



## WSBM 215 MARK'S PORTRAITS OF JESUS

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Fall 2022

2 credit hours

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Bible Course (In-Person)

October 20–22 (Condensed)

Thursday 7 – 9 PM | Friday 7 – 9 PM | Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM

Room: **TBD**

***WSBM exists to equip Willingdon Church – head, heart and hands – to be more biblically literate and to serve more effectively in church and related ministry.***

### I. Course Description

This course explores the life, mission and message of Jesus within the world of first-century Judaism. Through a close and careful reading of the Gospel of Mark, this course examines the words and deeds of Jesus, the impact he made on those who give allegiance to him and what this means for followers of Jesus today.

### II. Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, Credit Students should...

- **Know** the story of the Gospel of Mark as it portrays the words and actions of Jesus as well as the response of his followers.
- **Be** growing as disciples who give their allegiance to Jesus and his kingdom.
- **Implement** the practices and spiritual disciplines learned in this course in one's daily life.

### III. REQUIRED Text

- Gombis, Timothy G. *The Story of God Commentary: Mark*. Zondervan, 2021.

- Students will be supplied pdf copies on the course moodle website of the Political, Religious and Social Backgrounds to the gospels by Craig Blomberg that are to be read in advance of the first class.

#### IV. **Course Outline**

For this course, we will devote approximately 1 hour to each section listed below. Students should supplement classroom instruction with a close and careful reading of the Gospel of Mark as well as the required textbook (as well as any additional readings the instructor assigns).

**Thursday, October 20, 2022** Introduction and Background  
What are Gospels?  
Mark's fourfold Structure & Themes

**Friday, October 21, 2022** Jesus as Teacher (Mark 1–4)  
Jesus as Prophet I (Mark 5–7)

**Saturday, October 22, 2022** Jesus as Prophet II (Mark 5–7)  
Jesus as Messiah (Mark 8–9)  
Jesus as (Rejected) King (Mark 10–13)  
Death and Resurrection (Mark 14–16)  
“Living” Mark Today

#### V. **Course Requirements**

##### 1. **Content Quiz (10%)**

Students will write a content quiz on the Gospel of Mark at the beginning of class on Saturday, October 22, 2022. For this quiz, students will be supplied with details from the Gospel of Mark and they must indicate which chapter in Mark the details are found.

**Due: Saturday, October 22, 2022**

##### 2. **Final Exam (15%)**

The final exam covers the course content (the material covered in the lectures). It comes in the form of three short paragraph essays (approximately 1 page per essay = 3 double-spaced pages total). The

exam will be completed at home and uploaded to the course moodle site.

**Due: Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**3. Commentary Readings (10%)**

Students are to read the *LIVE THE STORY* sections for each chapter in the commentary and submit a percentage reflecting the amount of reading done. For example, if all the *LIVE THE STORY* sections have been read, submit 100%. If half of them have been read, submit 50%, etc.

**Due: Saturday, November 5, 2022**

**4. Gospel of Mark Portraits Essay (25%)**

Students will write a three page (double-spaced) inductive (Bible-only) essay on how the various pictures of Jesus that Mark portrays help a new believer understand the gospel story better. Be sure to focus on several portraits, highlighting key points and practical applications for the believer personally and for the church as a whole. This assignment is highly practical. Once completed, it can be the basis for a home group Bible study that has new believers present who want to learn more about Jesus.

**Due: Saturday, November 12, 2022**

**5. Gospel Backgrounds Reading Reports (40%)**

Students will read through the Blomberg background material and prepare 1 page per reading section. For example, Political Background is one section. There are 3 sections in total. In your report, please list 5 key points that have arisen for you in each section (and thoroughly explain why they are important). Conclude each page with two questions that have come up from the material you have reflected upon. Total length: 3 pages double-spaced.

**Due: Saturday, November 19, 2022**

**VI. Recommended Reading**

- Students will be supplied pdf copies of several short articles by Timothy Geddert as supplemental reading posted to the Moodle course website.

