Instructor: Mark A. Jennings

Class Time: 1:15 PM – 5:15 PM
Class Dates: Jan 6-9, 13-16 (10 and 17 are snow days, if needed)

Mark A. Jennings Contact Information:
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Phone: Office #4088; Office hours: By appointment only

Course Description

This course is an exegetical study of the Greek text of the Epistle to the Philippians with special attention to its overall structure, language, OT and Greco-Roman backgrounds, and theology. A typical session will include translation, discussion, and lecture. Some attention will be given to Philippians’ relationship with the other Pauline epistles and the life/mission of Paul, but the primary focus of this course will be what the Paul was inspired to write to the church at Philippi.

Each student will be expected to employ all the exegetical tools at their disposal to better interpret the authorial intent of the epistle. Finally, significant portions of each class will be devoted to discussing what our exegesis means for the church, for discipleship, for obedience of faith, for ministering etc. In other words the exegesis of Philippians (or any Biblical text) is never the end in itself, but is the essential preparatory step of listening that is necessary for proclaiming the truth revealed in God’s Word.

I am teaching under three working assumptions:

(1) The authorial intent is the primary focus because it is the inspired, inerrant Word of God.
(2) You desire to teach and preach the Word of God in service to the church. (This “service” can take many forms.)
(3) You agree to be taught by me and will do the required work necessary to benefit from this teaching.
Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the contemporary issues surrounding the interpretation of Galatians, especially the views Witherington and Hansen. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
2. Understand the Greek of Philippians through a concentrated grammatical study of the major portion epistle. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission).
3. Translate into accurate and idiomatic English any portion of Philippians. (Art 1-2)
4. Deeply examine and consider a particular passage, utilizing all the appropriate exegetical methods. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
5. Articulate personal conclusions based on sound exegesis regarding the overarching message and purpose of the epistle as a whole as well as individual sections. (Art 1-3)
6. Consider the importance of Philippians to one’s faith and understanding of who Christ is. (Art 3-6 of GCT Mission)
7. Consider how Philippians informs our understanding of salvation, the church, our ministry, discipleship, etc. (Art 3-6 of GCTS Mission)

Texts

REQUIRED

- Greek New Testament (NA27/28 or UBS4)
- Ben Witherington, III. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans), 2011

  o NOTE: YOU MAY REPLACE HANSEN’S (not Witherington’s) COMMENTARY WITH ANOTHER EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY OF YOUR CHOICE. BE SURE TO GET APPROVAL BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ALTERNATIVE COMMENTARY.

*Other readings may be assigned.

Requirements

1. You will be doing a week’s worth of work every night. Be sure your schedule and personal demands allow for 6+ hours worth of work each day (not counting class time)
2. Each student is required to pass a Greek Competency Quiz to take the course. This quiz will be administered on the first day of class. Failure to pass this quiz will result in the student being ineligible from taking the course.

3. **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS – YOU MUST HAVE A WORKING TRANSLATION OF PHIL CHAPTERS 1-2.** (It is strongly recommended that you have a working translation of the entire epistle before class begins.) Since the due dates for written assignments come quick – it will be very challenging to succeed in this class if you have not done most of the translation work and reading prior to the start of term.

4. You are to be prepared each day to translate and discuss the Greek “Topic” text assigned for that day. Each student will be reading the Greek, translating, and discussing every class. Unpreparedness may result in the reduction of your final grade.

5. You will be expected to read the entire Epistle to the Philippians in English before the first day of class.

6. Attendance at every class is expected. Failure to attend class may impact your final grade. Besides, who wants to miss class? How often will you get a chance to meet daily with your peers and drink deeply from the Philippians?

7. You are to read all of your two commentaries. Recommendation: Read as much of a commentary before the term starts to reduce the daily demands of the course.

8. You are to write an Exegesis Paper of 4500-6000 words (strictly enforced) in which you systematically analyze a complete passage of the Greek text of Philippians. SEE EXEGESIS PAPER ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

9. You are to complete a Translation Notebook on Philippians 1:27-2:17. SEE TRANSLATION NOTEBOOK ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

10. You are to write a Devotional Study on Philippians. SEE DEVOTIONAL STUDY ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

11. There will be a Final Exam. Details for Final will be given on the first day of class.

12. **Extra Credit Opportunities will be made available.**
Grade Components

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<tr>
<th>Grade Components</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek Competency Quiz</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Translation Notebook</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devotional Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Reading Report</td>
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POOR CLASS PARTICIPATION WILL LOWER YOUR GRADE.

