

1.205 The Witness of the Gospels

Spring 2012
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The Witness of the Gospels

ONLINE

<http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/mhoffman/gospels12>

- Syllabus, Schedule, Resources,
- FishersNet site for discussions
- Google Docs for collaborative work
- <http://www.introducingnt.com/> for textbook

The Witness of the Gospels



The Witness of the Gospels

- Friday morning CLASS meets in Val 310:
8:30-11:45
- SECTIONS in Val 308
 - A: Fridays: 1:00-2:30
 - B: Mondays: 1:30-3:00

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BOOKS

- NRSV Study Bible
- NET Bible
- *Introducing the New Testament*
- *The Shadow of the Galilean*
- *Palestine in the Time of Jesus*
- *Mark as Story*

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BOOKS – optional

- *God with Us: A Pastoral Theology of Matthew's Gospel* (Powell)
- *Matthew* (Carter)
- *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke* (Green)
- *The Theology of the Gospel of John* (Smith)
- *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels / on the Gospel of John*
- scrollandscreen.com/biblestudyresources/semresources.htm

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COMMUNICATION

- Email: Check your @ltsg.edu accounts!
- When sending a file to me, rename it so that it uses the rubric: LastFirst.filename
- Check FishersNet, particularly for discussions and stuff to keep private
- You do not need a Google account, but it will help for working on Google Docs

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Quizzes: 7 take-home + 1 final – 15%
 - Done individually
 - Either paper or digital (remember LastFirst.filename!)
 - Do not look at previous years' quizzes

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Non-Trivial Pursuit Gospel Quiz – 10%
 - Due 3 / 9 but start working on it ahead of time!
 - Facts you should know or know where to find out about them

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Exegetical Summaries based on chosen focus text
- Focused Summaries – 20%
 - Work done online with study group
 - Initial work completed by 5pm on Mondays
Final summary due by 5pm Tuesdays (cf. schedule)
 - Work done in Google Docs w/ shared leadership
 - Discussion/Disagreements? Initial your comments or use FishersNet
 - Group receives same grade but effort/quality reflected in your class participation grade

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Exegetical Summaries based on chosen focus text
- Final Exegetical Paper – 25%
 - Due Wednesday, April 11
 - Done individually
 - Build upon the work of your exegetical summaries > 1-2 pages overview of important points
 - 4-5 pages long
 - Develops an argument (is not a verse by verse commentary)

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Integrative Project – 10%
 - Have fun!
 - Be practical!
 - Should reflect work of exegetical paper
 - Only 10%

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Class and Online Participation – 20%
 - Attendance and preparation
 - Positive contributions to discussions
 - Quality > Quantity
 - In class and online
- Optional Extra Credit Book Reviews + 2-4%

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ASSIGNMENTS

- Quizzes: 7 take-home + 1 final – 15%
- Non-Trivial Pursuit Gospel Quiz – 10%
- Exegetical Summaries
 - Focused Summaries – 20%
 - Final Exegetical Paper – 25%
- Integrative Project – 10%
- Class and Online Participation – 20%

How does one approach the NT?

- Chronological Order
 - Pauline literature
 - Gospels
 - Later Writings

How does one approach the NT?

- Canonical Order
 - Gospels (~closeness to Jesus)
 - Pauline (longest > shortest)
 - Other epistles
 - Revelation

How does one approach the NT?

- Getting back to Jesus...
- Exegesis >< Eisegesis
ἐξ·αγω >< εἰσ·αγω

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Mark 1:1

The beginning of the good news
of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ [υἱοῦ θεοῦ].

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What is a Gospel?

εὐαγγέλιον
εὐ - αγγέλιον
good news

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What is *not* a Gospel?

- “Objective” historical account with ‘just the facts’
- Systematic Theology treatise

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Powell, *Gospels*, page 8f

What is a Gospel?

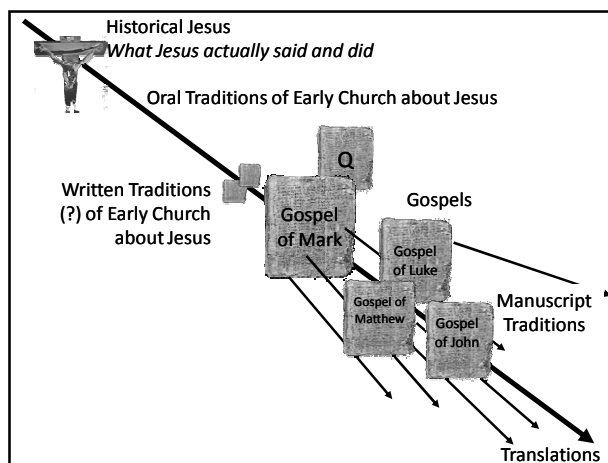
- Content of Jesus’ preaching
- Content of early Xn preaching re: Jesus
- What Jesus said was good news about God and what Xns said was good news about Jesus
- A ‘book’ about Jesus

