

# Philippians

STM Course – June 2004

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## RATIONALE

Paul's letter to the Philippians provides both a remarkable insight into the relationship he nurtured with the first Christian community on European soil as well as some of the most memorable passages of the New Testament including the "Christ Hymn" in chapter 2. This blend of pastoral and theological expression continue to serve as important guides in modern Church practice.

Though primarily being an exegetical and theological analysis of Philippians, a particular focus of this course will be on digital resources (software and Internet) that are available for the study of Philippians. We will also use and evaluate technological and other media tools available for presenting our findings for teaching or preaching.

*Students should also be aware that this course may change in terms of directions and expectations in light of the backgrounds, expertise, and questions that they bring to it.*

## OBJECTIVES

Successful outcomes for this course include:

- Demonstrating an ability to analyze the grammatical nuances of the Greek text of Philippians using appropriate translation aids
- Describing the basic content, socio-historical setting, and theological concerns raised by Philippians
- Demonstrating an ability to exegete a text from Philippians using the Greek text
- Demonstrating competency in using, evaluating, and composing Internet resources connected to the study of Philippians
- Integrating selected material from Philippians with students' own experience and contemporary settings for ministry

## STRATEGIES

To accomplish the stated objectives, the following learning strategies will be used:

- **Commentary Review:** As we work through the Philippians letter, students will be asked to accompany it by reading along in two commentaries. (See the required texts listed below.) In a 2-3 page paper, review and contrast the two commentaries. This review is due July 31 (M.Div.) or August 31 (STM).
- **Website Review:** Each student will be assigned a web site related to Philippians to review in a 1 page paper. Guidelines and schedule for this review will be posted online.
- **Overview and Introduction to Philippians:** By Tuesday the 22nd, students will have read the entire letter of Philippians (in English) and composed a less than 1 page outline and introduction to the letter. By Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>, students will edit and resubmit it in the form of a less than 2 page document
- Each student will complete an **Interpretive Presentation** of a selected text from Philippians that will include five parts. The first part will occur as appropriate to the

week's schedule. The remaining parts of this assignment will not be due until July 31 for M.Div. students and August 31 for STM students.

- **Leading class discussion** on the selected text (Students are encouraged to share any work in progress of the other parts of this assignment, especially the interpretive presentation.)
- An **exegetical presentation** of 3-4 pages (single-spaced; 12 pt font; 1.25 inch margins on all sides) which utilizes the Greek text
- A **Bible study** on that text that could be used in a specified setting (e.g., Adult Education, Confirmation, etc.)
- An **interpretive presentation** of that text: This could be a sermon, a song, an artistic representation, a PowerPoint presentation, etc. (Concepts should be approved by the instructor.)
- A **listing of resources** both written and from the Internet, including a brief summary, that are useful for the study of this text. (This listing should be limited to a maximum of the 15 most important resources.)
- **Peer Review:** Each student will be assigned to review the class discussion leading of one of the other students. This 1 (+) page review is due the day following the discussion. One copy is to be submitted both to the instructor and to the discussion leader.
- **Class Participation:** The relatively high percentage of your grade allotted to this component reflects my commitment to this class as a forum not simply for information but especially for reflection, questioning, and discussion. We will learn together!
  - You must check the course home page at:  
<http://www.gettysburgsem.org/mhoffman/philippians> for the latest schedule, additional readings, and reading assignments!
  - Participants are expected to attend class each day. If you know in advance that you will be absent, please notify me. Please contact me about any other absences to work out satisfactory arrangements. Unexcused absences may negatively affect the final course grade.
  - Participants are to come to class prepared to discuss, having read the assigned materials and worked through the reading response assignments. This also includes having studied the Greek texts assigned and corresponding commentary sections and being ready to discuss any significant grammatical nuances. I encourage you to work with others in preparing for the class.
  - Diversity of experience and opinion are to be expected, invited, and respected in class. With a working knowledge of the information, resources, and methodologies presented in the class, each participant is encouraged to ask questions, disagree, provide extending confirmation, or provide reasoned alternative perspectives.

## EVALUATION

- **Commentary Review:** Up to 10%
- **Website Review:** Up to 5%
- **Overview and Introduction:** Up to 10%
- **Interpretive Presentation:** Up to 40%
- **Peer Review:** Up to 5%
- **Class Participation:** Up to 30%

Grade scale:

- 90%-100%: A (excellent)
- 80%-89%: B (good)
- 70%-79%: C (unsatisfactory)
- Below 70%: F (fail)

Note that the assigned work for M.Div. students is due on July 31, 2004. The assigned work for STM and D. Min. students is due on August 31, 2004.

## REQUIRED BOOKS

### Primary Texts:

- *The New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha* (recommended: HarperCollins Study Edition or Zondervan's *NRSV Student Bible* or *The Access Bible* or *The New Oxford Annotated 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*)
- *The New English Translation (NET) Bible*: available for free online or as a downloadable file or for purchase as leather-bound edition (go to <http://www.bible.org/> and click on NET Bible)
- A Greek New Testament (NA 26/27 or UBS 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Secondary Texts:

In connection with the translations of and work on Philippians, students are required to consult at least TWO of the following three books:

- *Philippians* by Ralph P. Martin (Eerdmans, [revised edition] 1988).
- *Philippians and Philemon* (Abingdon New Testament Commentaries) by Carolyn Osiek (Abingdon Press, 2000)
- *Philippians* (IVP New Testament Commentary Series) by Gordon D. Fee (Intervarsity Press, 1999)

A recommended book that may be chosen in place of one of the above is:

- *The Epistle to the Philippians: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (New International Greek Testament Commentary) by Peter T. O'Brien (Eerdmans, 1991)

### Other Recommendations:

I encourage you to use any Greek translation aids that you have such as software like Bibloi (BibleWindows) or BibleWorks, books such as Wallace's *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, or web resources located at: <http://www.gettysburgsem.org/mhoffman/xnlinks/bibletexts.htm>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The course meets June 21-25, 2004 at the following times in Valentine 314.

Monday:	9:00-11:30	1:00-3:30
Tuesday:	9:00-11:30	1:00-3:30
Wednesday:	9:00-11:30	1:00-3:30
Thursday:	9:00-11:30	1:00-3:30
Friday:	9:00-11:30	1:00-3:30