NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:
The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:
NOBTS has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The special emphasis this year at NOBTS is Doctrinal Integrity, with all encouraged to emphasize that value during the 2018-19 academic year.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our seminary degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This seminar is designed to acquaint the student with contemporary scholarship with regard to the background and introductory matters concerning the Gospel of Mark, exegesis of the text in relation to the other Synoptic Gospels, and theological themes in the Gospel. Also, an introduction to several methodologies for gospel studies will be overviewed and incorporated into the exegetical section of the course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The student learning outcomes for this course include the following:
1. Students should understand the state of research and historical meaning related to the Gospel of Mark
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of Mark based on the Greek text
3. Students should acquire the ability to understand the Greek text of Mark and to apply their skills in exegesis to a sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:
This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, class discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTS
Guelich and Evans, *Word Biblical Commentary: 34A and 34B, Mark*
Clinton Arnold, *The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary: Mark*
R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark, NIGTC*
Thomas Oden, *Mark (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture)*
III. REQUIREMENTS
1. Translate Mark and review the parallel passages from Matthew and Luke from Aland’s Synopsis. Read the five commentaries listed under “texts”: Guelich/Evans, Arnold, France, Myers, and Oden.
2. Read the books by Garland, Strickland/Young, Burge, and Hengel. Be prepared to discuss them on the designated days, bringing a list of discussion questions based upon your readings.
3. Bring annotated bibliographies of 5 journal articles or recent dissertations (2000 forward) on Mark to the seminar meeting #3, with copies for all seminar members (2 page total for all 5)
4. Write a 3 to 4 page review of one of the books from the list below.
5. Compile historical quotes and info on one of the background topics listed below.
6. Write a paper (Turabian or SBL style) on a theme approved by the professor (there are some suggestions below). The problem statement and outline of the paper must be submitted (via email) to the professor by Mar. 26 and approved as acceptable (after revisions) by Apr. 9.

IV. SEMINAR SCHEDULE
Jan. 22 Intro to Mark, Burge, A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion
Jan. 29 Mk 1, Hengel’s Studies in the Gospel of Mark, Background studies # 1 & 2
Feb. 5 Mk 2, Garland, A Theology of Mark’s Gospel #1, Journal Articles
Feb. 12 Mark 3, Garland, A Theology of Mark’s Gospel #2, Backgrounds #5 & 6
Feb. 19 Mark 4, Strickland/Young, The Rhetoric of Jesus in Mark, Bkgnds # 7 & 8
Feb. 26 Mark 5-6, Book reviews # 1, 2, & 3
March 5 = Mardi Gras, no classes at NOBTS
Mar. 12 Mark 7-8, Book reviews # 4, 5, & 6
Mar. 26 Research paper topic, research question, thesis statement, & hypothesis due
Apr. 2 Mark 9-10, Book reviews # 7 & 8
Apr. 9 Mark 11-12
Apr. 16 Mark 13
Apr. 23 Mark 14
Apr. 30 Mark 15-16
May 7 Major Papers #1, 2, 3, & 4 (papers due Mon. May 6, 8 am, class = 2-5 pm)
May 14 Major Papers #5, 6, 7 & 8 (papers due Mon. May 13, 8 am, class = 2-5 pm)

V. BOOKS FOR REVIEW
1. C. Clifton Black, Mark: Images of an Apostolic Interpreter
2. Nicolas P. Lunn, The Original Ending of Mark
3. M. D. Hooker, The Son of Man in Mark
4. N. Clayton Croy, The Mutilation of Mark’s Gospel
5. C. D. Marshall, Faith As a Theme in Mark’s Narrative
6. C. Clifton Black, The Disciples according to Mark: Marcan Redaction . . .
9. G. R. Beasley-Murray, Jesus and the Future
10. Timothy Gray, The Temple in the Gospel of Mark
VI. THEMES FOR BACKGROUND STUDIES
1. Historical Quotes on the authorship of Mark & Mark the person, 2nd-6th centuries
2. Jewish Messianic claims and political unrest in 1st and 2nd century
3. The City of Rome in the First Century
4. The Persecution & the Christian Community in Rome (1st c. to AD 150, Nero, etc.)
5. Extra-Biblical Accounts of Healings
6. Extra-Biblical Accounts of Exorcisms
7. The Jewish-Roman War and Mark 13 (66-72)
9. The Temple in Jerusalem in the 1st century
10. Pharisees in the 1st century

