

**Class Objectives** – After this class you will be able to:

- Critique redaction criticism.
- Critique narrative criticism.
- Identify key issues in dating the Gospels.

**Key Terms:**

- Redactional Seams
- Distinctive / Emphasis

## **The Gospels in Contemporary Research (cont.)**

### **I. Critical Approaches (cont.):**

C. Redaction Criticism (cont.)

1. Problems

2. Benefits

D. Narrative Criticism

### **II. Method:**

**III. Dating the Gospels:**

A. Evidence for a first century date

1. Manuscripts (e.g. John)
2. Church Fathers
3. A.D. 70
4. Ending of Acts

**Why do we have four? — Emphases in the Gospels**

**IV. Some Distinct Theological Themes Mentioned by R.T. France:**

A.

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>
“fulfillment” “more explicit Christology” Jesus as the New Moses Jesus fulfils the Law Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel’s hopes But Israel fails to see their Messiah	the “Good News” is Jesus Jesus is Messiah and Son of God “Messianic Secret” Discipleship involves rejection and suffering Continuing failure of the disciples Vivid portrait of action (though not lacking in words)	Emphasis on Salvation History Luke shows interest in Gentile mission Luke exhibits failure of Jews to follow Christ (though with respect for the Jewishness of the early Church) Gospel shows no partiality, and is particularly for the poor The Holy Spirit directs the mission of the church

B. Thoughts and Critique

1. Helpful
2. Distinctive versus Emphasis

**V. Questions for Consideration:**

1. What are advantages and disadvantages to using source, form, redaction and narrative critical methods? Which of these methods can contribute to the study of NT Theology? How?
2. What are some distinct theological themes of each of the Synoptic Gospels?