

**TIDEWATER BIBLE COLLEGE**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**INDEPENDENT STUDY**

**THE FOUR GOSPELS**

BIB 305, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2009-2010 (4 credits)  
December 1, 2009 – February 9, 2010

**Professor Stephen Bialowas**

Home phone: 757-424-1212  
Email: stepbia61@gmail.com

**ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR**

Stephen Bialowas is a 2006 graduation of Regent University where he earned his Master of Divinity in Practical Theology. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from Park University. Professor Bialowas helped plant Destiny Life Center and was the church's Associate Pastor of from May 2005 until September 2009. He has been an instructor at Tidewater Bible College since June 2006.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a hermeneutic study of the four gospels. It will examine both the harmony and diversity of the four gospels by studying the individual message of each gospel while also focusing on how they combine to present a complete picture of Jesus and His ministry. Additionally, we will investigate how these gospels present Jesus as our Lord, Savior, and Mentor. Students will come away with a set of tools that will allow integrating the gospels into their lives on a daily basis as well as provide the means to integrate the gospels into their specific ministry.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, participants will:

1. Develop and hermeneutical understanding of each individual gospel.
2. Have a hermeneutical understanding of the gospels through an analytical investigation of a harmony of the gospels.
3. Be able to integrate an understanding of the gospels into their ministry.
4. Be able to understand how the gospels provide an understanding of Jesus' discipling men and women in the world today.
5. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of the gospels through research and analysis which leads to a holistic understanding of the gospels.

## **Textbooks**

Bible (NASB or RSV only)

Instructor Handouts

Bible Dictionary

Commentaries on the Four Gospels (Optional/May be read at Regent University Library)

May use LOGOS or other Bible software.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

1. **70% - Weekly Assignments** - Prior to coming to class you should complete the reading assignments and answer the questions in the instructor handouts. These assignments will be emailed to you each week on Tuesday. Your answers to the questions must then be email back to the instructor by midnight on the following Monday.  
- Approx. Time six hours per week outside of class.
2. **20% - Jesus as Your Mentor Project**
  - a. Each of us will be participating in the *Jesus as your Mentor* study over the length of the course. The gospels frequently reveal Jesus acting as a mentor in various situations. The purpose of this study is to help us to live for eternity; to be a friend; to be a lover; and to lead, as Christ was able to do as evidenced in His life, death, and resurrection.
  - b. At the indicated times in the *Course Schedule* email your answers to each section. Each section of the project is worth five (5) points towards your final grade.
  - c. Approximately 1-2 hours per week
3. **10% - Your Ministry Project**
  - a. You have been called to a specific ministry (pastor, teacher, evangelist, prophet, apostle, etc). The purpose of this project is for you to demonstrate how you would integrate an understanding of a section of the gospels into your ministry.
  - b. Create a two page double space document with the following sections. Section 1 should describe your current, future, or potential ministry, (i.e., mission statement, vision, etc.). Section 2 starts with some specific Scripture or Scriptures from the four Gospels that you feel is associated to your ministry. Explain how it is associated with your ministry and how you intend to apply the Scripture to your ministry.
  - c. This can be handed in any time during the class, but no later than Class Ten. It may be handed to the instructor or emailed. This paper is worth ten (10) points towards your final grade.
  - d. Approximately 5-8 hours.

Note: All work is expected to be presented with proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation in accordance with the Modern Language Association (MLA) style guide. All assignments are to be completed and submitted on or before the assigned time. If late, the grade received for them will be no higher than a "B" in accordance with the school catalog.

## **GRADING SCALE**

In order to earn credit for a course, participants must earn at least a “70%”. Percentage grades are converted into final grades according to the following scale:

A = 94-100	Excellent
B = 86-93	Above Average
C = 78-85	Average
D = 70-77	Passing
F = Below 70	Failing
W = Withdrawal	G.P.A. Not Affected

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

SEE HANDOUT.

