

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
NT 634 - Galatians

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Units: 3
Term: Fall 2007
Time: Tuesday, 6-9 pm

Course Description

A seminar on Paul's Letter to the Galatians to determine its meaning for Christian churches in the first and twenty-first centuries. The course will be a reading/lecture/discussion class.

Course Objectives

1. Develop first-hand knowledge of and familiarity with the text of Galatians in its first century socio-political-religious context.
2. Develop an understanding of the nature of epistolary literature.
3. Work toward a biblical exegetical methodology
4. Reflect on the meaning of Galatians for contemporary churches in different cultural settings.

MBBS Program Objectives

This course contributes to the larger goals of the Seminary program by helping the student:

1. Discern the subject-matter to which the biblical texts gives witness then and now (biblical formation).
2. Develop skills in sound biblical exegesis and interpretation (ministry formation).
3. Engage the hermeneutical task by exploring how to interpret the biblical text for the contemporary Christian community (ecclesial formation).
4. Nurture healthy interpersonal relationships and effective communication patterns in the classroom (character formation).

Textbooks

Galatians in Greek or a modern translation, e.g., NRSV, NIT.

Richard N. Longenecker, Galatians, Word Biblical Commentary. Word Books, 1990.

Mark D. Baker, Religious No More. Whiph and Stock, 1999.

Course Schedule (subject to revision)

August 28 Introduction to the Class Syllabus
 Introduction to Paul
 Read: Baker, 13-71
September 4 Introduction to Galatians

Galatians 1.1-11
Read: Longenecker, xlii-cxix, 1-25
Baker, 72-78

September 11 Galatians 1.12-24
Read: Longenecker, 25-42
Baker

September 18 Galatians 2.1-10
Read: Longenecker, 43-62

September 25 Galatians 2.11-21
Student Seminar: Galatians 2.11-21
Read: Longenecker, 62-96
Baker, 79-116

October 2 Galatians 3.1-14
Student seminar: Galatians 3.1-5
Student seminar: Galatians 3.6-14
Read: Longenecker, 97-125
Baker, 116-118

October 9 **Module Week - No class**

October 16 Galatians 3.15-25
Student seminar: Galatians 3.15-18
Student seminar: Galatians 3.19-25
Read: Longenecker, 125-150
Baker, 118-124

October 23 Galatians 3.26-4.11
Student seminar: Galatians 3.26-29
Student seminar: Galatians 4.1-11
Read: Longenecker, 150-183
Baker, 124-125

October 30 Galatians 4.12-20
Student seminar: Galatians 4.12-20
Read: Longenecker, 184-197

November 6 Galatians 4.21-5.12
Student seminar: Galatians 4.21-5.1
Student seminar: Galatians 5.2-12
Read: Longenecker, 197-225
Baker, 125-129

- November 13 Galatians 5.13-26
 Student seminar: Galatians 5.13-26
 Read: Longenecker, 225-267
 Baker, 129-135
- November 20 Galatians 6.1-10
 Student seminar: Galatians 6.1-10
 Read: Longenecker, 267-284
- November 27 Galatians 6.11-18
 Student seminar: Galatians 6.11-18
 Read: Longenecker, 284-301
- December 4 Theology of Galatians - Toews
 Theological Reflections on Galatians - Discussion of the Baker book

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation in class.
2. The reading of the assigned biblical text and commentary readings for each class.
3. Lead a seminar session on the designated text unit for Galatians. Using Longnecker as a starting point, help the class understand where you agree/disagree with Longnecker, where you would take a different approach/interpretation, how you think the text unit is relevant for the contemporary church. Use a minimum of three other commentaries and three journal articles to inform your response to Longnecker's understanding of the text. Submit three text unit preferences on September 4. See the Course Bibliography for a list of commentaries on reserve in the Hiebert Library, for a list of the major monographs on Galatians, and for tools to access journal literature. **Due: On class date of that text unit (see above).** Email Professor Toews your presentation notes the day before class.
4. Write an 10-15 page exegetical paper on the text unit of the seminar. **Due: November 27**
5. Write and preach a 20 minute sermon (about 8 pages) on a theme from Galatians, e.g., God, salvation, Holy Spirit. Solicit and report feedback on the sermon from three persons in the congregation, and write a self-evaluation of the preaching experience. Non-pastors may write and teach an adult Bible study. Share your application of the text (s) as part of the class discussions of relevant text units. **Sermon manuscript and feedback reports/self-evaluation due: December 4.**

Course Grading

Class attendance and participation	10%
Seminar Session	40%
Exegetical paper	30%
Sermon	20%

Course Notes

Academic Policies.

MBBS academic policies are described at www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean

Inclusive Language. Inclusive and/or non-discriminatory language is expected in the class and in all assignments.

Evaluation. The Research Paper will be assessed according to the following categories: appropriateness, clarity, comprehensiveness, creativity, argumentation, form, and care (see *Appendix A*).

All assignments must be completed to be eligible to earn a passing grade for the course.

“Student work will be evaluated by two standards: a) by what is considered the appropriate level of graduate performance, and b) by comparison with work submitted in a given class” (Academic Policies).

The letter grades follow the MBBS Grading Template: A (100-94%), A- (93-90%), B+ (89-87%), B (86-83%), B- (82-80%), C+ (79-77%), C (76-73%), C- (72-70%), and F (69-0%).

The performance expectations are as follows: A ‘B’ grade is the baseline. A ‘B’ grade means the student is doing satisfactory work. The ‘B+’ or higher grade indicates that the student has exceeded the baseline performance standard. The ‘C’ grade indicates that the student has not achieved the baseline level” (Academic Policies).

Due dates. All assignments are to be submitted on or before the due dates posted in the syllabus. Late assignments will be graded down 2% for each day (or part thereof) after the due date. The late penalty may not apply to students who have a documented emergency which prevents them from submitting the assignment on the due date. Check with the instructor to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

Formatting specifications. Any of the three standard citation styles is acceptable (Chicago, APA, or MLA). Choose one and follow it consistently. Consult *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1999) which is in the Reference Section (Ref PN 147.S26) or Slade’s, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses*, 11th ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Summary of Important Course Dates

Text selection for seminar/paper	September 4
Seminar	See syllabus for date
Exegetical paper	November 27
Sermon manuscript	December 4

APPENDIX A: EVALUATION TEMPLATE

EVALUATION of *Exegetical Paper* for _____ (student)

- _____ APPROPRIATENESS (re: compliance with assignment criteria)
 - suitable/fitting/apropos
 - irrelevant/unrelated/improper
- _____ ARGUMENTATION (re: development of topic/arrangement of critique)
 - reasonable/coherent/sequential
 - rambles/disjointed/illogical
- _____ CLARITY (re: style of writing)
 - flowing/lucid/succinct
 - broken/obscure/repetitive
- _____ COMPREHENSIVENESS (re: coverage of topic or depth of analysis)
 - thorough/extensive/deep
 - superficial/sketchy/shallow
- _____ CREATIVITY (re: reader reception)
 - novel/fresh/innovative
 - ordinary/average/routine
- _____ FORM (re: spelling, grammar, diction, and citation conventions)
 - correct/accurate/appropriate
 - incorrect/sloppy/inappropriate
- _____ CARE (re: quality of presentation)
 - tidy/legible/impressive
 - untidy/illegible/distracting