

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BI657D NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS I**

**Greek Exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew
Fall Semester 2008**

Instructor: Annette B. Huizenga
Office:
Email:
Phone:

Course pre-requisites: BI402/502D and BI404/504D New Testament Greek 1 and II
BI 450/550D New Testament Introduction
3 credits; letter grade only

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course concentrates on Greek translation and exegesis of significant portions of Matthew's Gospel, using several analytical approaches (historical, literary, narrative, social) as appropriate. We will also investigate the gospel genre and Matthew's sources, along with other topics that are significant for interpreting this text in our times: Christianity's relationship with Judaism; the social world of the first-century of the church; and early Christian practices in education, mission, stewardship, and worship.

CURRICULAR GOALS

The course is designed to fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals:

- (1) To be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church.
- (2) To interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.
- (3) To preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.
- (4) To engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
- (5) To evangelize the world with faithfulness and contextual sensitivity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course has been designed to take an average of 10-12 hours per week to complete the assignments.

1. **Reading the entire English text** of the Gospel of Matthew. We will begin the course with this assignment, and then will work through the Gospel in sections from beginning to end
2. **Weekly translations** from the Greek of assigned passages from that portion of Matthew we are studying this week. These will be emailed to the instructor.
3. **Weekly questions:** After you have read the section of Matthew and translated the Greek passage, you will prepare and post a collection of **three questions** for or about the text that seem important to

you in interpreting this particular section of Matthew. These questions may be theological, historical, literary, linguistic, political, spiritual and/or personal. In fact, a variety of questions is a necessity. One or more of these questions may lead into your exegesis paper.

4. **Secondary sources:** The next task in order is to read the scholarly chapters and/or articles assigned for that week. Some of your questions and reactions to these works will form the substance of our on-line discussion.

5. **Weekly responses:** After completing #s 2-4 each week, you will participate in the on-line class discussion of major issues of interpretation for the chapters under consideration that week. [More detail will be added to this step as I reflect on the distance-learning aspect of the course.]

6. **Review essays:** Twice during the semester, on dates of your own choosing, and in addition to the 3 posted questions, you will write a short (400-500 word) review essay of one of the scholarly chapters or essays assigned for that week's reading, describing the author's investigation and arguments, and adding your evaluation of her/his work. I will post on the website an example of how to write such an essay.

[I have not decided yet how to utilize these essays as part of class discussion. The reviews may only be read by the instructor, or they may become part of the on-line discussion.]

7. **Midterm Exam:** An open-Bible midterm exam will be given, in which you will write brief descriptions about some basic terms, persons, and issues important in the interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew.

8. **Final Exegesis Paper:** In a 12-15 page paper (not including bibliography), you will exegete a pericope of your own choice from the Gospel of Matthew. More details about the expectations and organization of the paper will be given as the course progresses.

COURSE EVALUATION

Translations	– 10%
“3 questions”	– 10%
Online postings	– 20%
Review essays	– 15%
Midterm	– 15%
Semester paper	– 30%

(Failure to complete any of the assignments with a passing grade will result in an “F” for the final grade.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Books

1. Nestle-Aland, *Novum Testamentum*, 27th ed.

2. A study Bible in English translation, preferably NRSV, such as the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* (3rd ed.), or the *Harper Study Bible*.

3. A commentary of your choice from this list:

The first three are relatively inexpensive, while the last two are for students who anticipate further study in Matthew or who want substantial additions to their theological libraries.

- Boring, Eugene. *The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 8, "New Testament Articles, Matthew, Mark."* Abingdon Press.
 - Hare, Douglas. *Matthew. Interpretation Series: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching.* John Knox Press.
 - Senior, Donald. *Matthew.* Abingdon NT Commentaries.
 - Davies, W.D. and Dale C. Allison. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to Matthew* (International Critical Commentary). All 3 vols., *Matthew 1-7, Matthew 8-18, and Matthew 19-28.* T & T Clark.
 - Luz, Ulrich. *Matthew 1-7: A Continental Commentary* (Augsburg Fortress), and *Matthew 8-20: A Commentary* (Hermeneia: Augsburg Fortress).
4. Kingsbury, Jack Dean. *Matthew As Story.* Fortress.
 5. Luz, Ulrich. *Studies in Matthew.* Eerdmans.
 6. Powell, Mark Allan. *God With Us: A Pastoral Theology of Matthew's Gospel.* Fortress.

Other required readings of essays, articles, and chapters will be posted to the course site.

Recommended Commentaries and Studies on Matthew (among many in publication)

- Anderson, Janice Capel. *Matthew's Narrative Web: Over, and Over, and Over Again.* Sheffield.
- Aune, David E., ed. *The Gospel of Matthew in Current Study.* Eerdmans.
- Balch, David L., ed. *Social History of the Matthean Community: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches.* Fortress.
- Bauer, David R. and Mark Allan Powell, eds. *Treasures Old and New: Recent Contributions to Matthean Studies.* Scholars Press.
- Betz, Hans Dieter. *The Sermon on the Mount.* Hermeneia series. Fortress.
- Carter, Warren. *Matthew and Empire: Initial Explorations.* Trinity Press Intl.
- _____. *Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading.* Orbis.
- _____ and John Paul Heil. *Matthew's Parables: Audience-Oriented Perspectives.* CBA Series.
- Clarke, Howard W. *The Gospel of Matthew and Its Readers.* Indiana Univ. Press.
- Garland, David E. *Reading Matthew: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the First Gospel.* Crossroad.
- Harrington, Daniel J. *The Gospel of Matthew.* Liturgical.
- Keener, Craig. *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew.* Eerdmans.
- Levine, Amy-Jill, ed. *A Feminist Companion to Mark and Matthew.* Sheffield.
- Luz, Ulrich. *Matthew in History: Interpretation, Influence, and Effects.* Fortress.
- _____. *The Theology of the Gospel of Matthew.* Cambridge University Press.
- Overman, J. Andrew. *Matthew's Gospel and Formative Judaism: The Social World of the Matthean Community.* Fortress.
- Saldarini, Anthony. *Matthew's Jewish-Christian Community.* University of Chicago Press.
- Senior, Donald. *What Are They Saying About Matthew?* Paulist.
- Wainwright, Elaine M. *Shall We Look for Another? A feminist Rereading of the Matthean Jesus.* Orbis.
- _____. *Towards a Feminist Critical Reading of the Gospel according to Matthew.* de Gruyter.