



PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

COS 321 Bible III: Gospels

Summer 2024

M-F, June 24-July 12

Instructor: Abraham Smith

Office Hours: By Zoom appointment

Phone: 214-768-1888

### **Course Title**

COS 321 Bible III: Gospels

### **Course Goals for COS: 321 Bible III: Gospels**

This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis will be emphasized.

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
- Exegete this form of literature.
- Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Students who take the course will also be expected:

- to attend online faithfully
- to participate timely
- to be eager in their willingness to collaborate with others

## Course of Study Curriculum Design

The design of the curriculum of the Course of Study:

1. Grounds local pastors in core competencies of biblical interpretation, historical and theological understanding, congregational leadership, and pastoral effectiveness.
2. Is developmental in nature, encouraging local pastors to follow the sequence of yearly courses as much as possible.
3. Equips local pastors to be missional leaders with an ability to reflect critically on the social contexts and congregational dynamics particular to their ministry settings.
4. Cultivates in local pastors practices of vital spirituality to nurture and sustain ministry, including a Christian hospitality that welcomes across boundaries.
5. Orients local pastors within the global United Methodist connection, inviting them to  
(Source: *Policies and Guidelines for Course of Study Schools 2017*. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry)

## Required Course Materials

### Texts

All of the following may be purchased online.

Required Texts:

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- d) On Luke, *Introducing the NT*, 161-181.
- e) On John, *Introducing the NT*, 183-203.

In light of your reading for the second pre-class assignment, pick *one* of the Gospels as the basis for

(which must cover the issues of authorship, place and time of composition, intended readers and setting, purpose, and some unique features characterizing the book). Make sure you also provide a brief critique or reaction to the material studied and that your words are different from the sources you are using. This is not a sermon, devotional, or a word-by-word repetition of what scholars say, but your understanding of the most important issues that need to be dealt with if one is to understand what the author of the selected Gospel was communicating

b. Please see the Canvas grading rubric for the criteria by which this pre-

c. Discussion of Perspectives and Critical Tools

**2. Orientation to the Course: Canons and Categories of Writings in the New Testament:**  
*Week 1*

Readings: Five on Five: Examining Assumptions; Re-reading for Liberation

What is a canon? What is the difference between an exegetical method and a hermeneutical stance? What are the four genres or types of works in the New Testament?

**3. Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels: *Week 1***

Readings: Powell, 95-

Reading: All of the Gospel of Matthew, if possible in one sitting; and Wainwright, *Matthew: An Introduction and Study Guide*.

## **8. The Gospel of Matthew: *Week 2***

Readings: Powell, 119-139.



