

# **GREEK EXEGESIS: GALATIANS**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies Division  
NTGK6309, Fall 2015

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## **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

## **Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The core value focus for the academic year 2015-2016 is mission focus.

## **Course Description:**

This course gives consideration to text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis of Galatians. The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying that meaning in teaching and preaching.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Know the structure of the letter and the background and critical issues connected with the letter to the Galatians
- Understand the central message of Galatians by reading the text of the letter in Greek and at least four English translations and by reading at least two commentaries on Galatians in the process of interpreting the text for himself or herself
- Develop and hone exegetical skills that can be applied to the study of other New Testament books by completing a research project drawn from Galatians
- Recognize the importance of proper interpretation in proclamation of the Bible by developing an oral presentation based on the research project

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- The material for each lesson will be introduced in a lecture format
- Students will read material in the textbooks and journal articles related to the background of the letter and related to the exegesis of the contents
- Students will participate in class discussion and group exercises during class sessions
- Students will practice the skills and reinforce the content discussed in class through classroom exercises and by completing the assigned research project

### **Required Texts: Bible**

Greek New Testament

Douglas J. Moo, *Galatians*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Baker Academic, 2013.

One additional commentary from the bibliography below

Extra Credit: Moises Silva. *Explorations in Exegetical Method: Galatians as a Test Case*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

### **Bible Search Programs**

Each student should acquire a Bible Software program and such is required for those in a specific Biblical Studies degree (like the MA in Biblical Studies, or the MDiv in Biblical Studies or Biblical Languages), with the following being recommended by the Biblical Studies Division: Logos, BibleWorks, and Accordance. For those not majoring in biblical studies or in a Biblical Studies degree program, a free program from online can be used such as <http://mywsb.com> , <http://crosswire.org> and <http://www.e-sword.net> . Please consult with the professor if you have questions on this, and know that special discounts on the three major programs are available for NOBTS students.

### **Course Requirements/Evaluation:**

1. Outline of Galatians. See explanation below. (10%)
2. Journal Articles. See explanation below. (15%)
3. Commentary Reading. The final exam will provide a place to indicate the percentage of commentary reading that you completed. (10%)
4. Translation. The student will turn in a written translation at the beginning of each class period. A daily grade will be given on translation and classroom participation. (10%)
5. Research Paper. See explanation below. (20%)
6. Oral Presentation. See explanation below (15%)
7. Final Exam. A final exam will be given covering background material, the translation and parsing from the assigned passages, and the commentary material and classroom discussion on the related passages. The questions for the final exam will be handed out no later than the last day of class. (20%)

### **Class Schedule**

Week 1		Week 3	
8/25	Introduction	9/8	Translation 1:11-17
8/27	Introduction	9/10	Translation 1:18-24
Week 2		Week 4	
9/1	Translation 1:1-10	9/15	Translation 2:1-10
9/3	Exegesis 1:1-10	9/17	Exegesis 1:11-2:10

Week 5  
 9/22 Translation 2:11-21  
 9/24 Exegesis 2:11-21  
 Week 6  
 9/29 Translation 3:1-14  
 10/1 Translation 3:15-22  
 Week 7  
 10/6 Exegesis 3:1-22  
 10/8 Translation 3:23-29  
 Week 8  
 10/13 Translation 4:1-11  
 10/15 Exegesis 4:1-11

### **Fall Break    October 19-23**

Week 9  
 10/27 Translation 4:12-20  
 10/29 Translation 4:21-31  
 Week 10  
 11/3 Exegesis 4:12-31

11/5 Translation 5:1-12  
 Week 11  
 11/10 Exegesis 5:1-12  
 11/12 Translation 5:13-26  
 Week 12  
 11/17 Exegesis 5:13-26  
 11/19 Translation 6:1-10

### **Thanksgiving**

Week 13  
 12/1 Translation 6:11-18  
 12/3 Exegesis 6:1-18  
 Week 14  
 12/8 Oral Presentations  
 12/10 Oral Presentations  
 Week 15  
 Final Exam  
 Tuesday, December 15, 12:00-2:00 PM

