

NT 5XL5/6XL6 – Dealing with a Difficult Church: A Study in 1 Corinthians

McMaster Divinity College
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Fall 2022
Tuesday 9:00–10:50am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As all Christian leaders know, churches are hard to deal with—and Paul's congregation in Corinth was no exception. In this course, we will examine 1 Corinthians, in which Paul expresses his displeasure at a wide range of problems plaguing the community. By reflecting upon Paul's concerns and the way that he addresses them, we can learn about church leadership and better appreciate the complexities that emerge whenever the proclamation of the kingdom of God produces a community that needs to operate within an existing culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through their active participation in this course, students will:

Knowing

- Know the basic outline of 1 Corinthians;
- Have familiarity with the historical setting of 1 Corinthians;
- Understand the major theological and ethical teachings found in 1 Corinthians;

Being

- Appreciate the importance of participating in critical and respectful discussions concerning biblical texts;
- Be sensitive to the historical and cultural environment in which the early church first communicated the gospel;
- Be more competent interpreters of Paul;
- Embody a more cruciform way of life;

Doing

- Read books that engage with 1 Corinthians in a careful and critical manner;
- Engage in doctoral-level research that invokes 1 Corinthians in a responsible manner.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: You are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *Written assignments must be uploaded to Avenue to Learn either as Word documents (.doc, .docx) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf). A penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all late*

assignments, including assignments submitted in incorrect file formats. Assignments cannot be submitted after December 9th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (strickpd@mcmaster.ca).

NT 5XL5/6XL6: Class Participation (10%)

During each class meeting, we will discuss three things: (1) what Paul's words likely meant in their *ancient* social and historical setting; (2) what Paul's message to the Corinthians reveals *in general* about the kingdom of God and the work of the Spirit in individuals and communities; and (3) how the kingdom and the Spirit are manifest (or might be made more manifest) in *contemporary* individuals and communities. Doctoral students are expected to exemplify a level of engagement towards which other students can aspire.

Attendance at weekly meetings is expected, because class discussions are a significant part of the overall learning experience. If an absence is unavoidable, please email me in advance.

NT 5XL5: Annotated Bibliography (25%)

DPT students will produce an annotated bibliography that surveys recent biblical scholarship involving 1 Corinthians. This bibliography must include at least 15 resources (including at most three commentaries) for a total of around 3,000–4,000 pages of reading. The included resources should display the full range of New Testament studies, exemplifying a variety of different questions and approaches as well as different confessional and/or non-confessional perspectives. Each annotation should, in approximately 100–150 words, summarize the content of a particular resource and its distinctive contribution to scholarship. It is due according to the Course Schedule below.

NT 5XL5: 1 Corinthians for Non-Dummies (25%)

Drawing upon the above annotated bibliography, DPT students will compose an introduction to 1 Corinthians such as would be suitable for a graduate student (or alum) seeking to think and speak about Paul's letter without being ignorant of contemporary scholarship. This overview should touch on the main issues that impact our understanding of 1 Corinthians and/or its importance for subsequent Christian history and theology. While you need not attempt to be unbiased, it is not the focus of the assignment to advocate for a particular point of view. Instead, focus on laying a general foundation for more specialized research. The paper will be approximately 3,000 words. It is due according to the Course Schedule below.

NT 6XL6: Survey of the Relevance of 1 Corinthians to NT Scholarship (35%)

In lieu of a bibliography, PhD students will write an essay that surveys the primary ways in which 1 Corinthians has been engaged by NT scholarship. If there are important neglected areas, these too should be discussed. The essay need not advance innovative hypotheses or arguments, but it should demonstrate familiarity with contemporary scholarship as regards 1 Corinthians. The paper must be approximately 5,000 words in length. It is due according to the Course Schedule below.

NT 6XL6: Course Syllabus (15%)

PhD students will prepare a course syllabus designed for a college or seminary course. The course must deal with 1 Corinthians and must be intended for a post-secondary institution. Although the format of the course and syllabus are not prescribed, your syllabus must clearly define not only the content and organization of the course but also its objectives. In a supplementary document, you must explain in brief paragraphs how each component of the course contributes the overall objectives. The syllabus and accompanying explanation are due according to the Course Schedule below.

NT 5XL5/6XL6: Research Paper (40%)

In consultation with both the professor and their doctoral supervisor, DPT students will define an area of intersection that involves both 1 Corinthians and the student's own practice-led research. A research paper will then be written in which the student explores this area of intersection and thereby advances scholarly understanding of his or her practice. For PhD students, this paper can pursue any line of inquiry that is relevant to 1 Corinthians and potentially publishable as a piece of New Testament scholarship. Research papers must be approximately 8,000 words in length. They are due according to the Course Schedule below.

