

## **BI620 NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW I**

**Course:** BI620 E NE New Testament Overview I  
**Credits:** 3 credit hours  
**Semester:** Fall 2026 Session 1  
**Dates:** August 17 – October 9, 2026  
**Time:** Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central time  
**Place:** TBA  
**Professor:** Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.  
Department Chair and Professor of Bible and Theology  
Director of the Master of Arts in Bible and Theology Program  
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### **DESCRIPTION**

An introduction and synthetic overview of the four canonical gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a result of taking this course the student will:

1. Write a broad outline of each of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)  
(PLO 1, 2, 4) (A 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
2. Explain how each gospel presents Jesus Christ  
(PLO 1, 2, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
3. Interpret the parables and teachings of Christ in their historic context  
(PLO 1, 2, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
4. Give the chronological order of events in the life of Christ from the four gospels  
(PLO 1, 2, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

***Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview***

5. Explain the significance of the three major discourses of Jesus (the Sermon on the Mount, the Olivet Discourse, and the Upper Room Discourse)  
(PLO 1, 2, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

## TEXTBOOKS

The Bible- KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word for word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought for thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Strauss, Mark. *Four Portraits, One Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.  
ISBN -13: 978-0-3102-2697-0 (cost: \$54.99)

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Assignment #1:** Answer questions 1-10 in Discussions. Interact with one other student on his/her answer to each question by giving a biblical critique or asking a follow-up question. (100 points)

**Assignment #2:** Read through the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). In a Word document indicate the percentage of reading done (should be 100%) and type out 20 life applications from these gospels. For each application, type out the verse and give your life application. How will you put this verse into practice in your life? (100 points)

**Assignment #3:** Answer questions 11-20 in Discussions. Interact with one other student on his/her answer by giving a biblical critique or asking a follow-up question. (100 points)

**Assignment #4:** Write a summary outline of each of the four gospels. Each NT book outline should be 2 pages (single spaced) and should include the message statement for each NT book. Total of 8 pages (single spaced) for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (100 points)

**Assignment #5:** Read the textbook *Four Portraits, One Jesus* by Mark Strauss. In a Word document indicate the percentage of reading done (should be 100%) and type out a list of 20 things you learned from reading the textbook (100 points)

**Assignment #6:** Answer questions 21-30 in Discussions. Interact with one other student on his/her answer to each question by giving a biblical critique or asking a follow-up question (100 points)

**Assignment #7:** Write and type a research paper of 10-12 pages (double spaced) following Turabian style format (including footnotes). The 10-12 pages do not include the title page and bibliography. You are required to have a minimum of five sources. Select one of the topics listed below. (200 points)

**Assignment #8:** Take the final exam on the four gospels. There are 50 questions (true/false and multiple choice). Use the study guide to prepare for the exam. No helps can be used when you take the final exam (100 points)

**Assignment #9:** Attendance and attendance reports. Students are expected to be in class (in-person and online). In-person students are expected to be in their seats on the day and time that the class meets. Online students are expected to participate in the class in Microsoft Teams on the day and time that the class meets. All students should post their attendance each week in Canvas (seek Week One Attendance Report in Announcements). All students should list three things that they learned from the weekly lecture.

Excused Absence = the student has notified the professor in an email that he or she will not be in class and gives the reason why.

Unexcused Absence = (1) the student did not attend class, (2) the student did not watch the video lecture for the week, (3) the student did not report his or her attendance in Canvas for the week

#### Attendance Grade

- 100 = student attends every class and reports attendance in Canvas
- 90 = student misses one class or fails to report attendance for one class in Canvas
- 80 = student misses two classes or fails to report attendance for two classes in Canvas
- 70 = student misses three classes or fails to report attendance for three classes in Canvas
- 60 = student misses four classes or fails to report attendance for four classes in Canvas
- 50 = student misses five classes or fails to report attendance for five classes in Canvas
- 40 = student misses six classes or fails to report attendance for six classes in Canvas
- 30 = student misses seven classes or fails to report attendance for seven classes in Canvas
- 0 = student misses all eight classes or fails to report attendance for eight classes in Canvas

