

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

SHG2650 – The Gospels:

Mon 1st June 2009

14.15 – 16.15

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) In view of Mark's emphasis on the disciples' failures, show how the three Christological Titles of Messiah/Christ, 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

- 5) The Gospel of John has always been distinguished from the other Synoptic Gospels. Mark, Matthew and Luke strongly resemble each other in content and order, and often in the very language they use. John is strikingly different. Comment.
- 6) Renewed attention has been given to questions concerning the meaning of Jesus' death in the Fourth Gospel: was it a work of salvific significance, the achievement of atonement? What is the meaning of exaltation and glorification in relation to Jesus' death?
- 7) Show how the study of symbolism in the Gospel of John takes us to a problem that lies at the heart of all theological reflection: how do people know God?