

## Synoptic Literature

7.1 Module Overview									
<b>Module Number</b>		<b>Module Title</b>	Synoptic Literature						
<b>Stage of Principal Programme</b>			2	<b>Semester</b>	2	<b>Duration.</b> (Weeks F/T)	12	<b>ECTS</b>	5
<b>Mandatory / Elective (M/E)</b>	E	<b>Hours of Learner Effort / Week</b>	2						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
<b>Teaching and Learning Modalities</b>						<b>✓if relevant to this module</b>	<b>Approx. proportion of total (hours)</b>		
<b>Contact Hours</b>									
In person face-to-face						✓	24		
Synchronous									
<b>Indirect/Non-Contact Hours</b>									
Asynchronous									
Work Based									
Other:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>independent reading, engagement with VLE, research and preparation of assessments</li> </ul>						✓	101		
<b>Total</b>							125		

<b>Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	The Bible: Interpretation & Inspiration
<b>Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	N/A
<b>Maximum number of learners per instance of the module</b>	120
<b>Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.</b>	
<b>Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.</b>	<b>Qualifications &amp; experience required</b>
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Theology or Biblical Studies or closely cognate area
Tutor	A minimum level 9 qualification in Theology or Biblical Studies or closely cognate area
	<b>Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y</b>
	1:120
	1:20

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution				
<b>Continuous Assessment</b>	30%	<b>Proctored Exam – in person</b>	70%	<b>Practical Skills Based</b>
<b>Project</b>		<b>Proctored Exam - online</b>		<b>Work Based</b>
<b>Capstone (Y/N)?</b>	N	<b>If Yes, describe</b>		

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)	
<b>MIMLO</b>	<b>Related MIPLO #</b>

<b>On completion of this module a learner will be able to:</b>	
1. Describe what a gospel is and evaluate the theories of the formation of the synoptic gospels and their relationship to one another.	<b>1, 2, 3</b>
2. Distinguish the individuality of the gospel writers, their interests and their particular presentation of the person of Jesus.	<b>2, 5</b>
3. Comment in detail on selected texts from the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, including the parables in Mk 4, the infancy narratives and Sermon on the Mount/Plain in Matthew and Luke, and on themes in the synoptic gospels such as discipleship and possessions.	<b>2, 3, 5</b>

### 7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module aims to introduce learners to the ministry of Jesus, its background and the formation of the Gospel Tradition and to the literary composition of the individual gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and provide an awareness of the literary styles of the various writers and of the main theories on the relationship between the synoptic gospels. The module will also provide learners with knowledge of the date and purpose of the synoptic gospels and their main themes.

**Indicative Content:**

Introductory questions: What is a Gospel? Canonical and non-Canonical gospels; Textual Criticism, Source Criticism; Synoptic Problem; Q; Form and Redaction Criticism; Feminist Criticism; Rhetorical criticism.

**Synoptic Gospels:**

1. Jesus the shape of his ministry;
2. The gospel of Mark; date, origin, composition and main themes (especially discipleship);
3. The gospel of Matthew, date, place of origin, literary structure, infancy narrative, Sermon on the Mount, Parables, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus; universal mission;
4. The gospel of Luke, date, origin, literary structure, infancy narrative, John the Baptist and Jesus, ministry in Galilee, Travel Narrative, Final days in Jerusalem; Lk 24 and Acts 1, the Gospel of Reconciliation, Luke and prayer, discipleship & possessions, Parables.

### 7.4 Work-based learning and practice-placement *(if applicable)*

N/A

### 7.5 Specific module resources required *(if applicable)*

N/A

### 7.6 Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

The content of the module is delivered in lectures with material also available on Moodle. Moodle is also used to engage learners who will upload powerpoint presentations on particular topics relating to the background of the gospels.

Assessment of this module is by examination and by short presentations to be uploaded on Moodle. (MIMLO 1-3)

Presentation of a selected topic to be uploaded on Moodle – CA – formative (10%) (MIMLO 3)

A proctored exam of 2 hours duration in which 2 questions will be answered – summative form of assessment (70%). (MIMLO 1-3)

7.7 Summative Assessment Strategy for this module		
MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
	Class participation & discussion	10%
3	PowerPoint presentation	20%
1-3	Proctored 2 hr exam	70%

7.8 Sample Assessment Materials
<p><b>Short Presentations</b> for uploading on Moodle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Synoptic Problem</li> <li>2. The names of the Twelve</li> <li>3. Jesus' urban ministry – Capernaum, Bethsaida, etc.</li> <li>4. The languages of Jesus</li> <li>5. The beatitudes in Matthew</li> <li>6. John the Baptist</li> <li>7. The Good Samaritan</li> <li>8. The Our Father</li> </ol> <p><b>Exam:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comment on Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus and compare his account to those of Matthew and Luke.</li> <li>2. The parable of the sower (Mk 4) – what was its original context and meaning?</li> <li>3. Discuss the inclusion of the women in the genealogy of Matthew – what is the message?</li> <li>4. The spirit of the beatitudes pervades the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. Comment</li> <li>5. Jesus interpreter of the law in Mt 5-7. Discuss.</li> <li>6. Jesus Model and Teacher of Prayer in the gospel of Luke. Discuss.</li> <li>7. Discipleship and Possessions in Luke-Acts: an unresolved dilemma?</li> <li>8. Comment in detail on the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15).</li> </ol> <p>Marking of assessments will be in line with the Marking Assessment Guidelines as outlined in Section 3.3 of the College's <a href="#">Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards</a> unless otherwise indicated.</p>

7.9 Indicative reading lists and other information resources
<p><b>Indicative Core Reading:</b></p> <p>Aune, D.E., <i>The New Testament in its Literary Environment</i> (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989)</p> <p>The Holy Bible N.R.S.V. Catholic Edition (London: Darton, Longman &amp; Todd, 2005)</p> <p>Brown, Raymond E., <i>An Introduction to the New Testament</i> (Anchor Bible Reference Library, New York/Mahwah, NJ: Doubleday, 1999)</p> <p>Drane, John William, <i>Introducing the New Testament</i>, 4th edn (Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2019)</p> <p>Ehrman, Bart D., <i>The New Testament. A Historical Introduction to the early Christian Writings</i> (New York/Oxford: OUP, 2004)</p> <p><b>Indicative Other Reading:</b></p> <p>Boring, M.E., <i>Mark, a commentary</i> (Westminster: John Knox Press, 2006)</p> <p>Amy- Jill Devine, <i>A Feminist companion to Matthew</i> (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001)</p> <p><i>The Gospel of Thomas</i> (<a href="http://gnosis.org/naghamm/gosthom.html">http://gnosis.org/naghamm/gosthom.html</a>)</p> <p>Bailey, Kenneth E., <i>Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes. Cultural Studies in the Gospels</i> (London: SPCK, 2008)</p>

Fitzmyer, Joseph A., *Luke I-IX, X-XXIV AB* (Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, 1981).

Getty-Sullivan, Mary Ann, *Women in the New Testament* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001)

Hartman, Lars, *Mark for the Nations: A Text- and Reader- Orientated Commentary* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2010)

Malina, Bruce J., *The Social World of Jesus and the Gospels* (London: Routledge, 1996)

Porter, Stanley E. (ed.) *The synoptic problem: four views* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016)

Selected articles from *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, ed. by David Noel Freedman (New York: Doubleday, 1992)

Senior, Donald, *Matthew: Abingdon New Testament Commentaries* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998)

*The Jerome Biblical Commentary for the Twenty First Century* (London: Bloomsbury, 2022)

*The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, ed. by R. E. Brown and others (London: Chapman, 1990)