

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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NT 720 CO Gospel of Matthew

Fall 2009

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Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

Class Meeting Times and Location

Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

September 7th – December 7th

Erskine Theological Seminary

Columbia Extension Site

1500 Lady Street

Suite 200 *

Columbia, SC

** Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor.
Parking is available on the side and behind the building, on the street or across Bull Street.*

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OFFICE HOURS

In Columbia: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia extension site, 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200, Room 205. Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor. Due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment. You are welcome to call me at home. Please make your calls between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Because Columbia is not convenient for many students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class in Columbia.. I have a flat rate long distance telephone service, so I shall be happy to bear the cost of long distance telephone meetings if that is more convenient for you.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to understand the message of the first canonical Gospel by addressing the following issues: origin and purpose of Matthew, history of Matthean interpretation, structure of Matthew, theology of Matthew, and preaching and teaching Matthew. The format includes lectures, classroom discussion, and exegesis of selected texts.

*Prerequisites: In order to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis and BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages (or Greek I & II) prior to taking this class.
Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In keeping with its mission to educate persons for service in the Christian church, instruction in the Bible is foundational to all that is done at Erskine Theological Seminary. This course will

investigate the contribution made by the Gospel of Matthew to the Biblical revelation. Students will examine closely the literary form and structure, and the distinctive features, emphases and message of Matthew's Gospel. Particular attention will be paid to Matthew's use of Old Testament texts and themes in developing his "Book of the Genesis of Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of Abraham." Diligent students successfully completing the course should be able to:

1. Discuss competently introduction issues in Matthew: authorship, date, setting, and literary genre.
2. Understand and explain the "synoptic problem" and the various proposals for its "solution."
3. Understand and explain the major theories on the literary structure of Matthew.
4. Identify the distinctive features and principal themes of Matthew.
5. Understand and explain the theology of Matthew and its contribution to the Biblical revelation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

NOTE: Students are required to secure their own copies of required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary offers a bookstore portal on the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors, and can compare prices and place orders. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will stock a small number of each required text and book orders can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

1. R. T. France, *Matthew: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. IVP Academic, 2008. ISBN-10: 0830842314, ISBN-13: 978-0830842315
2. Jack D. Kingsbury, *Matthew as Story*, 2nd edition. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1988. ISBN-10: 0800620992, ISBN-13: 978-0800620998
3. Mark E. Ross, *Let's Study Matthew*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009. ISBN-10: 1848710070, ISBN-13: 978-1848710078

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

You do not need to purchase these books, but they will be useful to consult in your research.

1. R. T. France, *Matthew: Evangelist & Teacher*. InterVarsity Press, 1998. ISBN-10: 0830815112, ISBN-13: 978-0830815111.

France has two commentaries on Matthew, each of which assumes this book as the introduction. It is out of print in America, but is available through Paternoster Press in England.
2. John Wenham, *Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke: A Fresh Assault on the Synoptic Problem*. InterVarsity Press, 1992. ISBN-10: 0830817603, ISBN-13: 978-0830817603.

In opposition to most modern scholarship on the synoptic problem, Wenham defends the view held by the early church (and by your professor), that Matthew was the first gospel to be written.

3. D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Second edition. Zondervan, 2005. ISBN-10: 0310238595, ISBN-13: 978-0310238591.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Bring your Bible to each class. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. A student who misses as much as three full class sessions or the equivalent in late arrival or early departure (*i.e.*, 9 hours or more) will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing a grade. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in **extreme** cases.
2. **Two exams** – Each exam will contain twenty-five questions on topics taken from the lectures and readings. The questions will be short-answer questions, requiring one or two sentences to complete. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade.
3. **Two papers** – Two papers will be required for this course. *For all papers, a hard copy must always be submitted to me. Also, a copy of all work submitted must be kept by the student.*
 - a. “Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew” - The first paper will serve as a short introduction to the Gospel of Matthew, such as one might give to other Bible teachers to prepare them for teaching Matthew to others. You should cover in the paper the issues of authorship, date, setting, purpose, and distinctive features of the Gospel. The paper should include footnotes to the readings as well as references to Matthew. This paper should be 5-7 pages. This paper will be worth 20% of your final grade.
 - b. The second paper will be an exegesis paper dealing with a passage in Matthew you have selected. A one-page proposal on this paper topic will be due on November 2nd. The paper will be due on December 3rd. It should contain footnotes to the readings and references to Matthew, **and in addition should have footnotes to other commentaries or articles on the passage you have chosen.** This paper should contain a bibliography of all sources quoted. You should have at least three sources beyond the assigned readings. The paper should be 8-10 pages and will be worth 30% of your final grade.

