Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
NT630  Exegesis of Philippians

Spring 2012  
Prof: Dr. Edward M. Keazirian
WF 10:45–12:15  
Office: Goddard Library #117
Academic Center: AC252  
Phone: 978-646-4090
Email: keazoo@gcts.edu

Description of the Course

General: Paul’s unique relationship and message to the Philippians will be discovered. The course also examines the historical context of the letter. Major emphases are the translation, exegesis and application of the Greek text.

Specific: The exegesis will also involve an examination of the major theological, missional, and pastoral themes in the context of Paul’s gospel mission, his imprisonment, and his partnership with the church in Philippi. Special focus will be given to the social, political, cultural, and educational norms of the Greco-Roman world that constitutes the larger context for the letter.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to exercise and refine the student’s skill in the analysis and exegesis of a Pauline epistle; to model an academically rigorous, spiritually disciplined, and devotionally dependent approach to the study of the Scripture; and to cultivate the student’s love for the Lord, obedience to his Word, and service in his kingdom. Exegesis is not an end in itself, but the technical process by which the first century Scriptures are properly interpreted and applied to twenty-first century living.

Course goals

1. The student will demonstrate an ability to read, translate, analyze and interpret the Greek text of Paul’s letter to the Philippians. Class participation, the translation notebook, and the exegesis paper relate this goal to articles 1 and 2 of the seminary’s mission statement.

2. The student will demonstrate awareness of the theological, missional, and pastoral issues that are found in or raised by Paul’s letter to the Philippians and will cultivate the ability to think critically and biblically about those issues. Class participation, the shorter paper, and readings relate this goal to articles 1, 2, and 6a of the seminary’s mission statement.

3. The student’s own life, relationships, theology and ministry will be more significantly informed by the transforming message of this epistle and the student will demonstrate significant reflection upon the relationship between their personal lives and their public ministries and the message of the letter to the Philippians. Class participation and the exegesis paper relate this goal to articles 5 and 6a of the seminary’s mission statement.

Structure of the Course

The class will meet two days per week (WF) during the Spring term from Wednesday, February 1st, through Friday, May 4th. Each class session will include an analysis and discussion of the assigned Greek text, a lecture on the text itself or a related topic, and some discussion of the value and application of the text to our lives and ministries. All students are expected to be prepared for recitation and discussion of the assigned material for each class session.
Requirements

1. **Successful completion of a Greek competency quiz.** A brief quiz to test student’s ability with basic Greek will be given on the first day of class. The quiz will test the student’s knowledge of first-year Greek including parsing, translation, identification of syntactical functions, and some basic grammar questions. A score of 75% is the minimum passing grade. Students that do not pass have one week to retake the quiz. Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to remain in the class. *Competence in Greek is required in all aspects of the course for a passing grade.*

2. **Class attendance is expected.** Given the interactive nature of the class, participation is a key element in learning and evaluation. One cannot participate without being present, and the learning experience cannot be replicated or recovered outside the classroom. That is the nature of this type of class. In preparation for each class period the student should:
   
a. Analyze and translate the assigned Greek text using whatever tools are required. Students should review basic Greek forms and paradigms as necessary. In addition to the standard lexica and grammars, students may wish to consult one or more of the exegetical aids that are listed under the section below for recommended texts. If you do not own Bible software you may find the [http://www.greekbible.com/](http://www.greekbible.com/) site helpful.
   
b. Read the relevant sections of Hansen’s commentary.
   
c. Be prepared to discuss the various treatments/analyses by Hansen with respect to your own study of the assigned text.
   
d. Read any other required bibliography indicated in the syllabus for that class period.

   **Note:** You are expected to come prepared to be an informed participant in discussions regarding the issues raised by the passage at hand. You are responsible for all the assigned translation and reading regardless of how much is covered in class.

3. **Completion of all reading assignments.** Readings consist of the Greek text of Philippians, a standard commentary, and three books that are expositionally or devotionally—rather than analytically—oriented (totaling about 750 pages). In addition to this, students will read the English text of Philippians repeatedly in various translations. Finally, at either the professor’s suggestion or the student’s discretion, an additional 250 pages (at least) will be read in support of special topics and research for the writing assignments. A detailed reading report will be submitted on the last day of class.

4. **Completion and submission of all written assignments.** There are three written assignments for this course: (a) a three-page paper on a topic related to the Greco-Roman background for Philippians, (b) a translation notebook, and (c) 12-page exegesis paper. Each assignment will be explained in further detail in class. The due date for each assignment is specified below. Except for an excusable emergency, failure to submit on the due date will result in the assessment of some grading penalty, typically a half-grade per day.