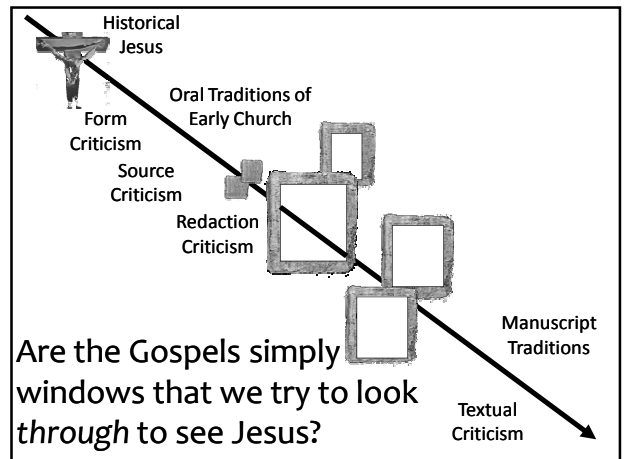
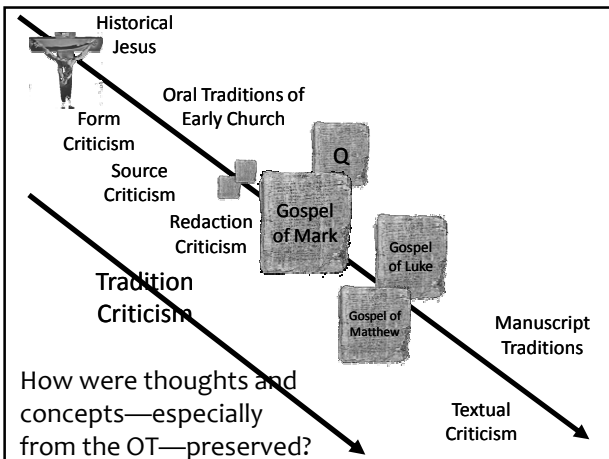
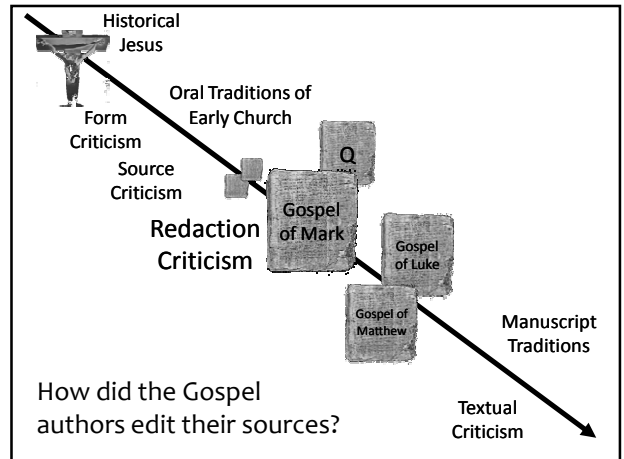
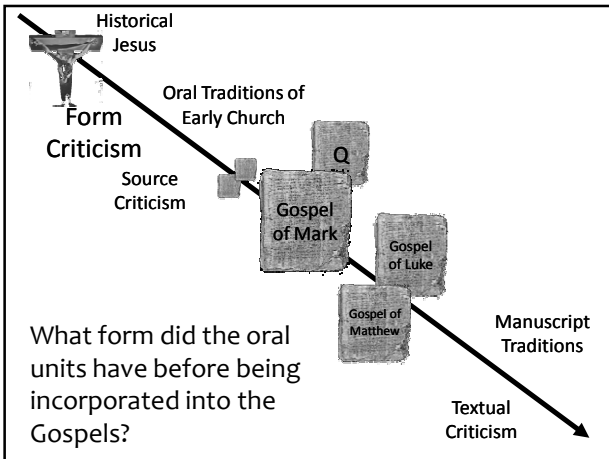
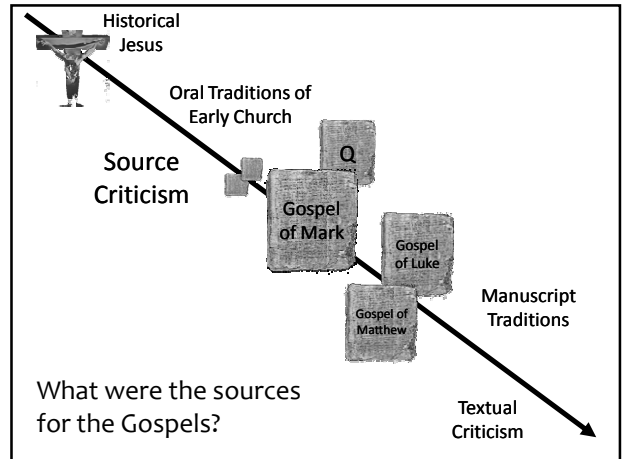
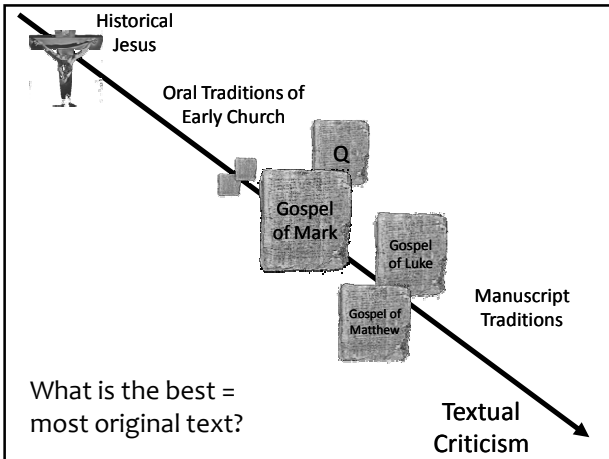
From Jesus to Us

