Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
NT 626 Exegesis of Galatians
Instructor: Roy E. Ciampa

Spring 2016
Office: LL (lower library) 126
Weekends (Feb. 5-6; Apr. 1-2; Apr. 15-16), 6:00 – 9:30 PM;
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.
Email: RCiampa@gordonconwell.edu
Office hours are posted online. See:
http://www.viceregency.com/OfficeHours.htm
(If these hours do not work for you please arrange an
appointment by e-mail.)
Phone: (978) 646-4083 (office)
(646) 385-6766 (home)

Course Description
A detailed analysis of the Greek text of Galatians, with special attention given to Paul’s
apostleship, his relationship with the Jerusalem church, his understanding of the law,
justification and the role of the Spirit.
This course will reinforce and expand upon the exegetical methodology presented in
Interpreting the New Testament. Special attention will be given to exegetical methodology,
the theology of the letter, and contemporary application.

Course Objectives
1. The student will demonstrate an ability to read, translate, analyze and interpret the Greek
text of Paul’s letter to the Galatians. [Class participation, translation notebook, exegesis
paper and final exam; relating to articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement]
2. The student will demonstrate familiarity with the theological and pastoral issues that are
found in or raised by Paul’s letter to the Galatians (and commentaries) and an ability to
think critically and biblically about those issues. [Class participation, spiritual formation
journal, final exam; articles 1-2, 6a of the seminary’s mission statement]
3. The student’s life, theology and ministry will be more significantly informed by the
transforming message of this epistle and they will demonstrate significant reflection
upon the relationship between their personal lives and their public ministries and the
message of the letter to the Galatians. [exegesis paper, spiritual formation journal;
articles 5-6a of the seminary’s mission statement]

Course emphases
1. Translation and analysis of key texts in (much of) Paul’s letter to the Galatians.
2. A reading of the epistle that is informed by Paul’s Jewish-Christian and scriptural
background.
3. Understanding some diverse exegetical issues and approaches in the contemporary
interpretation of Paul’s theology in general and the letter to the Galatians in particular.
4. Learning from Paul the apostle, missionary/pastor, exegete and biblical theologian and
the application of the message of the epistle in our own context (personal, church and
society).
Required texts


Recommended texts:

- Ciampa, Roy. *An Analysis of the Semantic and Rhetorical Structure of Galatians* (pdf posted on Sakai).
- Chrysostom, John. *Commentary on Galatians* (translation revised by Ciampa; pdf posted online).

Course requirements and evaluation

The class will work its way through Paul’s letter to the Galatians, dealing with issues of lexical meaning, syntax, semantic structure, historical issues, rhetoric, theology and application as they arise.

A Greek Competency Quiz is required of every Greek exegesis class. Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to remain in the class. The quiz is prepared by the director of the GCTS Greek language program and will be given the first class hour. It may
include translation, parsing, identification of syntactical functions, and other grammatical questions. See blackboard for a sample test. The best way to review is to visit www.analytikon.org. It is a pass/fail quiz with 75% required for a passing grade.

1. In preparation for each class period you should:

   a) Analyze and translate the assigned Greek text, using whatever tools are required (I encourage you to review forms and paradigms as necessary. Students may wish to consult one or more of the following aids: A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament by Sakae Kubo (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975); A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament by Max Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor (Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993); The Linguistic Key to the New Testament by Fritz Rienecker and Cleon L. Rogers (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980). If you do not own Bible software you may find the http://www.greekbible.com/ site helpful.

   b) Read the sections of the commentaries by Chrysostom, Schreiner and Ciampa that deal with the indicated passage.

   c) Study the section of my analysis of Galatians that deals with the indicated passage and be prepared to explain and/or critique it in class.

   d) Read any other required bibliography indicated in the syllabus for that class period.

   Note: You are always 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.

2. You are to record your personal translation (not someone else’s and not an amalgam of published translations) of the Greek text of Paul’s letter to the Galatians in the “Translation Notebook” provided by the professor. Along with your translation you should record whatever lexical, grammatical or syntactical notes you would need to explain your translation in class (these are not to be transferred through any cut-and-paste method). You should come to class prepared to work from your lexical notebook and an unmarked Greek New Testament. In the translation notebook you are also to indicate the basic syntactical function of each participle in the following ways:

   a. Circle all participles.

   b. In the case of adverbial participles and genitive absolutes you are to circle the verb of the main clause which is modified by the participial clause and draw an arrow from the participle to the verb of the clause it modifies.

   c. In the case of adjectival participles you are to circle the substantive which is being modified by the participle and draw an arrow from the participle to that substantive.

   d. In the case of substantival participles you are to circle the article (if there is one) and draw an arrow from the participle to the article. If there is no article with the substantival participle you are to simple leave the participle circled (and skip the arrow).

