

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BGR 625 Studies in the Letters of Paul: Galatians**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course conducts an exegetical study of the Epistle to the Galatians. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the content and purpose of Galatians against the literary backdrop on an apologetic letter genre. Consequently, an attempt will be made to understand Paul's letter against the background and thinking of his opponents reflected in his writing. Particular emphasis will be given to Paul's understanding of the gospel and exploring the role of the Spirit in Paul's understanding and definition of Christian existence.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

*Knowledge*

1. List the main component parts of a Graeco-Roman rhetorical letter and briefly discuss their functions.
2. Identify the major introductory issues to the Galatian letter over which there is considerable debate and discuss the major views.
3. Reconstruct the major theological views of Paul's opponents in Galatians and outline his response to the same.
4. List and discuss from Galatians what is essential to Paul's understanding of the Gospel, i.e., what constitutes the message of God's salvific work in and through Jesus Christ.
5. Discuss the role that the H.S. plays in Paul's understanding and definition of the Christian existence.

*Skills*

1. Translate any passage in Galatians using only a lexicon and identify any significant point of grammar or syntax that impacts your translation or interpretation of the text.
2. Construct an exegetical and sermonic outline from a syntactical analysis of a given passage of the Greek text.
3. Use the textual apparatus of the UBS NT text to discuss any textual variant and explain its relative degree of certainty, translation and significance.

### *Attitudes*

1. More fully appreciate the literary environment of the New Testament and Paul's letter as representative of Graeco-Roman epistolography.
2. Recognize the value and insight gained in approaching this NT letter as a literary composition addressed to a concrete historical situation and forged in the heat of polemical debate.
3. Realize the complexity and difficulty of reconstructing the historical setting of a NT writing from the fragmentary evidence therein.

### **TEXTBOOK**

Aland, Kurt, et al. *The Greek New Testament*. 4th ed. United Bible Societies, 27<sup>th</sup> ed. 2004. ISBN-10: 343805115X

Fung, Ronald Y. K. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. In the NICNT series, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988. ISBN-10: 0802825095

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

- I. Prolegomena: Introductory issues to the background and literary composition of the book.
- II. Textual Analyses and Exegesis: Translation, grammatical analysis and exposition.
- III. Theological Analysis and Synthesis: Term papers

### **METHODOLOGY**

In this course we will seek to meet our objectives through:

1. Classroom lecture
2. Translation, recitation and discussion.
3. Individual reading, research and writing.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible, absences should be announced beforehand to the professor.
2. Completion of all reading assignments: Textbook and IVP articles, plus short essays posted on the Student Portal
3. Oral Reading Report – see description
4. Translation assignments – (5 passages with required content and format – See handouts)
5. Syntactical Analysis and Exegetical Outlines (3 passages each)

6. Exegesis Paper.
7. Final Exam OR Translation Notebook Option

NOTE: Except in situations of *extraordinary* extenuating circumstances, work turned in late without the prior permission of the professor (for extenuating circumstances only) will receive a grade reduction of one half letter grade for every day late.

***Translation – Notebook Option***<sup>1</sup> - The entire book of Galatians will be translated, and placed in a 3-ring binder notebook. The format will be discussed in class and an illustrated description of the project will be provided.

1. The notebook will include:
  - a) The Greek text (printed, NOT hand copied)
  - b) English translation
  - c) Parsing/Declining notes
  - d) Grammatical notes
  - e) Exegetical notes
  - f) Appendices: including the syntactical analyses and exegetical outlines of the (3) extended passages chosen from the epistle.
2. The notebook will be graded as follows:
  - a) *Utility* - Is the notebook neat, clear in presentation and formatted correctly so as to serve as a resource for teaching or additional study
  - b) *Completeness* - Does the notebook contain all required elements and material presented during class discussions of the text
  - c) *Accuracy* - Does the notebook accurately record and reflect the work done in and out of class on the text of Galatians.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Exegesis Paper***

1. An exegesis paper on a chosen pericope in Galatians 1, not to exceed 15 pages. (Appendices may be included to cover additional research cited by footnote in your paper.)
2. The appendices of your paper MUST also include
  - a) A diagram of your passage
  - b) A syntactical analysis of your passage
  - c) An exegetical outline
  - d) A sermonic outline.

