

•Austin Graduate School of Theology

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appointment

Spring 2010

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### **PAUL'S MACEDONIAN CORRESPONDENCE:**

1 and 2 Thessalonians and Philippians (NT 6305)

MATS Educational Outcome Supported by the Course: The student will interpret passages of the Old and New Testaments in light of their literary, historical, and theological contexts.

#### ● Aims of the Course

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

#### ● Required Texts

1. Gordon D. Fee, *The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians* (NICNT; Eerdmans)
2. Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (NICNT; Eerdmans)
3. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., RSV, NIV, NAB, NJB, REB, 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 academic (i.e., mainline Protestant) and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
4. Strongly recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (27<sup>th</sup> 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 Matt Porter in the bookstore.

#### ● 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.

1. Serving as discussion leader for 1-2 weeks of the course (depending on the number of students enrolled). This assignment will involve: (1) careful reading of the assigned Scripture passage for the week and of the two assigned commentaries on the assigned passage; (2) formulating a set of questions to guide discussion of the passage, usually 4-5 in number, which should reflect careful reading of the text and commentaries; (3) identification of the passages, sentences, phrases, or words in the passage most important for answering each of these questions; and (4) suggesting an answer for each question on the basis of a consideration of the evidence identified in step (3).

1. A written examination covering the content and major interpretive questions in the Thessalonian letters, as treated in the readings and in class. Each exam will require 2-3 hours and will include both objective and essay questions.

2.A semester writing assignment, including:

(1) An exegetical paper, eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length, treating a pericope selected from Philippians in consultation with the instructor, who can also supply an outline guide to the writing of an exegesis paper, due at the conclusion of the semester. An essential introduction to the 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 may be submitted for review and suggestions for revision any time before Thanksgiving. The final paper is due during the week of final examinations. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. The student is encouraged to base the paper on a passage for which (s)he served the class as discussion leader in assignment 2.

(2) An expository sermon series on the letter to the Philippians, including (1) an *outline* of an eight-week sermon series, indicating for each sermon the *pericope* on which it will be based and a *focus and function statement* (on the model of Thomas G. Long, *The Witness of Preaching*, esp. pp. 78-91; see also Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, esp. pp. 145-164) and (2) manuscripts of **three** of the sermons developing the focus and function proposed on the series outline and including footnotes indicating the resources the student has consulted in the preparation of each sermon. A draft of the sermon series and manuscripts may be submitted anytime before Thanksgiving for review and suggestions for revision. The series outline and three manuscripts are due during final examination week. Late work will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor.

## SCHEDULE

January	25	Introduction: The Pauline Mission in Macedonia
February	1	Structure and Aims of 1 Thessalonians (Peterson): Fee, introduction
	8	1 Thessalonians 1: Fee, ad loc.
	15	1 Thessalonians 2–3: Fee, ad loc.
	22	1 Thessalonians 4–5: Fee, ad loc.
March	1	2 Thessalonians 1: Fee, ad loc.
	8	2 Thessalonians 2: Fee, ad loc.
	15	NO CLASS MEETING (Spring Break)
	22	2 Thessalonians 3: Fee, ad loc.
	29	Exam over 1–2 Thessalonians Setting, Structure and Aims of Philippians (Peterson): Fee, introduction
April	5	Philippians 1:1–2:5: Fee, ad loc.
	12	Philippians 2:2–30: Fee, ad loc.
	19	Philippians 3:1–14: Fee, ad loc.
	26	Philippians 3:12–21: Fee, ad loc.
May	3	Philippians 4: Fee, ad loc.