



Location: McMaster Divinity College
Fall Semester 2011
Saturday 9:00am–4:00pm
Oct. 1, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 10

NT 2XA3 PHILIPPIANS

Professor: Wayne Baxter
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Course description

This course examines Paul's letter to the Philippians in its historical and literary contexts in order to understand its message and apply its teaching to the church today.

Course objectives

Knowing

- To gain an in-depth knowledge of the contents and message of Philippians
- To understand Paul's ancient socio-historical setting
- To gain knowledge of some of the scholarly debates surrounding Philippians

Being

- To grow personally and ministerially in the ideals embodied by Philippians

Doing

- To be able to paraphrase the text of Philippians by memory
- To improve in the enterprise of biblical interpretation
- To apply the message of Philippians to contemporary audiences

Required texts

- An English translation of the New Testament
- M. Silva, *Philippians*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)
- Additional text: TBD

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Recommended internet sites

Bible Gateway (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>)

The NT Gateway (<http://www.ntgateway.com/>)

Learning tasks

Class Engagement: 10%

- Students will be graded based on the quality of their participation in classroom discussions

End-of-Term Test: 10%

- Students will write out a paraphrase of Philippians from memory
 - In class
 - Approx. time limit: TBD

Exegetical Critique: 15%

- Students will offer a critique of a commentator's exegesis of any pericope in Philippians
 - Commentator and pericope must be pre-approved by the instructor
 - This is to be *the student's* critique of a commentator and not that of another commentator
 - Technical guidelines: 2-3 pages; 1" margins; double spaced; 12-pt. Time New Roman font

Pauline Intersection Paper: 20%

- Students will use their understanding of Philippians to comment on how Philippians contributes to one of the two following larger academic debates in Pauline thought: Paul and the Law OR Paul and Jesus.
 - Technical guidelines: 4-5 pages; 1" margins; double spaced; 12-pt. Time New Roman font

Application Paper: 15%

- Students will use their understanding of Philippians to apply its teaching to a question of clear pastoral relevance
 - The student's question/issue must be pre-approved by the instructor
 - Technical guidelines: 2-3 pages; 1" margins; double spaced; 12-pt. Time New Roman font

Midi-Exegetical Paper: 30%

- Students will choose a short passage in Philippians—different than the one chosen for their exegetical critique—and offer an analysis of this short text
 - The student's passage should only be 1-2 sentences (or 1-3 verses) long:
 - E.g., 1:6; 1:9-11; 1:19-20; 1:21; 2:12-13; 3:3
 - Technical guidelines: 4-6 pages; 1" margins; double spaced; 12-pt. Time New Roman font
 - In analyzing the text, the student must apply the "hermeneutical spiral"

COLLEGE STYLE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All written work is to be submitted in accordance with the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses*, available on the McMaster Divinity College website.

Course outline

October 1

- Welcome, introduction, and course overview
- Paul's socio-historical context
- Focus: Phil 1:1-26

October 22

- Assigned reading *prior* to class: Silva: Introduction; commentary on 1:1-2:30
- *Assignment due: Exegetical Critique*
- Focus: Phil 1:27-2:30

November 19

- Assigned reading *prior* to class: Silva on 3:1-4:1
- *Assignments due: Intersection Paper and Application Paper*
- Focus: Phil 3:1-4:1

December 10

- Assigned reading *prior* to class: Silva on 4:2-23
- *Assignment due: Midi-Exegetical paper*
- *End-of-term Test*
- Focus: Phil 4:2-23

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV, NLT, and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.