

New Testament: The Gospels

Fall 2022

Wednesday, 1:00 PM ET

Instructor: Fr. Photius Avant [fatherphotius@gmail.com, (469) 667-6366]

Office Hours: by appointment only

I. Rationale:

The Gospels are the written repository of God's self-revelation to humanity in the Lord Jesus Christ, who asked his disciples, "But whom do ye say that I am?" (Mt 16:13; Mk 8:29). With St. Peter, the Gospels proclaim, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16). Through the Gospels, we learn about the Lord Jesus Christ who has revealed himself to mankind.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

This class is intended to give students a working knowledge of the Gospels, which occupy a central place in Orthodox Christian liturgical and personal life.

B. Specific Learning Outcomes

The student will become familiar with the content of the Gospels, which is historical and theological. Likewise, the student will become familiar with the function of the Gospels within the life of the Orthodox Church.

III. Format and Procedures:

The class will consist of the student:

- 1) reading the assigned passages from the Gospels to discuss them,
- 2) logging into the classroom in a timely manner,
- 3) taking notes based on lectures,
- 4) asking questions about the readings, and
- 5) sharing observations based on the readings.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites: The student should be able to read and to take notes.

2. Class attendance and participation policy: Grades are taken entirely based on a student's participation in the class either by asking questions or offering observations based on the reading.
3. Course readings:
Required text: The Orthodox Study Bible (or another translation if the student has another one).

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students 'own' their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the "live" side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, email teachers to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

100% class participation. Students will receive their daily grades by:

- 1) Asking questions about the reading or
- 2) Making observations about the reading.

If a student is uncomfortable vocalizing his/her questions or observations, he/she may type them into the class chat.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

| Date | Readings to be discussed |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| August 24 | Matthew 1-7 |
| August 31 | Matthew 8-14 |
| September 7 | Matthew 15-22 |
| September 21 | Matthew 23-28 |
| September 28 | Mark 1-5 |
| October 5 | Mark 6-10 |
| October 12 | Mark 11-16 |
| October 19 | Luke 1-6 |
| October 26 | Luke 7-12 |
| November 2 | Luke 13-18 |
| November 9 | Luke 19-24 |
| November 16 | John 1-5 |
| November 30 | John 6-10 |
| December 7 | John 11-15 |
| December 14 | John 16-21 |