

Advanced Exegesis of Matthew (NT 2013)

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Fall 2010

Professor: Susan R. Garrett

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 – 2:50 p.m., Schlegel 120

Course Description:

The course will introduce students to the exegetical and theological issues and the homiletical potential in Matthew's great Gospel—sometimes called “the Church's Gospel” because of its dominance in the theology and liturgy of the church down through the centuries. The format for class sessions will be seminar discussion; the instructor will from time to time provide overview and summary.

Intended Major Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Exhibit competence in using a synopsis of the four Gospels;
2. Discuss major interpretive theories for the occasion and purpose of Matthew;
3. Demonstrate close familiarity with content, arrangement, and thematic emphases of Matthew;
4. Address several types of exegetical questions (linguistic, literary, historical, theological) pertaining to Matthew;
5. Speak cogently about ways to preach or teach from Matthew in order to benefit the church.

Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Perfect or near-perfect class attendance and active and informed participation (*please note attendance and makeup policy in appendix below*). For each class session: careful reading and study of the assigned verses of the text; also reading (*prior* to the session) of corresponding sections in commentaries and any other materials designated for that day. Students should come to class with notes on readings and with points or questions in mind for discussion. Periodic brief written homework assignments will be given, and collected in class. *Worth @30% of final grade.*
2. A examination to be given on **Thursday, September 30**, covering use of a synopsis, the occasion and purpose of Matthew, and the content, arrangement, and thematic emphases of Matthew. *Worth @30% of final grade.*
3. An analysis of the film *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, by Pier Paolo Pasolini (Legend Films, 2007). The critique should be approximately 2 double-spaced pages, and should describe the artistic and theological strengths and weaknesses of the film. Types of issues you may want to address: Do you think the portrayal is effective at conveying the gist of Matthew's Gospel, and why (or why not)? Would it be effective for some audiences, but not for others (and why)? How does your knowledge of critical issues in the study of Matthew inform your evaluation of the film? *The film will be shown in class on November 23 (with an early start time), and will also be available for check-out on 24 hour reserve at the library*

circulation desk. Worth @10% of final grade. To get your creative juices flowing, you may want to read about the film, which has been reviewed in various places online (one helpful review: <http://www.decentfilms.com/reviews/gospelaccordingtomatthew.html>; it explains the crazy hats!).

4. Completed mock ordination exam, due **December 16 at 5:00 p.m.** Research may be done cooperatively with another student (or students), but each student must write the exam himself or herself. *Worth @30% of final grade.*

Textbooks:

Required:

1. A study version of the Bible (highly recommended: *New Interpreter's Study Bible*; alternatively, *The Catholic Study Bible*, *The Oxford Study Bible*, or *The HarperCollins Study Bible*) in any one of the following translations: New Revised Standard Version, New American Standard, Revised English Bible, New International Version. Multiple versions may be consulted.).
2. Allison, Dale C. *The Sermon on the Mount: Inspiring the Moral Imagination* (New York: Crossroad, 1999). ISBN: 0824517911.
3. Garland, David E. *Reading Matthew: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys, 2001. ISBN: 157312274.
4. Senior, Donald. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Abingdon, 1997. ISBN: 0687008484
5. Throckmorton, Burton H. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*, 5th Edition, NRSV Edition [Hardcover]. Thomas Nelson, 1992. ISBN: 0840774842.

Recommended (to refer to as needed):

1. *The New Interpreter's Bible: General Articles on the New Testament—Matthew—Mark* (Volume 8). Abingdon, 1995. ISBN 0-687-27821-X

Tentative Schedule:

Thursday September 9. Introduction to course. Sources and Structure of Matthew.

- Senior, chapter 1; Garland 1-9; Garrett, “Narratives of the New Testament” (on CAMS)
- Bring synopsis to class! Try to familiarize yourself with its layout and contents/indexes before this session.

Tuesday September 14. Matthew's use of the Old Testament, and view of the Jewish law

- Senior, chapters 2 & 3

Thursday September 16. Matthew and the mission to the Gentiles

- Senior, chapter 4

Tuesday September 21. Interpreting the miracle stories in Matthew

- Eugene Boring, Commentary on Matthew, in *The New Interpreter's Bible: General Articles on the New Testament—Matthew—Mark* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995), 8:241-251 (on CAMS)
- Bring synopsis to class!

Thursday September 23. Christology and discipleship

- Senior, chapters 5 & 6

Tuesday September 28. Matthew and his community

- Senior, chapter 7

Thursday September 30.

- Examination: will cover use of a synopsis, the occasion and purpose of Matthew, and the content, arrangement, and thematic emphases of Matthew. The first part of the exam will be closed-book; the second part will be open-Bible and open-synopsis.

