

*The John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Main Campus  
405 N. Washington St., Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22046 Tel: 703 812 4757*

### **B 1533: The Gospel of Mark (Advanced Biblical Studies)**

**Time:** Spring 2010, Tuesday 8.15 PM-9.55 PM

**Credit:** 2 credit hours

**Instructor:** Daniel Dapaah, PhD.

**Prerequisites:** TP 2101; TP 2301; B 1501/2

#### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is a critical study of the text of Mark's Gospel, which, as Brendan Byrne describes, languished for millennia in the shadow of Matthew, Luke, and John. Mark suffered almost total eclipse in Christian awareness by the three longer Gospels until it was rescued by scholars in the nineteenth century (*A Costly Freedom*, p. ix). Scholars have since then acknowledged the theological richness and literary sophistication of the evangelist. The purpose of the course is to gain a deeper understanding of Mark's Gospel as a historical and revelatory text for the church and to help students in their experience of reading and interpreting the text. The course focuses on central critical issues of interpretation that have emerged in recent history of Marcan scholarship. Students will engage in an exegetical reading of the text using different methods of interpretation, including literary, historical, and sociological approaches. The study will also reflect on important theological themes such as the *Kingdom of God*, *Christology*, and *eschatology* (and its related term *apocalyptic*). Special attention is drawn to the hermeneutical reflection on the relevance and challenges of Mark's message for the contemporary reader.

#### **Required Texts**

1. Donahue, J. R., and D. J. Harrington. *The Gospel of Mark*. Sacra Pagina 2. Liturgical, 2002. ISBN 10: 0-8146-5864-0 or 10: 0-8146-5965-9.
2. Byrne, B. *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*. Liturgical, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8146-1856-1.
3. Telford, W. R. ed. *The Interpretation of Mark*. T. & T. Clark, 1995. ISBN 0-567 292568.

#### **Course Requirements**

1. Careful reading and study of all the assigned texts.
2. A written paper (10-12 pages, double-spaced, excluding bibliography).
3. Midterm Exam.
4. Final Exam.

