

# BI 567: The Gospel of Mark



## University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Fall 2019 Online and Residential Greek Exegesis and English Exegesis

This course fulfills the New Testament exegesis requirement, and can be taken as either a Greek or English exegesis course. Students enrolled in the Greek Exegesis course will be required to complete regular translation assignments; English Exegesis students will be required to complete various other exegetical assignments in lieu of translation assignments.

### **Course Description:**

This class explores the theological, narrative, and historical worlds of the Gospel of Mark. Students will practice and develop various exegetical skillsets related to the interpretation of the New Testament in general, the canonical gospels more specifically, and the Gospel of Mark most specifically.

### **Instructor information:**

Dr. Nicholas A. Elder  
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Office: Severance Hall 224  
Office #: 589-563-3104  
Virtual Office Hours: T.W.TH 1PM–3PM and  
by appointment

### **Residential class information:**

Mondays, 9AM–10:40AM  
Severance Hall 102



## Course Objectives

**#1: Learn a variety of interpretive methods and put them into practice**

#2: Identify the message and key theological themes in the Gospel of Mark

**#3: Interpret the Gospel of Mark in its historical and cultural contexts**

#4: Explain what it means to read and interpret the Gospel of Mark as story

**#5: Preach and teach the Gospel of Mark and select passages from it in service of effective pastoral ministry**

#6: (Greek Exegesis Only) Develop the ability to read the New Testament in Greek, as well as to translate passages from the Greek New Testament into

**#7: (English Exegesis Only) Compare English translations of New Testament passages and determine how differing translations affect the meaning of the text**



## Curricular Objectives

*Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church (MDiv)*

*Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition (MDiv)*

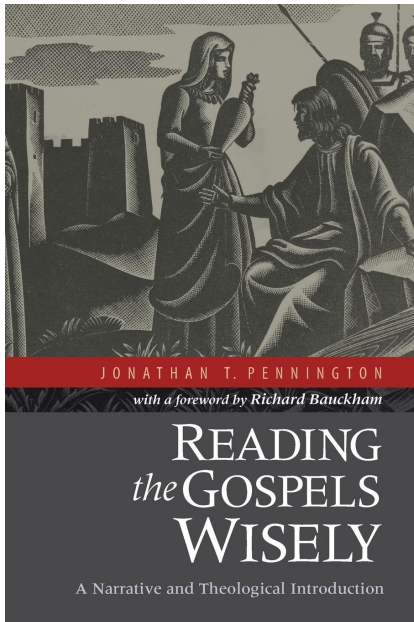
*Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity (MDiv)*

*Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world (MAMD)*

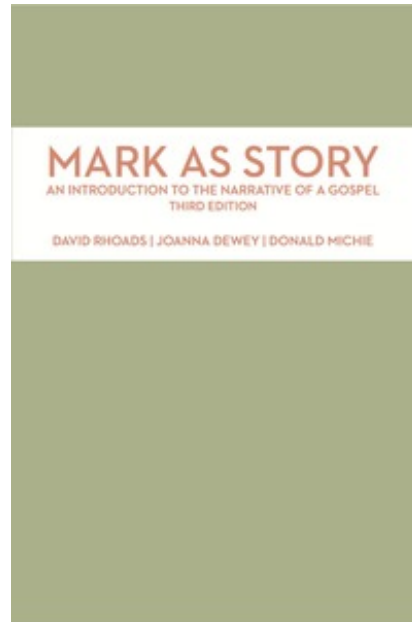
*Be able to identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures (MACL)*



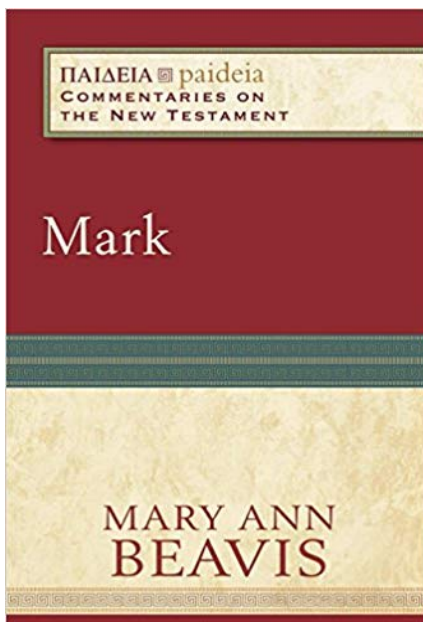
## Required Texts (All Students)



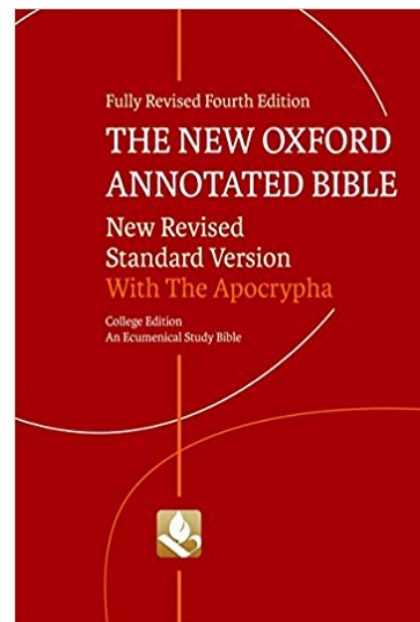
Jonathan T. Pennington, *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. ISBN: 0801039371.



David Rhoads, Joanna Dewey, Donald Michie, *Mark as Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel*, 3rd Edition, Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012. ISBN: 0800699092.



Mary Ann Beavis, *Mark* (Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament), Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN: 0801034374.



