



# HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

## Syllabus

Harding School of Theology

5200 Survey of the New Testament—Spring 2021

Mondays—Jan. 11-May 03, 2021—1:00-3:45

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr. • [roster@harding.edu](mailto:roster@harding.edu)

Phone nos. 901-335-4296 (cell); 901-432-7718 (office)

My GA: Sean Cavender, [scavender@harding.edu](mailto:scavender@harding.edu), 501-519-0638 (cell)

Zoom HST LIVE ID 9014327718

**Nota Bene.** In observance of the “official Birthday” of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., classes will not meet on Monday, Jan. 18th, 2021. During week 2 of the Spring semester 2021, Monday daytime classes will meet on Wednesday. Mark your Zoom calendar so that you come to class at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, Jan. 20th for 5200 Survey of the New Testament. The following week, Zoom class will meet at its regular time, Monday 1:00-3:45 PM. Jan. 25th.

### **Accessibility**

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: [roster@harding.edu](mailto:roster@harding.edu)

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7718

### **Credit Hour Workload**

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

### **Textbooks**

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

### **Library Resources**

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took that class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

*The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof. Carlus Gupton:*

#### *Course Etiquette for HST Live*

*HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.*

*All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor’s call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.*

*“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted **ONLY** in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your*

*ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.*

*Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc. [While I have pacifist tendencies, some of the examples of bad classroom etiquette provided by Dr. Gupton in this last paragraph ignite images of punishment by “firing squad” in my mind; Prof. Richard E. Oster].*

*Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.*

*Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free [as possible REO] (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.)*

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

### **CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM**

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding’s *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

## **HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM**

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session scheduled for January 4 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### ***Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:***

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

This course is supported with the video platform [www.Zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>) to facilitate class participation. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g., dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

## **Course Outcomes**

- 1 **Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.** Effective ministers need to be well versed in the scripture as the source of our knowledge of God and his will for humanity.
- 2 **Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.**

Ministers need to refine their own understanding of the Christian faith, to be able to respond to contemporary proposals in Christian theology (both academic and popular), and to be able to teach others the central elements of the faith.

**3 Be able to communicate effectively in written and oral media.**

Such public communication serves as a primary way a minister contributes to the spiritual formation of the congregation and to the cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel.

The general purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the content of the New Testament. The readings will consist of textbooks and sections of the English NT.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Stanley E. Porter, The Apostle Paul. His Life, Thought, Letters. Eerdmans, 2016  
This book has a denser text and no color photos, charts, etc., and will be slower reading. I think it will not be as easy and as much fun to read as the other textbook. (Approximately 400 pages, omitting chapters 5 and 6).

Strauss, Mark. Four Portraits, One Jesus. Zondervan, 2007. This book has lots of color, charts, and pictures and, therefore, should be easier reading; don't be deceived into thinking, however, that the packaging means you are not responsible for the content contained in the pretty packaging! (approximately 500 pages).

### **GRADES**

**The student's grade will be based upon the following requirements:**

**Midterm examination** 45%

The midterm exam will cover the lectures to that point and the reading of Mark Strauss, Four Portraits, One Jesus, except the chapters on the Johannine materials (chapter 10) and Stanley Porter, The Apostle Paul. His Life, Thought, Letters, chapters 1-4, pp. 3-133.

This exam will consist of essays and objective type of questions based upon the readings and my lectures through Feb. 22nd. The Midterm Exam is the week of March 15th-19th.

**Final examination****45%**

The Final Exam, the week of May 3rd-7th, will cover the remaining chapter of Mark Strauss, Four Portraits, One Jesus, on the Johannine materials (chapter 10, “John: The Gospel of the Son Who Reveals the Father”) and the lectures following the midterm exam. It will include also the remainder of Stanley Porter, The Apostle Paul. His Life, Thought, Letters, chapters 7-12 + Conclusion, pp. 181-447. This exam will consist of essays and objective type questions, based upon the material following the midterm examination through the April 26th lecture.

**Scripture Memorization = 10%**

Memorization of God’s Word is mentioned in Scripture and has a rich place in Jewish and Christian history (as well as in other world religions). In any case, you probably have memorized words to secular as well as Christian songs, sports facts, historical information, etc., so I know you can master the verses of Scripture required in this course. You need to notify my GA via Canvas email by **Jan. 25th** (3rd class meeting) which section of Scripture you intend to memorize for this course. Your selection must be approximately 12-15 continuous verses of Scripture which I approve. They can be from any section of the New Testament, except genealogies. Once you have made your choice it cannot be changed, nor can you combine verses from different sections of the NT. This requirement will be satisfied by reciting the verses at one setting, to me, privately. **April 19th** is the deadline for reciting the verses for me. Students will do this via Zoom any day of the week that can be mutually scheduled. Your grade will be based upon the accuracy of your reciting of the verses. I expect you to recite them with a normal voice and intonation. You need to memorize the verses based upon one of the following English translations: NKJV; NASB; NRSV; ESV; NIV (either 1984 or 2011).

**Précis of Important Dates**

<b>January 20th</b>	No class on MLK Jr. Day; class meets on Wed.
<b>January 25th</b>	Deadline for Scripture Memorization Verses
<b>March 1st</b>	Intensive Course Week – No Class Meeting
<b>March 8th</b>	Spring Break – No Class Meeting
<b>March 15th-19th</b>	Midterm Exam
<b>April 4th</b>	Easter Sunday

**April 19th**  
**May 3rd-7th**

Deadline for Reciting Memory Verses  
 Final Exam

***TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE***

Jan.	11	Introductory materials for course. Basic Markan outline
Jan.	20	Class meets Wednesday due to MLK Day on Monday 1.18.2021. Re-read p. 1 of the Syllabus :-) Introduction to Mark continued.
Jan.	25	Special themes/theology of Matthew
Feb.	01	Special Themes/theology of Luke
Feb.	08	Special Themes/theology of Luke
Feb.	15	Acts chapters 1-14
Feb.	22	Acts chapters 15-28
Mar.	01	<b>INTENSIVE COURSE WEEK/STUDY WEEK, NO CLASS MEETING</b>
Mar.	08	<b>SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS MEETING</b>
Mar.	15	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Mar.	22	1 Thess., Paul's Missional Task
Mar.	29	1 Thess., Paul's Missional Task
Apr.	05	1 Corinthians, A Congregation of God Struggling with Assimilation
Apr.	12	1 Corinthians, A Congregation of God Struggling with Assimilation
Apr.	19	Ephesians, Living a Life Mandated by Your Calling
Apr.	26	Book of Revelation
May	03	Book of Revelation
May	10	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>