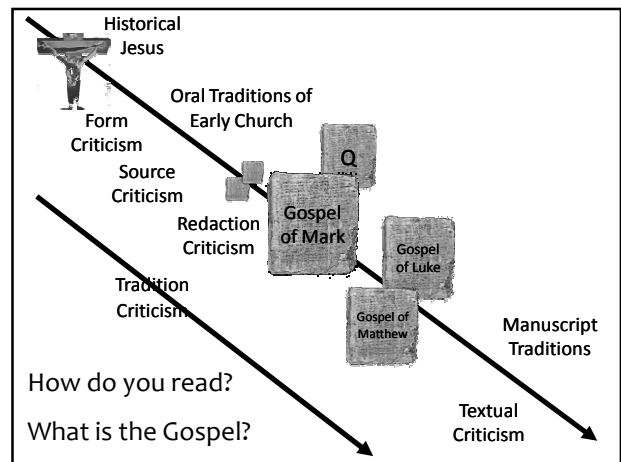
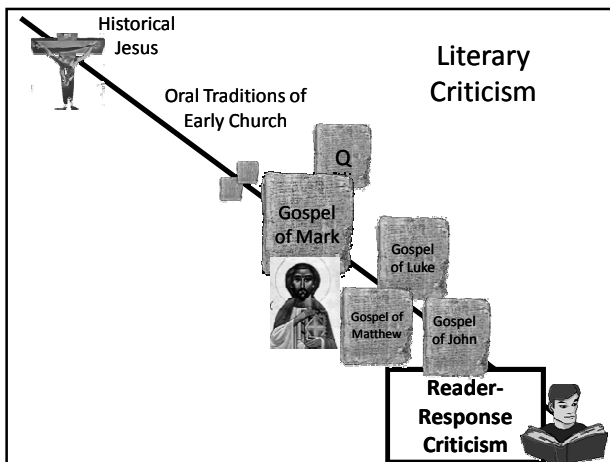
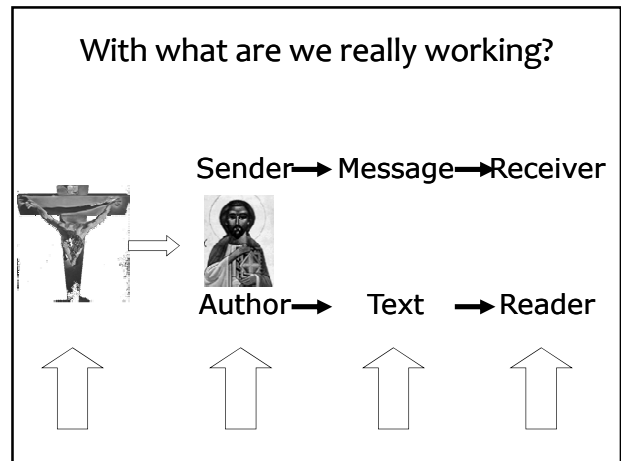
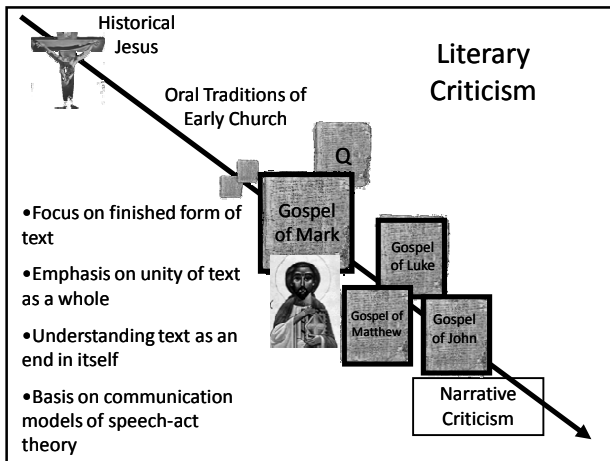
Powell, *Gospels*, page 11

STAGES IN THE TRANSMISSION OF THE GOSPEL TRADITION

1. The Historical Jesus
2. Early Tradition:
 - Oral Tradition
 - Written sources
3. Redaction of the Gospels (Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn...)
4. Preservation of Manuscripts
5. Translation
6. Reception







- What are these Gospels we are studying?**
- Theological narratives
 - Fashioned from selected traditions
 - Central story is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - Testify to the presence of the Dominion of God in Jesus as part of the larger story of God in history
 - Rhetorical (persuasive) compositions intending to change and transform its readers
- Adopted from James Bailey and Lyle Vander Broek, *Literary Forms in the New Testament, A Handbook* (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1992), p. 91