#### **Research Paper Topics: Select one of these topics to write your research paper.**

- The Discipleship Demands of Jesus
- Major Themes in the Sermon on the Mount
- How Jesus Interpreted the Mosaic Law
- Jesus and the Pharisees
- How Jesus Fulfilled OT Prophecies in the Gospel of Matthew
- The Miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark
- The Parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke
- How Jesus Fulfilled OT Prophecies in the Gospel of John
- The I Am Sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John

The Olivet Discourse: What Jesus Taught about the Future  
The Trials of Jesus-How Jesus was Mistreated  
Jesus and Pilate  
Jesus and Demons  
Jesus' Teaching and Practice of Prayer  
Jesus' Teaching on the Kingdom of God  
How Jesus Trained His Disciples  
Seven Sayings of Jesus on the Cross  
Jesus and the Feasts of the Jews  
Jesus and Peter  
Jesus the Evangelist: How Jesus Witnessed to Lost People  
The Theme of Witness in the Gospel of John

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago style). You must use footnotes.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he/she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

***Rubric for Grading Research Papers***

Title Page and Table of Contents (10 points) – follow Turabian format

Introduction (10 points) – introduces topic and explains outline of paper

Clear Outline with correct headings and sub-headings following Turabian style (20 points)

Biblical Exposition - Explains meaning of verses in context on the topic (60 points)

Defines and critiques different views (40 points) – defines at least two different views on the topic and identifies those who hold to these views and critiques them

Documents sources with footnotes following Turabian format (20 points) –must quote a minimum of five sources including the Bible, two books and two journal articles.

Uses correct grammar and spelling (20 points) – the paper is easy to read and does not contain spelling errors

Bibliography (20 points) – follows Turabian format

**TOTAL POINTS AND FINAL GRADE**

960-1000	A
940-959	A-
920-939	B+
880-919	B
860-879	B-
840-859	C+
800-839	C
780-799	C-
0-779	F

**SCHEDULE**

Week 1	Introduction to the Gospels Introduction to Matthew Matthew 1-4
Week 2	Matthew 5-7 Matthew 8-13 Matthew 14-23
Week 3	Matthew 24-28 Introduction to Mark Mark 1-4
Week 4	Mark 5-8 Mark 9-12 Mark 13-16
Week 5	Introduction to Luke Luke 1-4 Luke 5-10
Week 6	Luke 11-15 Luke 16-21 Luke 22-24
Week 7	Introduction to John John 1-6 John 7-13
Week 8	John 14-16 John 17-19 John 20-21

## **Help for Students**

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

## **Expectations of Online Students**

Attend the class each week in Microsoft Teams. You must inform the professor if you cannot attend the lecture in Microsoft Teams.

Be respectful of the professor and all students in the online classroom.

Turn all work in on time. Late Work = Minus 5 points for each day late.

## **Expectations of Resident Students**

Attend class. Be on time for class. Coming in late interrupts the class and is disruptive.

Please bring a Bible to class.

Listen to the lecture and write down your questions. When I call for questions after finishing a section of the lecture you can ask your questions then.

Be courteous and respectful in class to the professor and all students. A lack of respect in class will lead to a grade reduction.

Please do not eat your meal/snack during the class time.

Turn all work in on time. Late Work = Minus 5 points for each day late.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Bock, Darrell. *Jesus According to Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Bock, Darrell and Gregory Herrick, eds. *Jesus in Context: Background Readings for Gospel Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Bruce, F.F. *The Gospel of John*. Pickering Paperbacks, 1983.

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Marshall, I. Howard. *Commentary on Luke*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Osborne, Grant. *Matthew*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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Scroggie, W. Graham. *A Guide to the Gospels*. Fleming H. Revell.

Strauss, Mark. *Mark*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Toussaint, Stanley. *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1980.