



ZMTI 127 The Gospels

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Recognize and explain the theological and historical themes of the Gospels.
- Articulate and compare the differences and similarities between the Gospels.
- Explain the political, cultural and religious context of first century Palestine.
- Describe why the Gospels were written and what they tell readers about Jesus.

Text for the course, *Introducing Jesus: A short guide to the gospels' history and message* by Mark L. Strauss

Course Requirements:

- Attendance. Participants must attend a minimum of 80% of classes to receive a passing grade.
- Participation in Class Discussions
- Participants will write a 3 page double-spaced paper on one of the four Gospels. Each paper should include the following: A description of author and reason for writing, historical setting, theological themes and the focus given to Christ in the Gospel. (For example, Mark portrays Christ as the suffering servant, Matthew portrays him as fulfillment to the Old Testament, etc.) **(Plagiarism is cheating.)**

Class Schedule:

Week 1- Intro of Syllabus; Intro to Gospels, historical and religious setting. (pp. 9-33)

Week 2- Introduction, themes and theology of Matthew. (pp. 34-47)

Week 3- Introduction, themes and theology of Mark and Luke. (pp. 48-76)

Week 4- Introduction, themes and theology of John: Historical reliability of the Gospels (pp. 77-100)

Week 5- The birth of Jesus and ministry preparation. (pp. 101-115)

Week 6- The message and miracles of Jesus. (pp. 116-129)

Week 7- Messianic words and actions: Jesus' death and resurrection. (pp. 130-151) **Paper is Due.**

Week 8- How did we get the Gospels: Narrative criticism. (pp. 152-167)

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Discussion Participation	20%
Assigned Readings	20%
3 page paper	60%
Total	100%

Additional Resources (Not Required): *The Synoptic Gospels* by Robert Stein. Baker Academic, 2001.
Four Gospels, One Jesus?: A Symbolic Reading by Richard Burridge; Eerdmans Publishing, 2014.