**An English Study Bible**, preferably:  
Michael D. Coogan, *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 2010. ISBN: 0195289609.



Additional required course readings will be provided through the course page on Moodle.





## Additional Texts : Greek Exegesis and Monographs

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Students taking the Greek Exegesis version of the course are required to have one of the two following Greek texts of the New Testament. The first of the two is slightly preferred, though students can choose either. A comparison of the two can be found [here](#).

*The Greek New Testament with Dictionary, Fifth Revised Edition (UBS5)*, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers: 2014. ISBN: 9781619701397.

*Novum Testamentum Graece with Dictionary: Nestle Aland 28th Revised Edition (NA28)*, Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft 2012. ISBN: 3438051605.

In consultation with the professor and in line with his or her individual interests, each student will choose one of the following optional monographs on the Gospel of Mark. These monographs will be the subject of one of the short papers later in the semester. As students will be reporting the content of these monographs to their colleagues, no more than two students may choose any single monograph. Students may also propose a monograph to review that is not on this list. There will be a sign up sheet on Moodle to indicate who is reviewing which texts.

Anderson, Janice Capel, and Stephen D. Moore, eds. *Mark and Method: New Approaches in Biblical Studies*. 2 edition. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.

Bryan, Christopher. *A Preface to Mark: Notes on the Gospel in Its Literary and Cultural Settings*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Collins, Adela Yarbro. *The Beginning of the Gospel: Probing of Mark in Context*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2001.

Croy, N. Clayton. *The Mutilation of Mark's Gospel*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.

Driggers, Ira Brent. *Following God through Mark: Theological Tension in the Second Gospel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Fowler, Robert M. *Let the Reader Understand: Reader-Response Criticism and the Gospel of Mark*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2001.

Horsley, Richard A. *Hearing the Whole Story: The Politics of Plot in Mark's Gospel*. 1st edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Huizenga, Leroy A. *Loosing the Lion: Proclaiming the Gospel of Mark*. Steubenville: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2017.

Juel, Donald H. *A Master of Surprise*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.

Levine, Amy-Jill, ed. *Feminist Companion to Mark*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.

Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers. *Hearing Mark: A Listener's Guide*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2002.

Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers. *In the Company of Jesus*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers. *Mark's Jesus: Characterization as Narrative Christology*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009.

Marcus, Joel. *The Way of the Lord: Christological Exegesis of the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.

Minor, Mitzi. *The Spirituality of Mark: Responding to God*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Moloney, Francis J. *Mark: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Shiner, Whitney Taylor. *Proclaiming the Gospel: First-Century Performance of Mark*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003.

St. Clair, Raquel Annette. *Call and Consequences: A Womanist Reading of Mark*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.

Winn, Adam. *Reading Mark's Christology Under Caesar: Jesus the Messiah and Roman Imperial Ideology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2018.



## Additional Texts: Commentaries

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Each student will choose one of the following commentaries on the Gospel of Mark. Reading from this commentary will inform his or her online posts. The intention is that several different interpretive perspectives will be brought into the online discussion on a given portion of the gospel. Of course students may purchase more than one of these commentaries (and this is recommended for the purpose of future preaching, teaching, and research), but students will only be responsible to read and report on one of these commentaries for the purposes of the course. Each of these commentaries is also approved and recommended for the final exegetical paper.

### **Recommended for English Exegesis Students:**

Black, C. Clifton. *Mark*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2011.

Boring, M. Eugene. *Mark: A Commentary*. New Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Donahue, John R., and Daniel J. Harrington. *The Gospel of Mark*. SP 2. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2002.

Edwards, James R. *The Gospel According to Mark*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Focant, Camille. *The Gospel According to Mark: A Commentary*. Translated by Leslie R. Keylock. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2012.

Hurtado, Larry W. *Mark*. New International Biblical Commentary. Hendrickson Publishers, 1989.

Juel, Donald H. *The Gospel of Mark*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Myers, Ched. *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.

Witherington III, Ben. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

### **Recommended for Greek Exegesis Students:**

Collins, Adela Yarbro. *Mark: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.

France, R.T. *The Gospel of Mark*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Lane, William L. *The Gospel of Mark*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.

Marcus, Joel. *Mark: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. 2 vols. Anchor Bible 27. New York: Doubleday, 2008.

Stein, Robert H. *Mark*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

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



# Assignments / Grade Items

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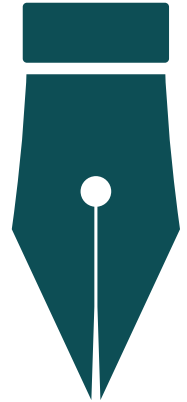
## Weekly Online Discussions

The course will be built upon discussions of readings and translations. Students will be assigned to a discussion group and will post in Moodle forums, as well as respond to other students' posts in Moodle on a weekly basis.

## Short Papers

There will be the opportunity to write six short papers throughout the course of the semester. Students will not be required to write all six papers to achieve the grade that they want to in the class (see more in the grading section of the syllabus). The six short paper topics are as follows:

- World Behind the Text Paper (Historical and cultural context)
- World of the Text Paper (Literary and narrative criticism)
- World in Front of the Text Paper (Contemporary application)
- Book Report
- Topical Paper
- Sermon(ette) or Bible Study



## Final Exegetical Paper

Students will write an exegetical paper on any passage from the Gospel of Mark. The exegetical paper represents the culmination of the student's learning in the course and thus requires him or her to consider the passage's historical and cultural context, its narrative context, its contemporary relevance, and to consult several articles and commentaries on the passage. Detailed instructions for the exegesis paper will be made available later in the semester.