The first page of the translation notebook provides a few examples. All participles have been underlined.
3. You will write a 15-18 page **exegesis paper** in which you systematically analyze a complete passage in Galatians in the light of its literary and theological context, its grammatical, semantic and rhetorical structure, its use of important words and concepts, its main idea and key themes and its relevance in the original context and in our own. This paper should reflect the training provided in Interpreting the New Testament. It should reflect both inductive study of the text and knowledge of a wide variety of secondary literature (lexicons and other reference works, academic commentaries and journal articles). The passage should be a complete unit (pericope), or a subunit within the pericope (in either case the starting and ending points should be justified). For further orientation regarding the exegesis paper, see [http://www.viceregency.com/CiampaExegesisPaper.htm](http://www.viceregency.com/CiampaExegesisPaper.htm) and [http://www.viceregency.com/ExegesisOrientation.htm](http://www.viceregency.com/ExegesisOrientation.htm).

This paper should reflect the training provided in NT 502 (Interpreting the New Testament). It should reflect both inductive study of the text and knowledge of a wide variety of secondary literature (lexicons and other reference works, academic commentaries and journal articles). See the course schedule for due date and late penalties. Please staple the paper together and refrain from using paper clips or special covers, etc. Also please attach the Exegesis Paper Evaluation Form (found in the following pages) to the back of your paper before stapling it together. Before beginning your exegesis paper be sure to study the attached document about plagiarism and how to avoid it.

For more orientation and help with your exegesis see [www.viceregency.com](http://www.viceregency.com) and the resources found in the links provided there. Commentaries to be sure to consult and refer to in your exegesis paper include those by Schreiner (ZECNT), de Boer (NTL), Moo (BECNT), Longenecker (WBC), Bruce (NIGTC), Witherington (Eerdmans), Dunn (BNTC), Martyn (AB), Betz (Hermeneia), Fung (NICNT), and Burton (ICC). Journal articles, lexicons, theological dictionaries and monographs should also be consulted and referenced.

NOTE: Please include your box number on any work submitted. Papers without box numbers will be retained in my office until you pick them up. Papers that are not retrieved from my office will eventually be thrown out.

4. There will be a final exam which will entail translation and analysis of the Greek text of Galatians as well as questions relating to issues raised in the readings, class lectures and discussions.

Your grade will be determined by five (5) elements: 1) your translation notebook (25%); 2) the final exam (25%); 3) your 15-18 page exegesis paper (35%); 4) your spiritual formation journal (10%); and 5) my subjective assessment of your preparedness for class discussions (5%).

**Spiritual Formation and the Exegesis of Galatians**

My tentative definition of spiritual formation (adapted from one suggested by Dr. David Currie) is “the lifelong process by which the Holy Spirit transforms believers into the likeness of Christ in the context of the challenges and tribulations of this present fallen age through faith-full seeking of God in prayer, engagement with Scripture, ministry received from and contributed to the body of Christ, and participation in God’s mission to the world.” In this course I hope to promote spiritual formation/maturity in particular by requiring each student to do the following:

1. Memorize the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in any translation or in Greek (to be tested at the end of the semester).
2. Keep a journal in which you focus on a different fruit of the Spirit each week and pray for opportunities and seek to find and practice concrete ways of reflecting that fruit and promoting it among colleagues at the seminary or at church and record your prayers and efforts in the journal (to be submitted at the end of the semester).

Note: No passing grade will be given in the following cases:

1. If either the Translation notebook or the exegesis paper is not turned in or is not essentially complete.
2. If the student’s exegetical paper does not clearly demonstrate proficiency in the use of the Greek text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Translation notebook</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegesis paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual formation journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class preparedness</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Proposed Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fri. February 5</td>
<td>Proficiency quiz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sat. February 6</td>
<td>Galatians 1:6-10</td>
<td>GNT; Schreiner; Ciampa, “Theology of Galatians.” Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sat. February 6</td>
<td>Galatians 2:11-21</td>
<td>GNT; Schreiner; 4QMMT. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9     | Fri. April 1   | Galatians 3:6-14               | GNT, Schreiner, Ciampa; “Abraham and Empire in Galatians,” in *Perspectives on Our Father Abraham: Essays in Honor of Marvin R. Wilson* (edited by Steven Hunt; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010), pages 153-168; James M.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 2</td>
<td>Galatians 3:15-18</td>
<td>GNT, Schreiner. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 2</td>
<td>Galatians 4:1-7</td>
<td>GNT, Schreiner. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 2</td>
<td>Galatians 4:8-11</td>
<td>GNT, Schreiner. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fri. Apr. 15</td>
<td>Galatians 4:12-20</td>
<td>GNT; Schreiner; Barclay, <em>Paul and the Gift</em>, 398-446. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 16</td>
<td>Galatians 5:1-12</td>
<td>GNT, Schreiner. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 16</td>
<td>Galatians 5:25-6:10</td>
<td>GNT, Schreiner. Recommended: Ciampa’s SSA and Chrysostom’s commentary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sat. Apr. 16</td>
<td>Catch-up/Review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Friday, Apr. 29</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(to be confirmed by registration office)</td>
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**5/2**  
Last day to submit written work  
(graduating seniors must submit by 4/22)  