

The Corinthian Letters

PhD: CHTH G105–C01

MA: NT 6ZT6

McMaster Divinity College
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Fall 2017 (Term 1)
Monday 10:30am–12:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of scholarly issues related to 1 and 2 Corinthians and an opportunity to pursue specialized research involving the letters. Selected primary and secondary texts will be assigned as required seminar preparation, and seminar discussions will assess the current state of scholarship as regards key topics. The semester will culminate in a research paper that in some way advances our understanding of Paul's Corinthian correspondence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be given an opportunity to:

Knowing

- Become familiar with key works that have impacted the interpretation of 1 and 2 Corinthians;
- Recognize the current state of scholarship as regards these letters;
- Formulate well-informed opinions about the letters;
- Become an expert on at least one specific area related to the letters.

Being

- Become a charitable giver and receiver of critical comments from fellow scholars;
- Become a critical thinker able to produce well-reasoned arguments and carefully assess the arguments of others;
- Reflect critically upon the complexities of the Corinthian situation and its implications for Christian theology, ethics, and ministry.

Doing

- Practice engaging in peer review;
- Practice examining the Greek New Testament;
- Write an effective research paper.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

As a graduate seminar in Christian Theology, this course presumes a general familiarity with the New Testament and with the Pauline letters in particular. Students are also expected to have competency in Greek and to have the skills required for the production of graduate-level research papers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

NB: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. If a student fails to make a valid attempt at any one of these requirements, this will constitute grounds for failure of the course.

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 12th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (thomn@mcmaster.ca)

1. Seminar Preparation (20%). Each week, students will prepare for the seminar meeting by reading through assigned portions of 1 and 2 Corinthians and assigned secondary literature (both available via Avenue to Learn). The biblical passage(s) should be translated into English, and any comments or questions on the readings (both primary and/or secondary) should be noted using the hypothes.is annotation platform (to be presented during the initial class meeting). Seminar preparation notes must be completed **prior to each seminar meeting**.
2. Seminar Participation (10%). Students are expected to attend each seminar and to participate in seminar discussions. Comments and/or questions should demonstrate not only that the student is acquainted with the relevant primary and secondary literature, but that he or she has critically assessed the literature and formulated some ideas with regard to future work. In the event that a student is unable to attend a seminar meeting *due to extenuating circumstances*, the student is expected to discuss his or her absence with the professor in a punctual manner (preferably *in writing* in advance of the missed meeting).
3. Seminar Presentation (20%). Over the course of the semester, students will take turns giving seminar presentations, with the relevant participation schedule to be developed during the initial seminar meeting. (Once formulated, the schedule will be considered binding such that any changes will require permission from the professor.) Each presentation will begin with the distribution of an up-to-date annotated bibliography. The presentation will then be thirty minutes in length, followed by thirty minutes of questions from seminar participants.

The distributed bibliographies should list at least seventy-five sources. Older sources and foreign language sources should not be neglected. Annotations should describe the most significant works (or works whose relevance might otherwise be obscure), with the length of each annotation at the discretion of the student (in some cases, a single sentence will suffice). An introduction to Zotero (www.zotero.org) will be presented during the first seminar meeting, and it is expected that students will compile their bibliographies using the seminar Zotero group. All bibliographic corrections received from the professor must be incorporated into the Zotero group library **prior to the end of the semester**. To accelerate your work, please note the two following resources: (1) Bieringer, Reimund, Emmanuel Nathan, and Dominika A. Kurek-Chomycz. *2 Corinthians: A Bibliography*. Biblical Tools and Studies 5. Leuven: Peeters, 2008; (2) an online bibliography made available through the Corinthian Studies Zotero Group, available at https://www.zotero.org/groups/corinthian_studies/items.

The seminar presentations should not summarize the bibliography or its annotations, but should be synthetic overviews that systematically organize the relevant material. The goal is to sketch the history and present state of the field and to identify unresolved issues pertaining to data, method, presuppositions, argumentation, etc. By the end of the presentation, seminar participants should be left with a clear understanding of the assigned research area and the potential it affords for future research.

4. Research Paper (40%). Each student will write a research paper on a topic of his or her own choosing (provided that the topic relates directly to the Corinthian letters). The paper is to be 7,000 words in length and it is due at **11:59pm on November 20th**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective research paper, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.
5. Peer Review (10%). Once all of the research papers have been submitted, they will be randomly distributed to participants in the seminar. Each participant will then assess a fellow student's paper in a manner such as would be used for a peer-reviewed journal (i.e. it should assess the work both in terms of its internal argument and in terms of its contribution to the field, making explicit reference to key developments, authors, and works where relevant). To facilitate this process, students will be given a peer-review rubric that details five criteria and that asks the reviewer to assign a score out of ten for each criterion, giving reasons for the assigned score in written paragraphs. The peer review should include a brief introduction that summarizes the article under consideration, a distinct section for each of the required criteria, and a brief conclusion that summarizes the overall results of the review (see the handout for details). The peer review must be uploaded to A2L before **11:59pm on April 7th** and it must be 2,500 words in length.

GRADING SUMMARY

Seminar Preparation	20%
Seminar Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Research Paper	40%
Peer Review	10%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to own a standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th–28th ed.), UBS (3rd–5th ed.) or Westcott-Hort.

The assigned readings listed in the schedule below will be distributed electronically and/or placed reserve at Mills Library, with the exception of the following:

Land, Christopher D. *The Integrity of 2 Corinthians and Paul's Aggravating Absence*. New Testament Monographs 36. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2015.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Seminar Agenda
Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Course • Scheduling of Student Participation • Presentation of Peer-Review Rubric • Introduction to Zotero • Introduction to Hypothes.is
Sep 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: 1 Corinthians (Integrity, Register, Structure) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD

Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: 2 Corinthians (Integrity, Register, Structure) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: The City of Corinth (History, Geography, Archaeology, Sociology) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Oct 9	No Class (Thanksgiving)
Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Chronology of Paul and Corinth (Visits, Letters, Partnerships) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: The Church in Corinth (Membership, Structure, Practices) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Other Christian Leaders and Corinth (Colleagues, Critics, Conflicts) • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Rhetoric in 1 & 2 Corinthians • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Apocalyptic Eschatology in 1 & 2 Corinthians • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Nov 20	No Class (ETS/IBR/SBL Annual Meetings)
Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Ecclesiology & Leadership in 1 & 2 Corinthians • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD

Dec 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Ethics in 1 & 2 Corinthians • Primary Text(s): TBD • Secondary Text(s): TBD
Dec 11	Concluding Discussion & Course Evaluations

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

In this course, a web-based service will be used for plagiarism detection (Turnitin.com). 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 still 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:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf>

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 of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV 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 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.