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<sup>1</sup> This option replaces the Final Exam. Essentially you would be translating the entire book of Galatians, including parsing notes, plus grammar – exegetical notes as well for the entire book.

<sup>2</sup>The professor realizes that computer assisted language tools speed up translation. Use them judiciously, and NOT in place of your own lexical and grammatical leg work. A trained eye will soon detect if you are doing your own translations.

- The paper MUST include standard documentation style and format as described in the latest edition of Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

### **Grading Procedure**

- Grade Weights:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Reading                                     | 100 = 10% |
| (5) Translations Passages (required format) | 200 = 20% |
| SAs (syntactical analyses) - (3)            | 75 = 7.5% |
| Exegetical Outlines – (3)                   | 75 = 7.5% |
| Exegesis Paper                              | 250 = 25% |
| Oral Reading Report                         | 100 = 10% |
| Class Participation                         | 50 = 5%   |
| Final Exam <sup>3</sup>                     | 150 = 15% |

- The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 1000. Point totals at the end of the semester are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective grade profile of the class.

**Chapel Attendance:** Seminary chapel intersects our class on (date TBA). Class will meet on that day, but will dismiss early for chapel which runs from (time TBA).

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Barclay, William. *Flesh and Spirit: An Examination of Galatians 5:19-23*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1962.
- Barrett, C. K. *Freedom and Obligation: A Study of the Epistle to the Galatians*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985.
- Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia*. In the *Hermeneia Commentary* series. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Bligh, John. *Galatians: A Discussion of St. Paul's Epistle*. London: St. Paul Publications, 1969.
- Brinsmead, Bernard Hungerford. *Galatians – Dialogical Response to Opponents*. SBL Dissertation Series no. 65. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1982.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. In the *New International Greek Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Burton, Ernest de Witt. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1921.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Epistle to the Galatians*, in the ICC Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1921.

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<sup>3</sup> The final exam will consist of three parts: 1) Two essay questions – one chosen from questions submitted by the BGR 625 students, and one chosen by the professor; 2) One translation section of a passage chosen by the professor – lexicon permitted; and 3) short objective questions section

- Calvin, John. *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Philippians and Colossians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965. Original edition, 1548.
- Duncan, George S. *The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*. In the *Moffatt New Testament Commentary*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1934.
- Fung, Ronald Y. K. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. In the NICNT series, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.
- Gromacki, Robert G. *Stand Fast in Liberty: An Exposition of Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.
- Guthrie, Donald. *Galatians*, in the *New Century Bible*. Camden, N.J.: Nelson, 1969.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Galatians*. rev. ed. *New Century Bible* (commentary). London: Oliphants, Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1974.
- Hansen, G. Walter. *Galatians*. IVP New Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Hays, Richard B. *The Faith of Jesus Christ: An Investigation of the Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1-4:11*. *SBL Dissertation Series* no. 56. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1983.
- Hendriksen, William. *Exposition of Galatians*. In the *Hendriksen New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968.
- Howard, George. *Paul: Crisis in Galatia*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1979.
- Lightfoot, J. B. *The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1957 (reprint of 1865 ed.).
- Lull, David John. *The Spirit in Galatians: Paul's Interpretation of Pneuma as Divine Power*. *SBL Dissertation Series* no. 49. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1980.
- Luther, Martin. *A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians*. Westwood, N.J.: Revell, 1953.
- Neil, William. *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*. In the *Cambridge Bible Commentary*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.
- Ossiek, Carolyn A. *Galatians*. In the *New Testament Message Commentary*. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1980.
- Ridderbos, Herman N. *Epistle of Paul to the Churches of Galatia*. In the *New International Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1953.
- Ropes, James H. *The Singular Problem of the Epistle to the Galatians*. Harvard Theological Studies, 14. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard, 1929.
- Schutz, John Howard. *Paul and the Anatomy of Apostolic Authority*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.
- Tenney, Merrill C. *Galatians: Charter of Christian Liberty*. rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957.
- Wagner, Gunter, ed. *An Exegetical Bibliography on the Letters to the Galatians and to the Philippians*. Ruschlikon-Zurich: Baptist Theological Seminary, 1977.

## **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., May 21, 2010