   **Note:** The operative phrase here is “excusable emergency.” For example, weekend retreats with the Church Youth Group, leaving early or returning late for holiday travel, and traffic jams do not fall under the category of excusable emergencies. By “excusable” I mean serious injury or illness to you or your family, ordination exams, births, deaths, and the like.
Grading

Student grades will be determined by five elements: readings (15%), translation notebook (15%), short paper (20%), exegesis paper (40%), and class participation (10%). Participation refers to a student’s engagement with the instructor and other class members in answering questions and in contributing to any discussions generated by issues in the text. We do not grade on a curve for reasons that will be explained in class. The grading follows the common ten-point scale: 60–63 (D–); 64–67 (D); 68–70 (D+); 71–73 (C–); 74–77 (C); 78–80 (C+); 81–83 (B–); 84–87 (B); 88–90 (B+); 91–93 (A–); 94–100 (A).

Required* and Recommended† Textbooks


NOTE: The text of both editions is the same. The difference lies with the apparatus. The UBS edition has a broad range of variant readings including many examples from early translations and patristic literature. The Nestle-Aland edition has many more variant readings, but they are taken primarily from biblical MSS. Both editions can be purchased with or without a dictionary supplement at the end of the text. The price with the dictionary is significantly higher. The relevant ISBN[13 digit] codes follow:

- UBS edition: 978-3-438-05110-3 (text only)  978-3-438-05113-4 (text with dictionary)
- N-A edition: 978-1-598-56172-2 (text only)  978-3-438-05115-8 (text with dictionary)

Students may use either text for their work. However, my lectures, overheads, and text critical notes for class will be based primarily on the text and apparatus of the NA27.


NOTE: The text (BDAG) is sometimes bundled with Bible software programs such as Accordance, Logos, or BibleWorks. Whether you use the hardcopy, software package, or online version of BDAG, you must use this lexicon as the minimum standard. You may use other lexica to supplement BDAG, but this is required for this exegesis course. It is not sufficient to rely on Bible software programs or dictionaries in the back of the UBS/NA GNT for your translations and exegesis of the NT.


NOTE: This is a remarkably valuable text for learning intermediate Greek and its application to the text of the NT. However, it is also expensive. You may be able to get it online at much reduced rates, but you must be wary of purchasing older editions at drastically reduced rates. You really need to get the 5th edition. This is available under two imprints: the older EPIB (imitation leather softcover) and with a few added bells and whistles the newer Gregorian and Biblical Press (hardcover). Parts of the book are also online in the Google Books library.


NOTE: This is the intermediate grammar to which the Grammatical Analysis is keyed. Routinely, entries in the Grammatical Analysis direct the reader by paragraph number to the appropriate section of Biblical Greek for more detailed explanations of the particular grammar point at issue. Like Grammatical Analysis, this grammar book has two imprints: EPIB (paperback) and Gregorian Biblical Press (paperback). These are essentially the same with just a different cover and different imprint.


Classroom Use of Electronic Devices

Students will not access the internet in class, unless instructed by the professor. Surfing the web, checking email, blogging, tweeting, gaming, and other internet-based activities are distracting to classmates and to the professor, and prevent students from fully participating in the class session.

Cell phones/pagers will be turned off during class or, in the case of a pending emergency, may be set to mute/vibration mode (check the manual if you don’t know how to mute your phone).

To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students will refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings. In cases where explicit special permission is granted to record a session such permission is extended on a temporary use only: Any recording made is for the private use of the student only and is to be deleted/erased within two weeks of the recording.
Proposed Daily Schedule

Wed. Feb 1  
**Due:** Greek Competency Quiz  
Lecture: Syllabus and Course Introduction

Fri. Feb 3  
**Due:**  
Lecture: Historical Survey of Philippi (Dr. Keazirian)  
Demonstration of Online Research (James Darlack)  
Reading: Calvin, Introduction and Chapter I.1 (pp. 1–17)  
Hansen, pp. 1–35

Wed. Feb 8  
**Due:**  
Text: Phil 1:1–2  
Reading: Calvin, Ch I.I–I.III (pp. 17–20)  
Hansen, pp. 37–44

Fri. Feb 10  
**Due:**  
Text: Phil 1:3–8  
Reading: Calvin, Ch I.IV–I.V (pp. 20–23)  
Hansen, pp. 44–56  
O’Brien, Ch 3 Appendix C (pp. 77–81)

Wed. Feb 15  
**Due:**  
Text: Phil 1:9–11  
Reading: Calvin, Ch II.I–II.II (pp. 25–29)  
Hansen, pp. 56–65

Fri. Feb 17  
**Due:** G/R Backgrounds Bibliography  
Text: Phil 1:12–14  
Reading: Calvin, Ch II.III–II.IV (pp. 29–34)  
Hansen, pp. 65–71

Feb 20–24  
**R E A D I N G   W E E K:** No Class Scheduled  
NOTE: Even though classes do not meet this week, students are expected to work on Reading Week assignments.