### Outline of Galatians **Due August 27 at the beginning of class**

Read Galatians in four different translations, each time at one sitting. Chose two translations from Group 1 and two from Group 2. As you are reading, note what the letter reveals about the author, the readers, and the situation. Based on these readings, summarize the content of the letter. Compare the paragraph divisions in the four translations you read. Decide where you believe the natural breaks in the text occur. Write a sentence or two summary of each paragraph. Use the summary to build a detailed outline of the letter. Do not consult study Bibles, commentaries, or other tools in constructing these summaries and outlines; the summary and outline should be the student's original work. Include a statement of the translations read at the beginning of the outline.

#### **Group 1**

King James Version  
 New King James Version  
 New American Standard Bible (95)  
 Revised Standard Version  
 New Revised Standard Version  
 English Standard Version  
 Holman Christian Standard Bible

#### **Group 2**

New International Version  
 Contemporary English Version  
 Today's English Version  
 Living Bible  
 New Living Translation  
 New Century Version  
 New English Translation

### Journal Articles

The student will read and write a one-page, single-spaced abstract of six journal articles, turned in on a single sheet of paper. The articles must be from scholarly journals, that is those indexed in ATLA or a similar scholarly database (check with the library on how to access

EBSCO Host, if you don't know how to access these databases). The student will select one article related to each chapter of Galatians for a total of six articles. Alternatively, the student may choose some or all of the articles based on the selected research topic.

The articles will be due at the beginning of class on 9/1, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 11/3, 11/17.

An abstract should include the bibliographic information about the article, a sentence or two about the author, a paragraph explaining the thesis and arrangement of the article, a short summary of the major sections, and finally a summary of the author's conclusions.

### **Research Paper Due December 8 at the beginning of class**

The paper should be 15-20 pages double-spaced. Use the *SBL Handbook of Style* (the *Student Supplement for the SBL Handbook of Style* is available as a free PDF at [sbl-site.org/publications/publishingwithsbl.aspx](http://sbl-site.org/publications/publishingwithsbl.aspx)) or Turabian for footnotes and style or formatting issues. Include a table of contents and a selected bibliography (all works cited, plus selected additional works that are found to be helpful). The content of the paper should be as follows:

1. Describe the problem that you are addressing
 

Choose a problem that relates to Galatians. It can either be an exegetical problem within Galatians or a problem within the seminary, church, or larger society the solution to which can be found in Galatians (or at least an understanding of Galatians will advance a solution to the problem).

Be specific rather than general.
2. Outline the existing research
 

Summarize how other writers have dealt with your problem. Be sure to include commentaries, but also include journal articles and other books. Include assigned readings and class lecture/discussion, but do not limit yourself to these sources.
3. Propose a solution
 

The solution must be your own, though you can show how other writers influenced you. Be specific.

### **Oral Presentation**

Develop a fifteen-minute oral presentation that explains your problem, what you did to solve it, and summarizes your findings. Focus on the one big thing that you learned from your study. Be creative. You may use media. Be sure to stay within your time limit.

### **Extra Credit**

The student may earn a maximum of three (3) points extra credit to be added to the final average by reading the book *Explorations in Exegetical Method: Galatians as a Test Case* by Moises Silva and writing a two page, single spaced critique of the book. The critique must be turned into the professor by last class period. For every day that the critique is late, one point will be subtracted from the extra credit. Points also will be deducted for critiques that are poorly written (bad grammar, etc.). By turning in a critique the student affirms that he/she has read the entire book

## Bibliography

### Commentaries

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- Bruce, F.F. *Commentary on Galatians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
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- Cole, R. Alan. *Galatians*, reprint edition. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2009.
- De Boer, Martinus C. *Galatians: A Commentary*. New Testament Library. Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2011.
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- Fee, Gordon D. *Galatians*. Pentecostal Commentary. Deo Publishing, 2007.
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- Guthrie, Donald. *Galatians*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
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### Monographs

- de Silva, David A. *Galatians: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. Baylor Handbook on the Greek New Testament. Baylor University Press, 2014.
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