



NT221 The Gospel of Mark

Prof Rikk E. Watts | 3CR

About the Course

Likely the earliest gospel, recent scholarship has come increasingly to appreciate the power and rich subtlety of this deceptively straightforward and until modern times somewhat neglected account of Jesus. The rehabilitation of Jesus' long-ignored Jewishness has, perhaps not unexpectedly, contributed to this renaissance including a new understanding not only of Mark's themes, structure, and remarkable coherence but also of a high Christology equal to anything in John, now recognized as present from the very beginning.

Credits 3CR	Fees* S\$450(Credit) S\$240 (Audit)
Class Format Online	* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)

About the Lecturer

Prof Rikk E. Watts served as Regent College's Professor of New Testament from 1996-2016. Along with his position as a Research Professor with Regent, he is currently the Dean of Theology at Alphacrucis College in Australia.



In addition to Alphacrucis and Regent, Rikk has served as an instructor at Gordon-Conwell (Boston), Wycliffe Hall (Oxford), Latrobe University (Melbourne), and the Bible College of Victoria (Melbourne). Rikk is married to Katie, a primary school teacher, and they have two adult children, Steven and Rebecca. In addition to an obsession with sailing, he enjoys movies, good restaurants, music, reading, and going for long walks with Katie.

Course Objectives

This course of lectures will undertake a careful exegetical study of Mark in order to:

- Understand the basic content of the gospel through the application of sound exegetical method.
- Address some of the hermeneutical issues concerning its significance in the modern world.
- A secondary concern will be to acquaint students with some of the critical issues relating to the scholarly study of Mark. Some familiarity with NT Greek will prove advantageous but is not required.

Course Outline & Resources

VIDEO LECTURES & ACTIVITIES

For each topic, the relevant video lectures can be accessed through the video links provided on the course Moodle site. At the end of each set of video lectures, the necessary lecture activities should be completed before proceeding to the next topic.

REQUIRED READING

All required readings are from Watts, Rikki E., *Isaiah's New Exodus in Mark*, WUNT 2.88 (Tubingen/Grand Rapids: Mohr-Siebeck/Baker, 1997/2001). This book expounds the overall logic behind the approach taken in this class: Israel's Scriptures constitute the tradition within which Mark expects his gospel to be read and interpreted. Please see the Course Bibliography below for more details.

S/N	Lecture Topic	Activities	Required Reading
1	Introduction	Lecture 1 Questions	Watts, Rikki E., <i>Isaiah's New Exodus in Mark</i>
2	Mark 1	Lecture 2 Questions	
3	Mark 2-3	Lecture 3 Questions	
4	Mark 4-5	Lecture 4 Questions	
5	Mark 6-7	Lecture 5 Questions	
6	Mark 8-11	Lecture 6 Questions	
7	Mark 12-13	Lecture 7 Questions	
8	Mark 14	Lecture 8 Questions	
9	Mark 15-16	Lecture 9 Questions	

Course Requirements

1. **Video lecture questions:** Complete all video lecture questions.
2. **Major assignment (choose Option A or B):** In order to allow students to produce an extended piece of writing commensurate with graduate studies, the work in this module is focussed on a single major assignment.

Option A. This option is recommended for those who intend to enter the preaching or teaching ministries.

1) An exegesis paper, including footnotes, of 4500 words on a given paragraph of Mark which should deal responsibly with the exegetical issues and interact with the relevant scholarly literature.

2) One 2000 word sermon based on your exegesis

OR

Option B.

1) A 4500 word theological research essay on an agreed aspect of Markan studies. Kinds of topics available include: the logic behind Mark's arrangement of material; the function of the OT in Mark; Mark's purpose and intended audience; Mark's Christology, understanding of discipleship, use of imagery, etc. The aim here is to allow the candidate as much freedom as possible to reflect on some aspect of Mark.

2) A 2000 word sermon or exposition of some aspect of the essay on the significance of the material for the church.

3. Theological-cultural interaction assignment: A discussion (1,200 words) of a modern cultural artefact (e.g. book, film, play, or other agreed substitute) based on the themes and theology of Mark's Gospel.

ASSIGNMENTS BREAKDOWN

S/N	Assignments	Grade Percentage
1	Video Lecture Questions	10%
2	Major Assignment	80%
3	Theological-Cultural Interaction Assignment	10%
	Total	100%

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY-WRITING

1. The paper must reflect graduate-level research skills. There must be a minimum of five sources in your bibliography (not including the Bible).
2. The paper must reflect academic integrity in that due credit must be given to every source quoted or used. Footnotes should be used to document the sources. Every source cited should also appear in the bibliography. Please abide by the Turabian or Chicago Style for all your footnoting and bibliography.
3. The paper must reflect a good command of English and organisation of thought. Writing must be concise and clear. Please proof-read your paper before submitting it.
4. The paper must reflect the customary hallmarks of academic writing: treat those who hold different opinions from you with respect, and avoid colloquialisms and slang.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the section on "General Formatting for all Assignments" available on the BGST Online Student Manual.

2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email to assignments@bgst.edu.sg without the need to cc. the lecturer (unless requested by the lecturer).
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.

Course Bibliography

MOST USEFUL COMMENTARIES

Boring, M. Eugene, *Mark: A Commentary*, (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2006). A unique and stimulating take on Mark.

Collins, Adela Yarbro, *Mark: A Commentary*, Hermeneia (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007). In the tradition of continental scholarship, it seeks to combine a range of traditional and more recent exegetical approaches; compendium of first century backgrounds, though not always at the same level.

France, R.T., *The Gospel of Mark*, (Grand Rapids/Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2002). Solid engagement with the Greek text from the standpoint of the best of sensible British evangelical scholarship.

Hooker, M. D., *The Gospel According to St. Mark* BNTC (London: A. & C. Black, 1991). Insightful, highly readable, but non-technical exemplar of sensible English scholarship by a recognized Markan authority.

Marcus, Joel, *Mark: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, 2 vols., AB 27, 27A (New York: Doubleday, 2000, 2009). One of the recognized standards.

Voeltz, James W., *Mark 1:1-8:26* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2013). A unique commentary focussed on the significance of the syntax and structure of the Greek text

OTHERS

Watts, Rikki E., *Isaiah's New Exodus in Mark*, WUNT 2.88 (Tubingen/Grand Rapids: Mohr-Siebeck/Baker, 1997/2001). Instructor's Cambridge PhD which argued that Mark deliberately shapes his gospel around Israel's long-standing hope of a new exodus. It expounds the overall logic behind the approach taken in this class: Israel's Scriptures constitute the tradition within which Mark expects his gospel to be read and interpreted.

Watts, Rikk E., "Mark," in *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament*, eds. G. K. Beale, and D. A. Carson, (Grand Rapids, Mich.; Nottingham, England: Baker Academic Apollos, 2007) 111-249. Exhaustive and detailed assessment of Mark's use of Israel's Scriptures.

McKnight, S., *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels* GNTE (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988).