IMPORTANT: Before writing a paper, each student should consult the seminary’s approved papers ETS Style and Form Standards for Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=229>) and ETS Writing Theological Papers (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=230>) by Dr. Fairbairn. They can be located online at the home page for McCain Library, under Library Research Guides.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. Your exams will receive a numerical grade. The scale is:

A	95-100	B	88-90	C	80-83	D	72-75
A-	93-94	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71

B+	91-92	C+	84-85	D+	76-77	F	0-69
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The papers will receive a letter grade. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7
B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3	F	0

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:28

Each seminary class requires about 120 hours of work, covering both time in class and time spent in reading, researching, thinking, and writing. About 40 hours will be spent in class for this course, leaving about 80 hours of work to be done outside. Roughly, that means that **for each 3 hours a week you spend in class, you will need 6 more hours that week to complete the assigned work.** Plan ahead. Let the one who has ears to hear, hear!

The dates given below are when the assignments are due! **Bold** print indicates dates when an exam is given or a paper is due.

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| September 7 th | Introduction to Matthew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, 1-66 • Read in Kingsbury, pp. 1-93 • Read in Ross, pp. xv-xxi |
| September 14 th | Matthew 1-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 67-106 • Read in Kingsbury, pp. 95-163 • Read in Ross, pp. 1-39 |
| September 21 st | Matthew 5-7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 107-154 • Read in Ross, pp. 40-76 |
| September 28 th | Matthew 8-10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 154-195 • Read in Ross, pp. 77-101 |
| October 5th | Matthew 11-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 195-235 • Read in Ross, pp. 102-134 • FIRST EXAM |

October 12 th	Matthew 14-16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 235-260 • Read in Ross, pp. 135-160
October 19 th	Matthew 17-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 261-281 • Read in Ross, pp. 161-180
October 26th	Matthew 19-21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 282-314 • Read in Ross, pp. 181-210 • FIRST PAPER DUE
November 2nd	Matthew 22-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 314-336 • Read in Ross, pp. 211-232 • SECOND PAPER PROPOSAL DUE
November 9 th	Matthew 24-25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 336-362 • Read in Ross, pp. 233-258
November 16 th	Matthew 26-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read in France, pp. 363-422 • Read in Ross, pp. 259-297
November 23 rd	NO CLASS: FALL BREAK FOR THANKSGIVING
November 30th	Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECOND PAPER DUE
December 7th	SECOND EXAM

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

Drop/Add Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Incompletes

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed

up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Exegesis Credit Policy for Bible Elective/Exegesis Course Syllabi

Students intending to use this course to fulfill their Old or New Testament exegesis requirement, must choose a passage and do a thorough exegetical study, using the exegetical procedure taught in the Principles of Exegesis course. **Such students, then, must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis and, for those who began in Fall 2008 or after, BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages prior to taking any course for exegesis credit.**

Additionally, students who are required to take the Biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek) must, in place of BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages, successfully complete the respective language courses (Hebrew I & II for Old Testament courses; Greek I & II for New Testament courses) prior to taking any Bible course for exegesis credit. Students taking Bible electives without having met the exegesis and language course prerequisites may only count those courses as general Bible electives, and cannot receive exegesis credit for them.