

Prerequisite: BIB-D502-01

Description:

An introduction to the Gospel of Matthew through an exploration of the political, social and religious world views of the first century CE in which the Gospel took shape. An analysis of the Matthean text through contemporary biblical methods including historical, literary and reader response methods. Attention to the significant Synoptic parallels, e.g., Passion and Resurrection pericopes.

Objectives:

- To examine the political, social and religious world views of first century Christianity and their influence on oral and written forms of the Gospel.
- To understand the literary and theological vision of Matthew and the role of the Jewish people.
- To gain facility in using and evaluating several methods of interpretation.
- To study the Synoptic question as well as selected parallels for fuller understanding of the contributions of the Synoptic gospels.
- To learn a model of biblical hermeneutics that can be transformational for Christian living and ministry.

Procedure:

Interactive adult learning models that include presentations, discussion, comments and clarifications for one class session of 140 minutes per week.

Evaluation:

Class presence and participation 30%; One critical book review 20%; One mid-term examination 20%; Hermeneutical paper 30%

Required Texts:

Any contemporary translation of the Bible, e.g., NRSV, NAB, NJB, etc. with study notes.

Aune, David E., ed. *The Gospel of Matthew in Current Study: Studies in Memory of William G. Thompson, SJ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Levine, Amy-Jill. *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Pontifical Biblical Commission. *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2002 OR on-line version.

Pregeant, Russell. *Matthew*. Chalice Commentaries for Today. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.

On-line material and handouts supplement the texts.