## **VII. Academic Policies**

### **1. Course Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all the scheduled classes. If, for some reason, students need to miss classes, they will need to contact the instructor ahead of time. Students will be required to catch up on missed classes by listening to the recording. Students are responsible to obtain any missing materials or notes from other students in the class. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to missing an exam.

### **2. Classroom Etiquette**

Students are expected to remember that they are in an academic classroom. It is inappropriate to engage in conversations with classmates during class. Cell phones must be turned off. iPods/Tablets/Smart phones are permitted if Bible software and word-processing programs are being used. Otherwise, please do not surf the net or check emails during class. Only students who have registered for a course are to be in attendance. The only exception is an “approved audit.” If the class is conducted via Zoom, students should turn the video on unless there is a good reason not to.

### **3. Assignment Format (Citation & Style)**

The default format for documentation of sources used and format of presentation for all the papers is *MLA Style*. The format guide is available at [Willingdon.org/wsbm](http://Willingdon.org/wsbm).

### **4. Late Assignments**

Without the extension that has been granted already by the instructor, late assignments are subject to reduced grades. The work that is submitted late (from the *time* it was due) will receive a 5% reduction in grades. There will be an additional 5% reduction for every 24 hour period that follows (including the weekend).

Assignments submitted one week after their due dates will *not* be accepted (unless, again, extensions have been approved already by the instructor).

### **5. Extension Policy**

The deadline for an assignment is considered to be part of the course requirements. Due to the additional workload for the instructor in grading late papers, and due to the school’s intention to be fair to students who, often with considerable effort, submit their work on time, extensions for

course work will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. A written request with reasons for extension should be directed to the instructor. If granted, the extension deadlines will be clearly established and will be final.

Extensions for course work are granted in cases where the student demonstrates there was an unforeseeable and unavoidable emergency. Emergencies considered as grounds for an extension typically include:

- Personal sickness or injury which prevents one from working
- Sickness, injury or death in the family which requires the student's attention
- Emotional or psychological crisis for which the student has sought professional help
- Unexpected increase in job responsibilities

## **6. Academic Integrity**

All students at WSBM are expected to hold to *uncompromised* academic integrity.

*Plagiarism*, whether intended or accidental, is an academic offense. In academic work, students are certainly expected to refer to and evaluate other people's works. Plagiarism unfortunately occurs when students' assignments fail to give credit to those from whom the students got certain *ideas*. In other words, students submitted the idea of another without reference to him/her (effectively claiming the credit that is due someone else and getting a grade for someone else's effort).

Therefore, whether students (1) *directly quotes* a source (i.e., "word for word" in its entirety or in its part), or (2) *paraphrase in their own words* the idea of another, they must keep track and provide a *clear reference* to the original source that they are indebted to (e.g., via footnotes).

Again, whether it was intended or not, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students are therefore expected to develop and exercise *proper citation*, a skill that is truly critical in academic work (please refer to the format guide at [Willingdon.org/wsbm](http://Willingdon.org/wsbm)).

Using unauthorized aids of any sort in exams or assignments, completing work in unauthorized collaboration with others, or the unauthorized use of class recordings are all breaches of academic integrity.

The penalty for a lack of academic integrity may include a failing grade either in the assignment, examination or course, depending on the severity of the offense.

## **7. Academic Standards**

Students must achieve at least a 60% grade to successfully complete a course. In order to graduate with the Certificate, any course taken and not completed must be repeated. Registration policies and procedures apply.

Students may appeal to the instructor if a course is not successfully completed, and at the discretion of the instructor, students may be granted the opportunity to re-submit a particular assignment.

## **8. Report Cards**

Report cards are issued (usually by email) in a reasonable amount of time following the completion of each course. Due to faculty schedules, there may be delays in the time frame for issuing grade reports.

Students are responsible to appeal any error in grades and to bring to the WSBM Administrative Assistant's attention within one month following the issued report card. Grade changes are allowable for computational recording errors and must be corrected no later than one month after the date the report card was issued.