

**BL5050 SURVEY OF THE GOSPELS**  
**SUMMER 2022 – PHOENIX SEMINARY**  
 REVISED 8 DECEMBER 2021



**INSTRUCTORS**

Lecturer: John DelHousaye, PhD  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A survey of the Gospels giving an overview of the life of Christ with an emphasis on Second Temple Judaism and the social worlds of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. Develops your ability to think biblically by interrelating theological convictions and making personal application.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

- At the end of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Articulate what is important to Jesus—his values and vision of the Kingdom of God.
  2. Contextualize his teachings and actions in first-century Judaism and Hellenism.
  3. Apply the Gospels to his or her ministry.

**COURSE TEXTS:**

DelHousaye, John. *The Fourfold Gospel: Translation & Notes*. Phoenix: Seminary Press, 2014. This textbook comes as a free PDF. It is not necessary to print the textbook—but you are free to do so—if you are able to read electronically. (If you require a different format, please contact the instructor.)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

<p><b>1. Reading / Video Lectures [15%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1, 2]</i>                  Due: Weekly</p>	<p>Please read the assigned sections from <i>The Fourfold Gospel</i> in the Reading Schedule <i>before</i> watching the lecture. The Seminary allots 30 pages per hour for “Mastery Reading”—“careful interaction with the ideas, note taking, accountability in class, papers and tests.”  <b><i>Block out three hours for the weekly reading.</i></b></p>
<p><b>2. Weekly Quizzes [15%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1, 2]</i>                  Due: Weekly</p> <p><b>Final Examination [30%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1, 2]</i>                  Due: Finals Week</p>	<p>The student is responsible for defining and relating the significance of words, phrases, and people that are <b>green</b> in the textbook (e.g., <b>Synoptic Gospels</b>). They are also listed at the beginning of each chapter. Feel free to disagree with the writer, but you must know the contents of the notes. The questions are multiple choice and true-or-false. You will be given 15 minutes to take each quiz. The final is comprised of questions taken from the weekly quizzes. You will be given 30 minutes to take the exam.</p>
<p><b>3. Discussion Questions [30%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1, 2, 3]</i>                  Due: Weekly</p>	<p><u>Student to Professor:</u> To foster a community of learning, this course requires students to interact weekly with the professor of record; and conversely, the professor will interact with each student on a weekly basis. As noted below, discussion questions</p>

	<p>covering the reading and lecture material for each week are posted on the course site. Students must respond to these questions with thoughtful answers evidencing knowledge appropriate to a master-level course on that week’s lecture and/or assigned reading. The professor of record will respond to each student’s answers.</p> <p><i>The student must post an initial response to the discussion question by Thursday at 11:59PM each week to give time for the instructor and other students to respond. Initial responses should be approximately 300 words in length.</i></p> <p>In addition to their weekly interaction with the professor of record through response to the questions, students are encouraged to ask clarifying questions about the lecture content or other assignments.</p> <p><u>Student to Student</u>: To further facilitate a virtual community of learning, student interaction forums are also required components of Phoenix Seminary online courses. In these forums students interact and collaborate with other students on a peer-to- peer basis. It is expected that interaction on the student forum will be commensurate with a master-level program and focused on the content of the course. Student-to-student forums are monitored by the professor of record.</p> <p>After responding to the discussion question(s) for each week, it is necessary to interact with the responses of other students. Be prepared for the instructor to ask for clarification and possibly follow-up questions, to which you are expected to respond within a week. You will be graded according to a rubric appended to the end of this syllabus.</p> <p><i>The student must post at least two responses to other students by Sunday at 11:59PM each week. Responses to other students should be approximately 150 words in length.</i></p>
<p><b>4. Essay [10%]</b>          [Outcomes 1, 2, 3]          Due: Finals Week</p>	<p>Please choose one of the two options:</p> <p><b>Option A:</b> Respond to the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“What is important to Jesus is important to your church.” Is this claim false or true? Or is the truth somewhere in between? If there are areas for improvement, how do you intend to help?</i></p> <p><b>Option B:</b> Respond to Leo Tolstoy’s famous question:</p>

	<p><i>“Why do I live?” Or put another way: “Is there any meaning in my life that will not be annihilated by the inevitability of death that awaits me?” How would Jesus answer this question? Use Gospel references to substantiate your answer.</i></p> <p>The essay should be between 8 and 10 pages (double spaced) and will be graded according to the rubric appended to the end of the syllabus.</p>
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### GRADING INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.
S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

## SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

### Course Evaluations

Each student is required to complete an anonymous course evaluation on this course's page at <http://ps.mrooms.net>. All course evaluation results are reported anonymously: professors have no way of linking a particular student to a particular evaluation. This anonymous information will be processed and distributed to professors in summary form and used to strengthen their teaching methods and courses.

## COURSE DETAILS

### On-Line Course Materials

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that after the course is over the student will not have access to course material on the website.

### Participation

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

### Online Course Weeks

An online course "Week" corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on **Phoenix, Arizona Time**. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.

### Late Posts, Etc.

Because dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Due to the interactive nature of discussion posts in online education, discussion posts cannot be made up. Failure to take quizzes, exams, or submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Procrastination is not an emergency.

## PROFESSOR'S OTHER:

### GRADING RUBRIC

The numbers represent points for a total of fifteen.

	5	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Excels in responding to assignment. Interesting. Covers all the required elements in the syllabus.	A solid paper, responding appropriately to the assignment. Minor lapses in coverage.	Adequate but significant lapses in coverage.	Inadequate but with some potential for improvement.	Does not respond to the assignment. It is recommended that the student reflect on the nature of academic work.

Organization & Support	Uses a logical structure. Guides the reader through the chain of reasoning. Clear grounds (evidence) for claims. Sensitivity to counter-arguments.	Uses logic and guides the reader. Minor lapses in reasoning and argument.	Somewhat logical but significant lapses in reasoning and argument. Reader struggles to find train of thought.	Largely irrational, but with convincing parts. It is recommended the student create an outline before writing.	Claims without any logic or support. It is recommended that the student take BC499 Graduate Writing Workshop.
Style & Mechanics	Chooses words for their precise meaning, with appropriate level of specificity. Almost entirely free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.	Generally uses words accurately and effectively. May contain a few errors that confuse or annoy the reader but do not impede understanding.	Uses relatively vague and general words. Several errors. Use of strange font or formatting.	Too vague and abstract for clear understanding. Multiple errors.	Incomprehensible. It is recommended that the student take BC499 Graduate Writing Workshop.