

COLOSSIANS AND EPHESIANS (NT 6305)

MATS Educational Goals Supported by the Course:

1. The student will interpret passages of the Old and New Testaments in light of their literary, historical, and theological contexts.
2. The student will prepare papers, sermons, classes, and other assignments employing research tools such as bibliographic indices and databases in biblical and theological studies (ATLA Religion Index, NT/OT Abstracts, etc.).

Aims of the Course

1. Students will acquire mastery and appreciation of the content of the Pauline letters to the Colossians and Ephesians in light of Paul's missionary activity, his relations with his converts, and the historic faith of the Christian church.
2. Students will increase their familiarity with helpful methods of literary, historical, and theological exegesis of Scripture in application to these letters.
3. Students will explore the application of the central emphases of these letters and their particular arguments to concerns in the life of the contemporary church, giving particular attention to possibilities for preaching from these letters.

Required Texts

1. Charles H. Talbert, *Ephesians and Colossians* (Paideia Commentaries; Baker Academic).
2. Christopher R. Seitz, *Colossians* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible).
3. Klyne Snodgrass, *Ephesians* (NIV Application Commentary; Zondervan).
4. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., ESV, CSB, RSV, NIV, NJB, REB, NASB, NRSV). Two excellent tools for study are the *Harper Collins Study Bible* and the *NIV Study Bible*, which give the reader quick access to current mainline Protestant and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
5. Strongly recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (27th or 28th ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the letters and the full marginal references to parallel passages. An edition of the Nestle-Aland bound with the Revised Standard Version is available through the American Bible Society; for more information, see the bookstore manager.

Course Requirements

1. Prompt attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class, completion of the assigned reading, and informed participation in class discussion. The student should note that the reading assignment includes consultation of the Scripture references in the secondary discussion.
2. Each week, *no later than the midnight preceding each class meeting*, each student will email to the instructor at least *one (1) quotation from each secondary reading assignment* (i.e., one quotation each week from Talbert and one from either Seitz or Snodgrass), each quotation conveying a *point significant for the interpretation of the week's primary reading assignment in Colossians or Ephesians*. The student may also include comments or questions raised by the week's preparation.
3. A semester writing assignment, including:
 - (1) An exegetical paper, eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length, treating a pericope selected from Colossians or Ephesians in consultation with the instructor, informed by the following guide:

http://austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/Exegesis_Guide.pdf

In addition, an excellent introduction to the general sort of reading required for exegesis is Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*; a good discussion of exegetical method specifically for the New Testament is Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*; and works that will aid in the preparation of an exegesis are discussed in Fee (pp. 165-188) and more thoroughly in Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. A draft of the paper must be submitted for instructor review and suggestions for revision by October 31. The exegesis paper will be graded in accordance with this rubric:

<http://austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/AGST%20Exegesis%20Scoring%20Rubric-1.pdf>

The final paper is due on December 14. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor.

(2) An expository sermon series on Colossians or Ephesians (whichever the exegetical paper does not focus on) including (a) an outline of a ten-week sermon series, indicating for each sermon the pericope on which it will be based and a theme statement (on the model of Fred B. Craddock, *Preaching*, esp. pp. 155–57; see also Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, esp. pp. 145-164) and (b) a *manuscript* for one sermon of 15–20 minutes developing the theme statement proposed on the outline and including *footnotes* indicating the resources the student has consulted in its preparation. The series plan and sermon manuscript are due **by 7 PM on Monday, December 5**, when students will present the sermon orally in our last class meeting. The message presented will be graded in accordance with this rubric:

<http://austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/AGST%20Message%20Rubric.pdf>.

Late work will not be accepted without prior approval by the instructor.

Plagiarism and Citation of Sources:

Plagiarism is the representation of another person's work as your own and is a form of theft. This includes material composed by other students, purchased from an online paper mill, or copied from published books and articles or from the Internet. If in any assignment you employ material written by someone else, you must give the author proper credit, documenting the source with an appropriate citation and marking any words directly quoted with quotation marks (or with indentation if four or more lines are quoted). Failure to appropriately credit the sources you use will result in a reduction in your grade for the assignment in question and/or the requirement that you revise the assignment. Intentionally representing another person's work as your own will be grounds for academic discipline, including your possible dismissal from the School. For more information on how to acknowledge sources properly and avoid plagiarism, refer to the School's "Guide to Written Work" (http://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/guide_for_written_work.htm).

SCHEDULE

September	5	Introduction: Two Disputed Letters of Paul
	12	Colossians 1:1–2:5; Talbert and Seitz, ad loc.
	19	Colossians 2:6–23; Talbert and Seitz, ad loc.
	26	Colossians 3:1–17; Talbert and Seitz, ad loc.
October	3	Colossians 3:18–4:1; Talbert and Seitz, ad loc.
	10	Colossians 4:2–18; Authorship and Date; Talbert and Seitz, ad loc. and Introductions
	17	Ephesians, chap. 1; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc.
	24	Ephesians, chap. 2; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc.
	31	Ephesians, chap. 3; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc. <u>Draft of exegesis paper due</u>
November	7	Ephesians, chap. 4; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc.
	14	Ephesians, chap. 5; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc.
	22	NO CLASS MEETING
	28	Ephesians, chap. 6; Authorship and Date; Talbert and Snodgrass, ad loc. and Introductions
December	5	Presentation of student sermons; <u>Sermon Series assignment due at beginning of class</u>
	14	<u>Exegesis paper due</u>