Instructor: Mark A. Jennings

Class Time: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
Class Dates: June 10-14, 17-21

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

Course Description

This course is an exegetical study of the Greek text of the Epistle to the Galatians with special attention to its overall structure, language, OT background, and theology. A typical session will include translation, discussion, and lecture. Some attention will be given to Galatians’ relationship with the other Pauline epistles, but the primary focus of this course will be what the Paul was inspired to write to the churches of Galatia.

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 Galatians (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) You desire to know the authorial intent because you hold it to be 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 the 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 Schreiner, Westerholm, and one additional affirmed scholar. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
2. Understand the Greek of Galatians through a concentrated grammatical study of the entire epistle. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
3. Translate into accurate and idiomatic English any portion of Galatians. (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 Galatians to one’s faith and understanding of who Christ is. (Art 3-6 of GCT Mission)
7. Consider how Galatians 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)**
    - NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY READ WESTERHOLM. SEE ME FOR A SUBSTITUTE BOOK.
  - A Second Commentary of your choice. The commentary must be an exegetical commentary of the Greek text. Some you might consider are commentaries by: Richard Longenecker (WBC; 1990); J. Louis Martyn (AB; 1998); James D. G. Dunn, (BNCT; 1993); Ben Witherington III (Eerdmans; 1998). If you prefer to read an older treatment – you might also consider J. B. Lightfoot’s or Martin Luther’s.
    - NOTE: Email the professor no later than June 21 informing him of your selection.

*Other readings may be assigned. See syllabus and CAMS.*
Requirements

1. 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.

2. 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. Each student is allowed a “½ class” off from translating. Additional unpreparedness may result in the reduction of your final grade.

3. You will be expected to read the entire epistle of Galatians in English before the first day of class.

4. Attendance at every class is expected. Failure to attend class will 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 Gospel of Matthew?

5. You are to read all of Schreiner and your “second commentary.” Recommendation: Read Schreiner before class and your second commentary as you are able. Any “extra assigned readings” must be read before class.

6. You are to write a *Response* to Westerholm. SEE RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

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

8. You are to complete a *Translation Notebook* on Galatians. SEE TRANSLATION NOTEBOOK ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

9. You are to write a *Devotional Study of Galatians*. SEE DEVOTIONAL STUDY ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.
Grade Components

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Competency Quiz</td>
<td>0% (Students must pass to stay in class, if necessary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation Notebook</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devotional Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<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 93% and up
- A- 90
- B+ 86.6%
- B 83.3%
- B- 80
- C+ 76.6%
- C 73.3%
- C- 70
- D+ 66.6%
- D 63.3%
- 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 Galatians 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 Schreiner. The additional commentary can be read as time allows.
- Be sure to consider OT references prior to class (ideally in the LXX).
- There are additional assignments that are given to assist in the classroom discussion.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Notes</th>
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| June 10 | Part 1: Course Overview; Proficiency Quiz  
Part 2: Introduction of Galatians | Read all Galatians in English; Schreiner - “Introduction to Galatians”         |
| June 11 | Gal 1:1-17                                                            | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Jer 1:5; Isa 49:1-6                                            |
| June 12 | Gal 1:18-2:10                                                         | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
| June 13 | Gal 2:11-21                                                           | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Ps 143:1-6                                                     |
| June 14 | Gal 3:1-14                                                            | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Gen 12:3, 15:6, 18:18; Lev 18:5; Deut 21:23, 27:26; Hab 2:4      |
| June 17 | Gal 3:15-29                                                           | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Gen Gen 13:15, 15:13, 18, 17:8, 24:7; Exod 12:40; Lev 26:46; Deut 6:4, 33:2; |
| June 18 | Gal 4:1-20                                                            | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
| June 19 | Gal 4:21-5:12                                                         | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Isa 54:1-7; Gen 21:10-12                                       |
| June 20 | Gal 5:13-26                                                           | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |
|         |                                                                       | OT References: Lev 19:18                                                      |
| June 21 | Gal 6:1-18; Theology of Galatians.                                    | Translate and Read Schreiner and 2nd Commentary                                 |