Wed. Feb 29  
**Due:**  
Text: Phil 1:15–18a  
Reading: Calvin, Ch II.V–II.VI (pp. 34–38)  
Hansen, pp. 71–76

Fri. Mar 2  
**Due:** G/R Backgrounds Paper  
Text: Phil 1:18b–26  
Reading: Calvin, Ch II.VII–II.VIII (pp. 38–42)  
Hansen, pp. 76–93  
Carson, Ch 1 (pp. 1–31)

Wed. Mar 7  
**Due:**  
Text: Phil 1:27–30  
Reading: Calvin, Ch II.IX–II.X (pp. 42–46)  
Hansen, pp. 93–104
Fri. Mar 9  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 2:1–4  
Reading: Calvin, Ch III.I–III.II (pp. 47–51)  
Hansen, pp. 105–118

Wed. Mar 14  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 2:5–11  
Reading: Calvin, Ch III.III–III.IV (pp. 51–54)  
Hansen, pp. 118–169  
Carson, Ch 2 (pp. 33–49)

Fri. Mar 16  **SNOW DAY or CONTINUING LECTURE (Phil 2:5–11)**

Wed. Mar 21  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 2:12–18  
Reading: Calvin, Ch III.V–III.VI (pp. 54–57)  
Hansen, pp. 169–192  
Carson, Ch 3 (pp. 51–64)

Fri. Mar 23  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 2:19–24  
Reading: Calvin, Ch III.VII–III.VIII (pp. 57–60)  
Hansen, pp. 192–199

Mar 26–30  **READING WEEK: No Class Scheduled**  
**NOTE:** Even though classes do not meet this week, students are expected to work on Reading Week assignments.

Wed. Apr 4  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 2:25–30  
Reading: Calvin, Ch III.IX–III.X (pp. 60–64)  
Hansen, pp. 199–210  
O'Brien, Ch 5 (pp. 109–132)

Fri. Apr 6  **GOOD FRIDAY: No Class Scheduled**

Wed. Apr 11  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 3:1–11  
Reading: Acts 10:1–11:18; 15:1–41; Galatians 1:11–2:21 (English)  
Calvin, Ch III.XI (pp. 64–66)  
Hansen, pp. 211–249

Fri. Apr 13  **SNOW DAY or CONTINUING LECTURE (Phil 3:1–11)**

Wed. Apr 18  **Due:**  **Exegesis Paper**  
Text: Phil 3:12–16  
Reading: Calvin, Ch IV.I–IV.II (pp. 67–72)  
Hansen, pp. 249–261
Fri. Apr 20  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 3:17–21  
Reading: Calvin, Ch IV.iii–IV.iv (pp. 72–76)  
Hansen, pp. 261–277  
Carson, Ch 4 (pp. 65–95)

Wed. Apr 25  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 4:1–3  
Reading: Calvin, Ch IV.v–IV.vi (pp. 76–81)  
Hansen, pp. 278–286

Fri. Apr 27  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 4:4–9  
Reading: Calvin, Ch V.i–V.ii (pp. 83–87)  
Hansen, pp. 286–304

Wed. May 2  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 4:10–20  
Reading: Calvin, Ch V.iii–V.iv (pp. 87–90)  
Hansen, pp. 304–328

Fri. May 4  **Due:**  
Text: Phil 4:21–23  
Reading: Calvin, Ch V.iv–V.vi (pp. 90–94)  
Hansen, pp. 329–332  
Carson, Ch 5 (pp. 97–124)

Mon. May 7  **Due:**  Translation Notebook and Reading Report (4:00 PM)

---

**Learning in Community**

This Greek class is to exemplify learning in community: a group of individuals working together, respecting and supporting one another, in pursuit of a common purpose. As members of the body of Christ, we bear the greater responsibility to exercise Christian courtesy to one another as well. With this in mind I have set a few basic ground rules that will help us express courtesy and respect for one another:

1. Please make every effort to be on time for class.
2. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the lecture hall and classrooms.
3. Please remove caps/hats during devotionals and prayers.
4. Please be patient and encouraging toward the students who work more slowly.

You are encouraged to form study groups if that will help your learning process. However, please remember that each student’s work must be his/her own. Your integrity before the Lord and before one another is of far greater importance than any grade you may achieve through compromising that integrity. *(Article 4, Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement / Community Life Statement)*