Tuesday October 5. The genealogy and birth narratives

- Matthew 1:1–2:23; Senior 87-92; Garland 15-31

Thursday October 7. Jesus' baptism and temptation, and the call of the disciples

- Matthew 3:1–4:25; Senior 92-101; Garland 33-50

Tuesday October 12. The Sermon on the Mount

- Matthew 4:23–7:29 (*read in its entirety; focus for this session will be on 5:1-16*); Senior 101-110; Allison 1-57; Garland 51-61

Thursday October 14. The Sermon on the Mount (continued)

- Matthew 5:17-48; Allison 58-106; Garland 61-77

Tuesday October 19. The Sermon on the Mount (continued)

- Matthew 6:1–7:29; Allison 107-76; Garland 77-89

Thursday October 21. Miracles and discipleship

- Matthew 8:1–10:42; Senior 110-118; Garland 91-119

Tuesday October 26 Research & Study**Thursday October 28** Research & Study**Tuesday November 2.** Jesus as servant-king.

- Matthew 11:1–12:50; Senior 119-123; Garland 123-143

Thursday, November 4. Speaking in Parables.

- Matthew 13:1-58; Senior 123-126; Garland 145-54

Tuesday, November 9. Continuing ministry and opposition.

- Matthew 14:1–16:12; Senior 126-134; Garland 155-69

Thursday, November 11. The new community.

- Matthew 16:13–17:23; Senior 135-142; Garland 171-187

Tuesday, November 16. Church life, and obstacles to understanding.

- Matthew 17:24–20:34; Senior 142-150; Garland 189-212 (*stops mid-section*)

Thursday, November 18. Jerusalem: The final confrontation.

- Matthew 21:1–22:46; Senior 151-156; Garland 213-30

Tuesday November 23. Movie: The Gospel According to St. Matthew, by Pier Paolo Pasolini. Legend Films, 2007

- Professor will be away but will make arrangements to show film, which will start before the usual time. A copy of the film will also be available on 24-hour reserve in the library. If you know you will be absent on the class date, make arrangements to watch the film well in advance.

Thursday November 25 No class. Happy Thanksgiving!**Tuesday November 30.** Film Discussion

- Short papers on Pasolini's film due in class. *For more information on the assignment, see #3 under "Requirements and Evaluation" above.*

Thursday December 2. The judgment discourse

- Matthew 23:1–25:46; Senior 156-164; Garland 231-49

Tuesday December 7. Jesus' passion and trials

- Matthew 26:1–27:56; Senior 164-171; Garland 251-66

Thursday December 9. Crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and commission

- Matthew 27:57–28:20; Senior 173-177; Garland 267-73

Appendix: Course Policies***Policy on Inclusive Language:***

In speech and in written assignments, please avoid divisive terms that reinforce stereotypes or are pejorative. Do not use language that leaves out part of the population, perpetuates stereotyping, or diminishes importance. Do not use male pronouns (such as "men") to refer to a group that includes females as well. Consult the Academic Support Center for additional guidance if necessary.

Policy on Plagiarism:

Prohibition of plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Ideas and words (even short phrases, if distinctive) drawn from print, Internet, or other sources should be fully documented. Any student work in which plagiarism is discovered will receive an automatic F with no possibility of redoing the assignment, and the infraction will be reported to the academic dean. Use great care!!!

Policy on Attendance and Make-up for Missed sessions:

Perfect or near-perfect attendance is expected, and roll will be taken. More than 2 absences (for any reason) will adversely affect the student's attendance and participation grade. Those few students who know that they will have more than 2 unavoidable conflicts with the class may make prearrangement with the professor to turn in a page of typed notes on the readings as make-up for missed class #s 3+.

Policy on Late Papers and Exams, and Incompletes

Out of fairness to other students, papers turned in after the time and date specified in the syllabus will receive a grade penalty. Schedule of penalties: 1 minute to 24 hours late = 1 letter-grade deduction; 24 to 48 hours late = 2 letter-grade deduction. Papers more than 48 hours late will not be accepted. Grades of incomplete for the course will be permitted only in extreme circumstances, and must be arranged by the date specified by the registrar's office.

Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in Class

Do not send text messages during class. All cell phones should be turned off during class unless waiting for an important call, in which case you should let the professor know ahead of time. When using computers in class do not access the Internet unless specifically for purposes relevant to the course. Checking of email or social networking sites will be grounds for dismissal from the session and will result in a zero for the class attendance and a one-letter-grade reduction in the student's participation grade for the semester.