, 1987.
Painter, J. *Mark*. London: Routledge, 1996.
Rhoads, D. & Michie, D. *Mark as Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress,
1982.
Robbins, V. K. *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.
Telford, W. R. (ed) *The Interpretation of Mark*. rev ed.; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1995.
Struthers Malbon, E. *Hearing Mark: A Listener's Guide*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 2002.
Tolbert, M. A. *Sowing the Gospel: Mark's World in Literary-Historical Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress
Press, 1989.
Van Iersel, B. *Reading Mark*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark 1989

References – Journal Articles

- Barton, S. C. . "Mark as narrative: The story of the anointing woman," (Mk 14:3-9)," *Expository Times* 102
(1991) 230-234.
Boring, M. E. Mark 1:1-15 and the Beginning of the Gospel," *Semeia* 52 (1991) 43-71.
Gibson, J. "The rebuke of the disciples in Mark 8:14-21". *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 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.
Keegan, T. J. . "The Parable of the Sower and Mark's Jewish Leaders," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 56 (1994)
501-518.
Lowe, M. F. "From the parable of the vineyard to a pre-synoptic Source," *New Testament Studies* 28 (1982) 257-
263.
Struthers Malbon, E. "Fallible followers: Women and men in the Gospel of Mark," *Semeia*. 28 (1983) 29-48.
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. (Available on Unit Web page)

Swartley, W. M. "The Role of Women in Mark's Gospel: A Narrative Analysis," *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 27 (1997) 16-22.
Tolbert, M. A. "How the Gospel of Mark Builds Character," *Interpretation*. 47 (1993) 347-357.
Weren, W. J. "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. (Unit Web page)

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?l=72>
Interpretation <http://www.interpretation.org/> [must be subscriber]
IOUDAIOS Review <http://listserv.lehigh.edu/lists/ioudaios-review/>
Journal of Biblical Studies <http://journalofbiblicalstudies.org/issue9.html>
Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism. <http://www.jgrchj.com/page3>
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/contp1.htm>

Review of Biblical Literature <http://www.bookreviews.org/> [Only offers book reviews]
Seachange <http://www.wsrt.com.au/seachanges/>
The Journal of Hebrew Scriptures <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/JHS/> [mainly OT]

First Century world: <http://religion.rutgers.edu/iho/index.html>
Map of Israel <http://religion.rutgers.edu/iho/map.html> see also
<http://www.historicjesus.com/maps/index.html>

Biblical 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
<http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/bible/links.html>

Old Testament Pseudapigrapha
<http://wesley.nnu.edu/noncanon/pseudepigrapha.htm>

Links to other Extra Biblical Writings (Dead Sea Scrolls, The Gospel of Thomas, Nag Hamadi) see link on Bible Link Page

<http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/bible/links.html>

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/mark.html>