Final semester letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A+ 97% and up
- A 94%  
- A- 90%  
- B+ 87%  
- B 84%  
- B- 80%  
- C+ 77%  
- C 74%  
- C- 70%  
- D+ 67%  
- D 63%  
- D- 60%  
- F below 60%

A Brief Word Regarding Translations for Class

The purpose of this course is not simply to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. It is assumed that each student prior to class session will have translated the assigned text. Students will be called upon each class to translate and field questions regarding the assigned text. When we are discussing translations in class – it is to be done with a “hard copy” of the Greek New Testament – not an electronic copy. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to translate the assigned text (or at least to make a serious attempt) before class renders you ill prepared to sufficiently contribute. On those occasions where “life happens” and you must choose between doing all the assigned reading or doing your translation work, the latter should always take precedence (with the assumption you will “catch up” on your reading at the first possibility). Each student is allowed to take one (and only one) “1/2 class off” from translating.

In the event that you are unable to translate all of the assigned text for the day, you are to notify the instructor before class of how much you did translate. If you fail to show up for class, it will be assumed that you did zero translation for that day. (If you did do some translation in preparation but were unable to make the class – please email me how much of the text you did translate). Naturally a failure to translate will impact your participation evaluation.

The reward of continually translating occurs in the effort. Therefore do not feel the necessity for a perfectly dynamic translation. Rough patches can be cleared up. This is part of what the
class discussion is to accomplish. Also resist the temptation to do all your translating work with contemporary Bible or computer software on hand. What good does it do to show that you can “copy well” or move your computer mouse? I encourage you to use a lexicon and a grammar and push yourself to develop your own translating mind.

A Brief Note on Intellectual Property Rights

No audio or video recordings are allowed. Furthermore no publication (audio, video, written) or live transmission of classroom proceedings will be permitted. Any requests for such privileges must be made in writing and must receive written approval from the instructor.

A Brief Note Regarding Internet Usage

Please do not access the internet (email, apps, websites, etc.) for non class-activities during class. This can be extremely distracting to all parties – and quite frankly it is unbecoming to do so. Exceptions may be made on occasion.

Regarding Extension Requests:

No extensions will be granted on the assignments unless there is a “last-minute” event that was unavoidable and substantial (as determined by me). An extension request may not be granted, even in the event of an “unavoidable, substantial, last-minute circumstance,” if an appropriate amount of progress (determined by me) on the assignment has not been made prior to the request of the extension.

No visitors are allowed to attend class without permission from the instructor.

A Final Note

It is my prayer that through this study of Philippians the Holy Spirit will guide your mind and illumine your heart, that your love will abound more and more in knowledge and deep insight, so that you may be able discern the more excellent matter and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Phil 1:9-11). Let us come together in full humility, full of joy, crying out in prayer that our Sovereign Almighty might be pleased to reveal Himself to us in the study of His Holy Word.
Course Schedule (subject to instructor’s revision at any time)
- Before each class, be sure to translate the topic text, read the appropriate pages in you commentaries as you can.
- Be sure to consider OT references mentioned in your commentaries prior to class (ideally in the LXX).
- There are additional assignments that are given to assist in the classroom discussion.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Part 1: Course Overview; Proficiency Quiz</td>
<td>Read all &quot;Philippians&quot; in English; Prepare for Comp exam. Have working translation for Phil 1-2 prepared</td>
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<td>Part 2: Introduction of Phil</td>
<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 7-9</td>
<td>Philippians 1:1-26</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Read Opening Greetings to other Pauline letters. Be prepared to discuss similarities and differences.</td>
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<td>Read Gal 5:16-6:10</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Phil 1:27-2:4; Begin 2:5-11</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Study how εὐαγγέλιον is used in Philippians</td>
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<td>Study how χαρά/χαίρω is used in Phil</td>
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<td>Consider the structure of 1:27-30 and 2:1-4</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Phil 2:5-11 (cont); 2:12-18</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Identify and Consider OT background texts and allusions. Which texts? Function?</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Phil 2:18-30</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Study συνεργός in Paul’s letters</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Phil 3:1-4:1</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Phil 4:2-23</td>
<td>Translate and Read Commentaries</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>You can only bring pen, paper, and an unmarked Greek NT.</td>
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<td>Work on Assignments</td>
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Assignment Due Dates (NO EXTENSIONS):

Translation Notebook: Jan 21
Devotional Notebook: Jan 24
Exegesis Paper: Feb 3
Reading Report: Feb 3