## **TIDEWATER BIBLE COLLEGE GROWTH PROFILE**

Tidewater Bible College courses are designed to encourage firm discipleship essentials (100 Level), Christian Service Awareness (200 Level), Ministry Lifestyle Exploration (300 Level), and Ministry Leadership Formation (400 Level). It is our goal that upon graduation every Tidewater Bible participant would be “more profitable” to serve the Kingdom of God (Philemon 1:10-12). Each class is designed to help participants achieve various aspects of the participant profile. The following will be addressed in this particular course:

1. A Hunger to Know and Enjoy God’s Presence. (2 Corinthians 3:17; Matthew 6:33)
2. A Passion to Know and Do God’s Word. (2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 20:27)
3. A Lifestyle of Bold Discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2; Luke 9:23)
4. A Prophetic Sense of Spiritual Destiny (Acts 13:22, Matt 16:1-4)
5. A Commitment to Personal Wholeness ( Matt. 22:37-40; Prov. 3:5-12, 4:18-27)
6. A Life of Spirit-Directed Compassion (James 1:22; Luke 10:33-37)
7. A Resolution to Complete the Harvest (Matt 9:35-38, 24:14, Romans 15:20-21)
8. A loyalty to One’s Church and Ministry (1 Corinthians 12.4-7; Hebrews 10.24-25)

## **CHRIST- HONORING CONDUCT**

Participants are expected to be Christ-honoring examples while learning together at Tidewater Bible College. The campus area should be maintained by staff, faculty, and participants as a smoke-free, drug-free, dishonesty-free, profanity-free environment. Participants are expected to avoid language and behavior which appears to discriminate, harass, or harm on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or age. Rather, participants should overwhelmingly offer concern, respect, blessing, protection, and encouragement to one another and to all people. A vibrant community of faith and learning—where Christ’s love and holiness are flourishing—is the responsibility of all staff, faculty, and participants.

## **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

Note: The following resources are listed for the student's future study and while are not intended for use in this course, the instructor might make reference to them as needed during the course.

Books:

Anderson, L.

2004 *Jesus: An Intimate Portrait of the Man, His Land, and His People.* Minneapolis, MI: Bethany House.

Beausay, W.

1994 *The Leadership Genius of Jesus.* Nashville, TN: Nelson.

Blomberg, C.

1987 *The Historical Reliability of the Gospel.* Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity.

Borg, M.

1995 *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time.* San Francisco: Harper.

Borg, M. and Wright, N. T.

1995 *The Meaning of Jesus.* San Francisco: Harper.

Brouwer, S.

2000 *Can the Real Jesus Still be Found?* Eugene, OR: Harvest House.

Buchanan, D.

1985 *The Counseling of Jesus.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Burgess, A.

1979 *Man of Nazareth.* New York: Bantam.

Burkhart, R.

1988 *To Be Like Jesus.* Springfield, MI: Gospel.

Cassels, L.

1975 *This Fellow Jesus.* New York: Family Library.

Charlesworth, J. H.

1992 *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls.* New York: Doubleday.

Colquhoun, F.

1984 *Four Portraits of Jesus.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Crossan, J. D. and Reed, J. L.

*Excavating Jesus.* San Francisco: Harper.

- Green, J. B. and McKeever, M. C.  
1996 *Luke – Acts & New Testament Historiography*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Morison, F.  
1958 *Who Moved the Stone?* London: Faber and Faber.
- Piper, J.  
2005 *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.
- Pollack, J.  
1997 *The Master: A Life of Jesus*. Edison, NJ: Inspirational.
- Potter, C. F.  
1962 *The Lost Years of Jesus Revealed*. New York: CBS Publications.
- Roddy, L. and Sellier, C. E.  
1979 *In Search of Historical Jesus*. New York: Bantam.
- Runia, K.  
1984 *The Present-day Christological Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
- Stein, R.  
1996 *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
- Thomas, R. and Gundry, S. N.  
1989 *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. San Francisco: Harper.