

Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida
School for Ministry Development

The Synoptic Gospels
Dr. Jim Williamson

Textbook: Any recent version of a Gospel parallel, and a good one-volume Bible handbook

Course: We will take two course periods to compare and contrast the first three Gospels. Of importance will be the date of the writings and the order in which they may have been written (the “Synoptic Problem”). We will also look at the purpose of writing, the audiences, and the differences in each.

Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Synoptic Problem

III. Sources of the Gospels

IV. The Birth Narratives

V. The Ministry of Jesus

VI. Accounts of the Resurrection

Assignment: A “teaching” outline of each of the Gospels. One you create to teach a Bible study to intelligent lay people. You do not need to be afraid of difficult issues, but you do not need to use obscure jargon that mostly confuses people. This does not need to be turned in before class.