GRADING SUMMARY**NT 5XL5**

Participation	10%
Annotated Bibliography	25%
1 Corinthians for Non-Dummies	25%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

NT 6XL6

Participation	10%
Survey	35%
Course Syllabus	15%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to possess the following:

An English translation of the New Testament.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the MDC chapel entrance. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5

International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON, M9A 3C3: phone 416.620.2934; mobile 416.668.3434; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Class Topics	Passages	DPT Assignments Due (@ 11:59pm)	PhD Assignments Due (@ 11:59pm)
Sep 13	Welcome & Introduction			
Sep 20	The Historical Setting of 1 Corinthians	16:1–21		
Sep 27	Sophistication in a Culture of Arrogance	1:10–2:5		
Oct 4	Collaboration in a Culture of Competition	2:6–4:13		
Oct 11	Purity in an Impure Culture	4:14–6:20		
Oct 18	Cultural Institutions in the Shadow of Apocalypse	7:1–40	Bibliography	Survey
Oct 25	Intensive Hybrid Week (No Class)			
Nov 1	Self-Sacrifice in a Culture of Rights and Privileges	8:1–9:23	Non-Dummies	
Nov 8	Fear in a Culture of Idolatry	9:24–11:1		
Nov 15	Dignity in a Male-Dominated Culture	11:2–16		
*Nov 22	Solidarity in a Culture of Inequality	11:17–34		Research Paper
Nov 29	Love in a Culture of Self-Promotion	12:1– 14:40		
Dec 6	Anticipation in a Culture of Instant Gratification	15:1–58	Research Paper	Syllabus

* Professor Away

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Grammatical Guides (these require Greek)

Brookins, Timothy A., and Bruce W. Longenecker. *1 Corinthians 1–9: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.

Brookins, Timothy A., and Bruce W. Longenecker. *1 Corinthians 10–16: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.

Ellingworth, Paul and Howard Hatton. *A Handbook on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. UBS Handbooks. New York: United Bible Societies, 1995.

Commentaries (* indicates discussion of Greek)

Barrett, C. K. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. HNTC. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.

Blomberg, Craig L. *1 Corinthians*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Bray, Gerald L., ed. *Commentaries on Romans and 1–2 Corinthians*. ACT. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009.

Bruce, F. F. *First and Second Corinthians*. NCB. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Campbell, Charles L. *1 Corinthians*. Belief. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

Ciampa, Roy E., and Brian S. Rosner. *The First Letter to the Corinthians*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

*Collins, Raymond. *First Corinthians*. SP. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007.

*Conzelmann, Hans. *1 Corinthians*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.

*Fee, Gordon. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 2nd ed., 2014.

*Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *First Corinthians: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Yale Bible 32. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Gardner, Paul. *1 Corinthians*. ZECNT. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

*Garland, David E. *1 Corinthians*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Harrisville, Roy H. *1 Corinthians*. ACNT. Minneapolis, Augsburg, 1987.

Hays, Richard B. *First Corinthians*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Horsley, Richard A. *1 Corinthians*. ANTC. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

Johnson, Alan F. *1 Corinthians*. IVP NTC 7. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Keener, Craig. S. *1–2 Corinthians*. NCBT. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Lockwood, Gregory. *1 Corinthians*. ConcC. St. Louis: Concordia, 2000.

Oropeza, B. J. *1 Corinthians*. NCCS. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2017.

Powers, B. Ward. *First Corinthians: An Exegetical and Explanatory Commentary*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2008.

*Robertson, A. T. and Alfred Plummer. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. ICC. Edinburgh: Clark, 1911.

*Thiselton, Anthony C. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Conflict and Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Wright, N. T. *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

So that you can benefit as much as possible from the class sessions, please note the following expectations.

1. Please respect the opinions of others, even if you do not agree with them. Extend courtesy by not ridiculing others' ideas, but feel free to respond to them logically and critically and in an orderly manner.
2. Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation after class to the professor.
3. Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.
4. Students may eat and drink in class so long as they do not distract others or leave a mess behind.
5. Students should not engage in anything during class time that prevents them from focusing and participating in class discussions.
6. Students are not to carry on private conversations in class. If something is unclear, the whole class will benefit by a question being asked out loud.
7. Cell phones and related devices are to be silenced during class. If a student must for some reason accept a phone call, he or she ought to discretely leave the class in order to do so.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines may be asked to leave the class.

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 (<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>).

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for plagiarism detection. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com can submit an electronic copy of their work via email in PDF format and no penalty will be assigned, but all submitted work is subject to normal verification standards in order to ensure that academic integrity has been upheld (e.g. online search).

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class. The binding version of the syllabus is the one posted to Avenue to Learn (A2L).