

I. Course Description:

This course will examine the Gospel of Matthew. The students will receive an outline to help them think through the book and a few charts highlighting specific events. Attention will be given to Jesus' legal lineage and the Virgin Birth (chapter one), the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), Israel's rejection of Messiah (chapter 12), the Kingdom Parables (chapter 13), the "non-Kingdom teachings" (chapters 16-20), and the Olivet Discourse (chapters 24-25). We will also address the exclusively Matthean phrase "the kingdom of heaven." We will approach the book from a normative, classical dispensational perspective.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Identify the five key sections of the book's outline
2. Distinguish between Kingdom-related concepts and timeless principles
3. Identify and explain the kingdom parables
4. Identify the distinguishing characteristics between events surrounding the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ

III. Course Textbooks

Required Texts:

- Daniel Goepfrich, *Matthew: Chapter by Chapter* (2016 edition, unpublished PDF)
Daniel Goepfrich, "Matthew's Messiah" (unpublished PDF)

Recommended Texts:

- Daniel Goepfrich, *New Testament: Chapter by Chapter* (Trust House Publishers, 2017) 9781945774157
Thomas Constable, *Notes on Matthew*, latest edition available at soniclight.org (PDF)

IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. **Class Attendance** – for **Campus** students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2nd unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3rd unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. **Online** students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade, including occasional interaction with the Advising Professor/Instructor. If the Online student is not responsive to Advising Professor/Instructor communication, the student may become inactive and receive a grade of incomplete on the course (I).
2. **Reading Assignments and Accountability** – Students will read the book of Matthew at least twice outside of class and read the chapter summaries at least once.
3. **Research Assignments** – All students are required to answer the study questions included on the last page of this syllabus. We are looking for understanding and maturity in the answers, not simply length.
4. **Course Exams** – There are no exams for this course.
5. **Online Interaction** – Online students will have three online assignments each module: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor/Instructor; (2) email a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that module's lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor/Instructor questions and observations.
6. **Campus students** will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.
Online Students will submit assignments directly to the Advising Professor/Instructor.

7. **Scoring Rubric**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Campus & Learning Center</u>	<u>Online</u>
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
Total Points:	100	100

V. Course Outline & Assignments

Class 1 – Introduction, Matthew 1-4

Class 2 – Matthew 5-7

Class 3 – Matthew 8-10

Class 4 – Matthew 11-12

Class 5 – Matthew 13-16a

Class 6 – Matthew 16b-20

Class 7 – Matthew 21-23

Class 8 – Matthew 24-25

Class 9 – Matthew 26-28

Reading Component – All reading is due
Research Component – All study questions are due

Study Questions

1. Explain the purpose of Matthew's book and why it is important (introduction).
2. Explain the significance of the structure and people in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (ch 1).
3. Explain whether Jesus could have sinned during his earthly life and why or why not (ch 4).
4. Explain Matthew's use of the phrase "kingdom of heaven" (ch 5).
5. Give at least three examples of when the Sermon on the Mount does not apply to the Church (ch 5-7).
6. Give the three categories of miracles that Jesus performed and why Matthew thought they were important for his audience (ch 8-9).
7. Explain why Jesus' instructions in chapter 10 cannot be applied to Christians today (ch 10).
8. Explain the "unpardonable sin," whether it can be committed today, and why or why not (ch 12).
9. Explain the purpose and the general meaning of Jesus' Kingdom parables (ch 13, 18, 20, 22, and 25).
10. Give at least three examples showing that the Kingdom parables do not apply to the Church (ch 13).
11. Explain what impressed Jesus about the centurion and Canaanite woman and how that applies to us (ch 8 and 15).
12. Explain the three main interpretations of Jesus' statement to Peter, "On this rock I will build my church" (ch 16).
13. Explain the context of "where two or three are gathered," how it is often misused, and what it means (ch 18).
14. Explain some of the ways that the Olivet Discourse does not apply to the Church (ch 24-25).
15. Explain why God could not have abandoned Jesus, even though Jesus said, "Why have you abandoned me?" (ch 27)