

## Basic Information

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### NT503: Life of Jesus | Fall 2019 | All Campuses

Dr. Mark A. Jennings, Instructor of New Testament  
[mjennings1@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:mjennings1@gordonconwell.edu)

Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 14 Weeks from Monday, September 9 – Monday, December 16, 2019. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

## Course Information

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### Office Hours

Your instructor is available by appointment. Please email your professor for scheduling.

### Technical Support

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email [servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu).

### Course Description

A study of the complementary portraits of Jesus in the four gospels to determine the events of his life, the content of his message, and his understanding of his own person and mission.

### Gordon-Conwell Mission

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- Article 1: To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world. Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in its students a love for Scripture. The seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.
- Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.

## Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Recognize and differentiate between the different views about Jesus within modern Jesus Scholarship (Article 2)
2. Articulate the arguments for the historicity of the Gospels' depiction of the life of Jesus. (Articles 1 and 2)
3. Explain the character and nature of the gospel genre (Articles 1 and 2)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the major subjects of Jesus' life and teaching, especially the significance of Christological titles, kingdom of God, and Jesus' messianic self-consciousness (Articles 1 and 2)
5. Distinguish between the different portraits of who Jesus is as presented in the four Gospels (Articles 1 and 2)
6. Extrapolate the significance of the life of Jesus both for the life of the church and for the life of the believer (Articles 1)

## Weekly Lessons

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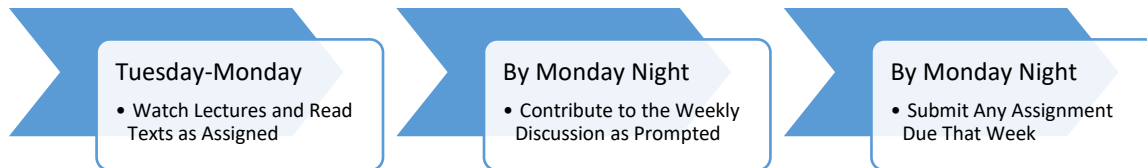
Over 14 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- **Module A: Introduction**
  - Week 1: King of Kings
- **Module B: Modern Views of Jesus**
  - Week 2: Jesus Quests
- **Module C: The Gospels Themselves**
  - Week 3: Gospels as History
  - Week 4: Exam 1
- **Module D: Jesus: His Life, Ministry**
  - Week 5: Infancy and Childhood
  - Week 6: Baptism and Temptation
  - Week 7: Key Aspects of Jesus' Ministry (Part 1)
  - Week 8: Key Aspects of Jesus' Ministry (Part 2)
  - Week 9: Parables and the Kingdom of God
- **Module E: Jesus: His Death and Resurrection**
  - Week 10: Last Days in Jerusalem
  - Week 11: The Passion
  - Week 12: Exam 2
- **Module F: Further Considerations**
  - Weeks 13-14: Christology; Presentations from Small Groups

## Weekly Work Flow

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This course runs for 14 weeks with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. You can expect to follow this weekly workflow as you complete each lesson:



## Required Materials

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### Reading

A Bible. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**\*\*If using an English Bible, either the English Standard Version or the New Revised Standard Versions are recommended. Not recommended are the King James or New King James versions. Paraphrases are not allowed (such as The Message or The Living Bible). Either the ESV Study Bible (ISBN# 978-1433530838) or the *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture* edited by Keener and Walton (ISBN# 978-0310431589) are worth having for the notes.\*\***

Craig S. Keener. *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*. (Eerdmans, 2009). ISBN-13: 9780802868886

Other Readings may be provided by Dr. Jennings during the semester and will be found in the Files section of your course site in the “Student Resources” folder.

### Technology

#### Computer and Internet Connection

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

#### Software

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

## Recommended Materials

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Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels. Edited By: Joel B. Green, Jeannine K. Brown, Nicholas Perrin. (Inter-Varsity Press, 2013). ISBN-13: 9780830824564

Kurt Aland. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels (English Edition)* ISBN-13: 9781598561777 – or equivalent synopsis

## Required Activities

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Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The time spent in the course may vary considerably, depending on how well one is already prepared with a knowledge of the New Testament.

### Read Required Texts

You are expected to complete the relevant reading in preparation for each lecture, online forum, and conference. See the Modules section of the course site for details about what reading is due each week. You will submit one Reading and Lecture Viewing Report at the end of the course.

### Watch Lectures

Each week you will listen to the appropriate Lecture for that week. The Lectures assume the reading, and will frequently introduce something not discussed in the reading, as well as spotlight, or give prominence to, a topic addressed in the reading.

### Conference

In Week 12, you will participate in a real-time conference with Professor Jennings. The purpose of the conference is to explore "The Life of Jesus," especially as it pertains to ministry and faith.

### Exams

There will be two exams in this course:

- Exam 1 will take place in Week 4, and you will be allowed 60 minutes to complete it. Exam 2 will be comprised of a variety of question types (true-false, short-answer, long-answer).
- Exam 2 will take place in Week 12, and you will be allowed 3 hours to complete it. Exam 2 will be comprised of one essay question that will reflect how you might respond in a real-world situation.

You will be given the question for Exam 2 two weeks before the exam is due, and you are encouraged to reflect on the question prior to taking the exam. While reflecting on the question, you may make use of whatever notes and/or books you wish to consult.

However, the actual exam will be closed-book; that is, no books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used when you take the exam.

### Small Group Discussion

Class participation is an important component in this course. Students will find that articulating what they are learning to others in the course is itself a learning exercise. They will also hear what others are finding interesting or struggling over, and they will be able to interact with each other about these matters. Beginning in Week 2, each student will be assigned to a small group for the duration of the class and participate in weekly discussion with that group. This small group will also be your group for the Group Presentation assignment.

## Group Presentation

Imagine the following: You are asked to present, as a group, at a conference being hosted by local non-Christian college. The aim of the conference is to bring different perspectives on the historical Jesus. The theme of the conference is “Jesus: History, Myth, Both?” Your group has been asked to take an aspect of Jesus' life and provide a 20-minute presentation on it. Your presentation should pick an aspect or event of Jesus' ministry/life—and then discuss the various positions that have been given regarding its historicity—followed by a summation of your group's conclusion.

## Grading

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Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Course Assignment	% of total grade
Reading and Lecture Viewing Report	20%
Exams (2)	25% (Exam 1=5%, Exam 2=20%)
Conference	10%
Small Group Discussion	20%
Group Presentation	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

You must follow the criteria detailed in the **Assignment Instructions** posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the “due by” dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Late work will not be accepted, but partial work will be.

The grading scale will be as follows:

A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 88-89, B 84-87, B- 80-83, C+ 78-79, C 74-77, C- 70-73, D+ 68-69, D 64-67, D- 60-63, F below 60

"A" means "conspicuous excellence in both content and style; "B" means "exceeding the minimum in both content and style; "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing, but unsatisfactory," and "F" means "course has been failed." Note: For each assignment (unless otherwise indicated), only a grade of A, B, C, D, or F will be given (e.g., no B-, C+, etc.). An “A” will be considered a 95; an “B” an 85, and so forth. All “Fs” will be considered a “55” unless it is a “0.” The “+” and “-” evaluations are only given when they occur as a result of calculations at the end of term.

## Course Policies

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### Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the course gradebook within two weeks of submission.

## **Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments**

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that it should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word or PDF file.

## **Discussion Posts**

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

## **Netiquette**

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

## **Seminary Policies**

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work, and Accessibility, among others.