

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-3323 Life of Christ, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

A comprehensive study of the earthly life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. The course focuses on a thematic and chronological view of Christ's life and ministry, providing an interpretation of key events and discourses and their practical application.

Not open to freshmen.

### Course Objective

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the genre of the four Gospels as history, narrative, and theology
2. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of some of the different critical and literary approaches to the study of the four Gospels
3. Describe the Greco-Roman and Jewish historical/cultural setting for the life of Christ and explain its importance for understanding the life of Christ
4. Describe the main historical and theological features of each of the Gospel's portrayals of Jesus
5. Explain Jesus' teaching on key topics including the kingdom of God, the law, and the cost of discipleship
6. Give evidence for the literal body resurrection of Jesus and explain its historical and theological importance

### Course Textbooks

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

*NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.*

## Assignments

*See the Syllabus page in the Blackboard course for general assignment instructions.*

**READING AND QUESTIONS:** Students are expected to read sections in the required texts and answer specific questions at the end of each chapter according to the Course Schedule. You will be required to submit a reading report at the end of each week.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Participation in the six discussions is expected and will be graded. You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed.

### **ASSIGNMENT 1: RESEARCH PAPER ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

All students will write a paper on Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God in the Gospel of Mark, using 1:14-15 as the primary text. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and include an introduction with a thesis (a purpose statement), a main body, and a conclusion/summary.

Using a minimum of three (3) commentaries and other resources students should interpret and explain the following aspects of Jesus' declaration of the arrival of the kingdom. Students should use primarily passages from Mark but may refer to passages in the other Gospels and the Epistles to supplement their interpretation of Mark 1:14-15.

The following format should be used in writing the paper:

#### **A. Introduction**

The central theme of Jesus' proclamation was the arrival of God's kingdom. To understand Jesus' life and teaching, it is absolutely essential to explain Jesus' teaching about the kingdom. The purpose of this paper is to examine the concept of the kingdom of God in the Gospel of Mark. The intent is to determine in what sense the kingdom was inaugurated in the ministry of Jesus (the "already" dimension) and what aspects of the kingdom are future (the "not yet" dimension).

#### **B. Main Body**

(Use the following outline to analyze Mark 1:14-15.)

- 1) Define "kingdom of God," using biblical/theological resources (see also Strauss, 99).
- 2) What is "good news"? What is the Old Testament background for the announcement of "good news" (Isa 40:9-11; 55:1-9, etc.)? What was the "good news" during the life of Jesus? What was the "good news" after the death and resurrection of Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?
- 3) What did Jesus mean when He said, "the kingdom of God is near"? Did He mean the kingdom had come in all its fullness (fully inaugurated) or did He mean that with His coming the kingdom had arrived but not in all its fullness (partially inaugurated)?
  - a) For the present aspect of the kingdom, see Mark 10:15; 4:26-29; 4:30-32, et al.
  - b) For the future dimension of the kingdom, see Mark 11:10; 13:26-31; 14:22-26.
- 4) If there is a dimension of the kingdom that is present, what is Mark's emphasis on the purpose of the coming kingdom? See Mark 2:21-28 and 3:20-30 to support Mark's

perspective on Jesus' mission in relation to the kingdom. You may also include Mark 5:1-20, but it is not necessary.

- 5) What did Jesus tell people to do in response to the arrival of the kingdom? See also Mark 10:13-16; 10:23-27.

**Note:** If you find other information about Jesus and the kingdom, you may include that information in the body of your paper.

### C. Conclusion

In your conclusion, you need to state specifically the results of your study and give a brief summary of how your study supports your conclusion.

### D. Guidelines

The following are the required guidelines for writing the paper in a Microsoft Word compatible document:

- Prefaced with a separate title page, which should include:
  - title of the paper
  - name of the course
  - the date of submission
  - your name and address
  - your Moody student identification number
- On 8½-by-11 inch paper
- Double-spaced with a standard font size no smaller or larger than 12 points
- Bordered by a one-inch margin on all sides
- Correct in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. No more than four errors per page are acceptable.
- Documented in MLA style if citations are necessary (see Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) for MLA resources)

### E. Organization

Each paper should be organized with:

- An introduction containing a clear statement of the purpose of the paper.
- A main body in which you discuss the subject or issue you are addressing.
- A list of resources used in this course is located in the Syllabus. These resources will help you in your research as you prepare the papers assigned for this course. You may be able to find these resources from your pastor, a friend, or a library (church, school, or public). If the library nearest you does not have the book you want, they may be able to obtain it through an inter-library loan program. You may even wish to purchase some of these books for your own personal library. You are encouraged to consult any outside references, and it is recommended that you also cite other applicable Scriptures. Provide a Works Cited page for resources you cite in your paper (MLA style).
- No paper should be written using only online resources merely because they are convenient. If they provide important information, then students may use them; otherwise students are expected to use resources that provide credible information for their subject matter.

F. **Grading** will be based on content, grammar, and style.

**Due Week 5**

**ASSIGNMENT 2: SUMMARIES**

Students will write three (3) 2-3 page summaries on the following passages:

1. Matthew 5-7: Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount  
 In addition to summarizing the Sermon, explain what Jesus meant when He said, “I did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them.” To explain Matthew 5:17, you must use the text by Strauss (pp. 247-48) and one additional commentary (you may use a study Bible for your commentary). **Due Week 3**
  
2. Luke 21: 5-36: Jesus’ teaching about the end of the age and His second coming  
 Briefly explain why it is best to interpret Jesus’ teaching as referring to both the present age and events that will occur prior to His second coming (see Strauss, p. 277). **Due Week 4**
  
3. John 13-17: Jesus’ teaching in the Upper Room  
 In addition to the summary, list and briefly explain all of Jesus’ promises about the ministry of the Holy Spirit (*paraklete*, Counselor, Comforter). You must use at least two (2) commentaries (you may use a study Bible for one of the commentaries to interpret the passages on the Holy Spirit). **Due Week 7**

**EXAMS**

Student will take three unit exams for credit. There will be 70 questions on the first exam, 68 on the second, and 70 on the third. All questions will be multiple-choice. Total score is 200 points with 8 extra credit points. All exams will be closed-book and there will be no time limit, but you can only take each exam once.

**Assessments**

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Reading and Questions	20%
Class Participation	10%
Assignment 1: Research Paper	20%
Assignment 2: Three (3) Summaries	30%
Three (3) Unit Exams	20%
	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

