

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

MAY/JUNE 2005 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT I – THE GOSPELS SHG2650

Tuesday, 31 May 2005

09.15 – 11.15

Answer ONE question from each Section, and answer each question on a separate answer booklet.

SECTION I: THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

- 1) A fundamental distinction obtains between the Three Stages of Gospel Tradition and Formation. Elaborate.
- 2) Show how the three Christological Titles of Messiah, Son of God, and Son of Man are linked together under the matrix of the Cross in Mark's Gospel.
- 3) Matthew's Gospel has been written from a "Jewish" perspective: discuss.
- 4) Luke's Gospel shows particular interest in Jerusalem and Jesus' Journey to the City: explain.

SECTION II: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- 1) Relevant to any enquiry into the origin of the Fourth Gospel, and the relationship between its tradition and that of the Synoptics, is the question of authorship. In what sense, if any, can John's Gospel be said to belong to the apostle John?
- 2) It is a marked feature of John's Gospel that its presentation of the person of Christ in many respects goes beyond the Christology of the Synoptic Gospels. Show how the special contributions which John makes to the understanding of Christ's person concerns the relation between Jesus and God on the one hand, and between Jesus and the believers on the other.
- 3) The very fact that John is classified as a Gospel presupposes that John is based on a tradition similar in character to the traditions behind the Synoptic Gospels. Each of the scenes and sayings shared by the two Gospel traditions must be studied to see wherein John and the Synoptics are the same and wherein they differ. Comment.