1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior. This course on the Synoptic Gospels explores the stylistic and literary characteristics of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Students also will study the Synoptic Gospels' theological, spiritual, and historical background. This section of the course is part of a 6-credit intercultural studies program in Avila, Spain that requires concurrent enrollment in CHH 632: Spanish Mysticism.

AND ENVISIONED OUTCOME

1. Introduction to the current state of research on the Synoptic Gospels (Mt, Mk, Lk).
2. An understanding of the Spiritual implications of Gospel's writings in our New Evangelization efforts and in our preaching munus.
3. An appreciation of the Gospels as literary-rhetorical communications with an oral pattern addressed to first century Mediterranean audiences.
4. Pastoral Applications of selections from the Gospels, following the Church's norms on biblical interpretation through a student-oriented approach, aimed at giving the student the ability to exegete a passage for use in preaching and pastoral ministry.
5. An ability to articulate the major Synoptic theological themes and concepts in order to enable the students to make their own interdisciplinary theological synthesis.

2. COURSE PROCEDURES

1. The students will read the Document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission on the Historical Truth of the Gospels, as well The Dogmatic Constitution on Revelation or Dei Verbum (10% of grade)
2. The students will read the books of Sister Elena Bosetti on each one of the Synoptic Gospels: Mark, Matthew and Luke. Students are responsible to post for class discussion a summary of the books (20% of grade).
3. The students are responsible for attending the Lectio Divina classes and the immersion into the Spanish Culture during the month of July in Avila, Spain (50% of grade).
4. The students will submit a dictionary entry (5-6 pages) on each one of the Gospels, following their return from Spain. The students should consult Biblical Dictionaries, commentaries like NJBC, OBC, Catholic Encyclopedia and other reference books, as well as more specialized studies. Each entry will include: I. Author; II Purpose; III Audience; IV. Structure and Style; V. Theology; VI. Use in Liturgy; and VII. Symbol that represents that Gospel (20% of the grade).
3. ASSIGNMENTS

Part One of the Course: On-Line (May 4-June 26th, 2015)

Week 1
- Introduction

Week 2
- Post your summary of Document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission
- Post your summary of Dei Verbum

Week 3
- Begin reading Bosetti on The Gospel of Mark

Week 4
- Post your summary of Bosetti-Mk

Week 5
- Begin reading Bosetti on The Gospel of Matthew

Week 6
- Post your summary of Bosetti-Mt

Week 7
- Begin reading Bosetti on the Gospel of Luke

Week 8
- Post your summary of Bosetti-Lk

Part Two of the Course: Classes (July 1st - July 29th, 2015)

Week 9
- Mark’s narrative and Style
- Lectio Continua Mark 1-8
- Lectio Continua Mark 9-12
- Lectio Continua Mark 12-16

Week 10
- Matthew’s narrative and style
- Lectio Continua Mt 1-13
- Lectio Continua Mt 14-20
- Lectio Continua Mt 21-28

Week 11
- Luke’s narrative and style
- Lectio Continua Lk 1-8
Part Three of the Course: On-Line (July 30th -August 14th, 2014)

Week 13
• Write and post a Dictionary entry on Mark

Week 14
• Write and post a Dictionary entry on Matthew

Week 15
• Write and post a Dictionary entry on Luke

4. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

A. Gospel of Mark

B. Gospel of Matthew


D. Search for the Historical Jesus:


- Powell Mark Allan, *Jesus as a Figure in History: How Modern Historians View the Man from Galilee* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1998).


- Sanders E.P., *The Historical Figure of Jesus* (New York: Penguin Books, 1993).


E. New Testament Christology

• Furnish Victor Paul, Jesus according to Paul, Understanding Jesus Today (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).
• Pelikan Jaroslav, The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).
• Robbins Vernon K., Jesus the Teacher: A Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation of Mark (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992).

F. Special Topics: The Parables; Infancy, Passion, & Resurrection Narratives


5. TEXT BOOKS

*Matthew: The Journey Toward Hope* by Elena Bosetti $12.95

*Mark: The Risk of Believing* by Elena Bosetti $12.95

*Luke: The Song of God’s Mercy* by Elena Bosetti $12.95

*Fitzmyer: Historical Truth of the Gospel*

*Dei Verbum*

6. EVALUATION

(Basis of evaluation with explanation regarding the nature of the assignment and the percentage of the grade assigned to each item below). Students who have difficulty with research and composition are encouraged to pursue assistance with the Online Writing Lab (available at [http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl](http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl)).

**GRADING SCALE:**

A 94-100; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 84-86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-79; C 74-76; C- 70-73 D 60-69; F 59 and below

7. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students at Holy Apostles College & Seminary are expected to practice academic honesty.

Avoiding Plagiarism

In its broadest sense, plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas, presented or claimed as your own. At this stage in your academic career, you should be fully conscious of what it means to plagiarize. This is an inherently unethical activity because it entails the uncredited use of someone else's expression of ideas for another's personal advancement; that is, it entails the use of a person merely as a means to another person's ends.

**Students, where applicable:**

• Should identify the title, author, page number/webpage address, and publication date of works when directly quoting small portions of texts, articles, interviews, or websites.
Students should not copy more than two paragraphs from any source as a major component of papers or projects.

Should appropriately identify the source of information when paraphrasing (restating) ideas from texts, interviews, articles, or websites.

Should follow the Holy Apostles College & Seminary Stylesheet (available on the Online Writing Lab’s website at http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl/resources).

**Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:**

Because of the nature of this class, academic dishonesty is taken very seriously. Students participating in academic dishonesty may be removed from the course and from the program.

8. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Even though you are not required to be logged in at any precise time or day, you are expected to login several times during each week. Because this class is being taught entirely in a technology-mediated forum, it is important to actively participate each week in the course. In a traditional classroom setting for a 3-credit course, students would be required to be in class 3 hours a week and prepare for class discussions 4.5 hours a week. Expect to devote at least 7 quality hours a week to this course. A failure on the student’s part to actively participate in the life of the course may result in a reduction of the final grade.

9. INCOMPLETE POLICY

An Incomplete is a temporary grade assigned at the discretion of the faculty member. It is typically allowed in situations in which the student has satisfactorily completed major components of the course and has the ability to finish the remaining work without re-enrolling, but has encountered extenuating circumstances, such as illness, that prevent his or her doing so prior to the last day of class.

To request an incomplete, distance-learning students must first download a copy of the Incomplete Request Form. This document is located within the Shared folder of the Files tab in Populi. Secondly, students must fill in any necessary information directly within the PDF document. Lastly, students must send their form to their professor via email for approval. “Approval” should be understood as the professor responding to the student’s email in favor of granting the “Incomplete” status of the student.

Students receiving an Incomplete must submit the missing course work by the end of the sixth week following the semester in which they were enrolled. An incomplete grade (I) automatically turns into the grade of "F" if the course work is not completed.

Students who have completed little or no work are ineligible for an incomplete. Students who feel they are in danger of failing the course due to an inability to complete course assignments should withdraw from the course. A "W" (Withdrawal) will appear on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the end of the first week of a semester to the end of the third week. A “WF” (Withdrawal/Fail) will appear on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the end of the third week of a semester and on or before the Friday before the last week of the semester.

10. ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

Fr. Randy Soto is a Roman Catholic priest from San Jose, Costa Rica, currently serving as Associate Professor of New Testament at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He completed his Sacred Theology Doctorate (SThD) in Biblical Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 2003 and has also since served as a parish pastor and Director of Faith Enculturation in the Archdiocese of San Jose, Professor of New Testament at the Instituto Ciencias Religiosas while in Toledo.