VII. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR MAJOR PAPERS (suggestions only)
The Priority of Mark: History of the Synoptic Problem
The Language and Style of Mark
Gospel as Genre and Ancient Methods of Writing History
The Significance of Miracles/Healings/Exorcisms in Mark
The Kingdom of God in Mark
Discipleship in Mark
Marcan Soteriology
The Temple in Marcan Perspective
Sociological Analysis of an aspect related to Mark, Rome, persecution, group boundaries
A Social Map of Sacred [Time, Place, etc.] in Mark
Ideology, Interpretation, and Marcan Perspectives (multiple topics possible)
A Literary Analysis of a Theological Theme in Mark
The Textual History of Mark
(Others with the approval of the professor)
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Balabanski, Vicky, *Eschatology in the Making: Mk, Mt & the Dāche (SNTS Monograph 97)* 1997
Barton, Stephen, *Discipleship & Family Ties in Mark & Matthew (SNTS Monograph, 80)*, 1994
Beasley-Murray, George, *Jesus & the Last Days: The Interp. of the Olivet Discourse*, 1993
Best, Ernest, *The Temptation and the Passion: Markan Soteriology (SNTS Monograph 2)*, 1990
Black, C., *Mark: Images of An Apostolic Interpreter (Studies on Personalities of the NT)*, 1994
Cox, Steven Lynn, *A History and Critique of Scholarship Concerning the Markan Endings*, 1993
Danover, P. L., *The End of Mark’s Story: A Methodological Study (Biblical Interp., Vol. 3)*, 1993
Donahue, John R., *Theology and Setting of Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark*, 1983
Elliott, J. K., *The Language and Style of the Gospel of Mark (Suppl to NT, Vol. 71)*, 1993
Feagin, Glyndle, *Irony & the Kingdom in Mk: A Literary-Critical Study (Mellen, Vol. 56)*, 1997
Hanhart, Karel, *The Open Tomb: A New Approach, Mark’s Passover Haggadah*, 1995
Head, Peter, *Christology and the Synoptic Problem: An Argument for Markan Priority (SNTS Monograph 94)*, 1997
Herron, Robert W., *Mark’s Account of Peter’s Denial: A History of Its Interpretation*, 1992
Hester, David, and David Warren, *Does Mark 16:9-20 Belong in the NT*, 2015
Hooker, Morna D., *The Gospel according to Saint Mark (Black’s NT Commentary, No. 2)*, 1993
Keel, Howard Clark, *Community of the New Age: Studies in Mark’s Gospel*, 1983
Kingsbury, Jack Dean, *Conflict in Mark: Jesus, Authorities, Disciples*, 1990
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Markusse, Gabi, *Salvation in the Gospel of Mark*, 2018
Marshall, Christopher D., *Faith As a Theme in Mark’s Narrative (SNTS Monograph 64)*, 1995
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Stoldt, Hans-Herbert, *History and Criticism of the Marcan Hypothesis*, 1980
Strauss, Mark, and Clinton Arnold, *Mark (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the NT)*, 2014
Strickland, Michael, and David Young, *The Rhetoric of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*, 2017
Tolbert, Mary Ann, *Sowing the Gospel: Mark’s World in Literary-Historical Perspective*, 1996
Via, Dan O., *The Ethics of Mark’s Gospel: In the Middle of Time*, 1985
Wenham, John, *Redating Matthew, Mark & Lk: A Fresh Assault on the Synoptic Problem*, 1992
Williams, James, *Gospel Against Parable: Mark’s Language of Mystery*, 1985
Witherington, Ben, *The Jesus Quest*, 1994
Wright, Tom, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, 1996
Wright, Tom, *Mark for Everyone*, 2004