

**Greek Exegesis (Galatians)**  
**NT 2J03/6J06**  
**Preaching Galatians Using Greek**  
**NT 2G03**

McMaster Divinity College  
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Winter 2018 (Term 2)  
Monday, 3:30–5:20pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Being able to read the Greek New Testament opens up the possibility of a deeper and richer encounter with the scriptures. Also, being able to explicitly analyze the possible meaning(s) of a Greek wording makes it possible to discuss with clarity the foundation on which all interpretive and theological discussions must rest. In this class, students will grow in their ability to read and analyze the Greek New Testament through assigned readings and exercises, as well as through classroom lectures and discussions. By the end of the course, students will be better able to read through a passage of the Greek New Testament and appreciate how the wording of the text factors into interpretive debates regarding its meaning.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through their active participation in this course, students will:

***Knowing***

- Understand how languages make meanings;
- Recognize more Greek words;
- Learn about the grammatical structures of Greek (i.e. words, word groups and clauses).

***Being***

- Appreciate the benefits of collaborative close reading;
- Become humble interpreters who are moving towards competency in Greek;
- Practice listening carefully to the original wording of the New Testament.

***Doing***

- Learn how to use a textual apparatus (NT 2J03/6J06);
- Learn how to use a Greek lexicon properly;
- Learn how to analyze Greek wordings as meaningful structures (NT 2J03/6J06);
- Practice moving from the Greek text to responsible interpretations and applications.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Prerequisite courses are: NT 1B03 and NT 1C03, or NT 1G03 and NT 1H03 (or equivalent).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *Unless otherwise stated, all 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 April 11th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar ([thomn@mcmaster.ca](mailto:thomn@mcmaster.ca)).*

**NT 2J03****Vocabulary Quizzes (10%)**

On each of the starred dates in the calendar below, each student must complete a brief vocabulary quiz using A2L. Students can take the quiz up to five times (receiving randomly selected items each time), with the highest achieved score counting towards the final grade. The vocabulary for the quizzes includes all of the words assigned in Porter, Reed, and O'Donnell, *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010). The relevant vocabulary lists are available on A2L, and some free study aids are available at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com). Students can also use the practice quiz on A2L, which contains all of the words assigned in the course, broken down into the four groups that are used (cumulatively) in the quizzes.

**Seminar Preparation (40%)**

Each week, students in NT 2J03 will read the assigned chapter(s) in Emig and Mathewson and then prepare a brief summary that condenses the main points of the reading (approx. 1–2 pages in bullet-point). This can be done in written paragraphs or in organized bullet points.

Students will then use their existing knowledge of Greek to read through an assigned passage from Galatians and to produce their own English translation. While working through the passage, students will also record their observations and questions related to its wording, its meaning, and its contemporary significance. This can be done in whatever format is most convenient, including commentary-style paragraphs, organized bullet points, footnotes related to specific parts of the passage, etc. It is expected that students will consult at least one suitable commentary (see below) while doing their work, and that their interaction with the commentary will be evident in the written notes (i.e. do not just include some quotations, but discuss the issues).

The grammar summaries should be uploaded in Word or RTF format to A2L before class each week. The translations and annotations, however, should be brought to class in hard copy so that the student can read from it, discuss it, and then turn it in to the professor at the end of class.

### **Seminar Participation (20%)**

Students are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions. For those weeks where a passage from the Greek New Testament is being discussed, each student will receive credit for showing up to class prepared to read aloud from the Greek, to contribute his or her own English translation, and to inquire about anything that remains unclear following the online collaborative reading. If a student is unable to attend class *due to extenuating circumstances*, the relevant classes (to a limit of two) will be factored out of the participation grade—provided the student discusses his or her absence with the professor in a punctual manner (preferably in advance of the missed class).

### **Exegetical Paper (30%)**

Students in NT 2J03 will submit a 4,000-word paper that applies their knowledge of the Greek language to the exegesis of Galatians (see A2L for details on how to write an exegetical paper). The paper must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses* and must demonstrate careful interaction with the Greek New Testament. It will be due on **April 9th at 11:59pm**.

### **GRADING SUMMARY (NT 2J03)**

Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Seminar Preparation	40%
Seminar Participation	20%
<u>Exegetical Paper</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

### **NT 2G03**

#### **Vocabulary Quizzes (10%)**

Students in NT 2G03 will take the same A2L vocabulary quizzes as students in NT 2J03.

#### **Seminar Preparation (20%)**

Students in NT 2G03 will undertake seminar preparation alongside students in NT 2J03, including the grammar summaries, the submission of a rough English translation, and the comments and questions with commentary interaction. The assessment of these activities, however, will reflect the competencies expected of students who have selected the pastoral languages option (e.g. it is expected that students will primarily explore and discuss the meaning and contemporary significance of Galatians, making comments on the Greek where relevant).

**Seminar Participation (10%)**

Students in NT 2G03 are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions together with other students in the course.

**Exegetical Research (30%)**

Each student in NT 2G03 will exegete, using the skills developed in the course, a passage of their own choosing from the Epistle to the Galatians. First, the student will use their grammatical skills and tools (e.g. grammars and lexicons) in order to examine their chosen passage. This work will be written up and submitted as *at least three pages* (single-spaced bullet-points) of preliminary notes and annotations on the Greek text. Second, the student will consult the academic literature relevant to their chosen passage and then incorporate that literature into *at least three pages* of organized exegetical notes (single-spaced bullet-points). A minimum of ten scholarly resources must be cited (i.e. academic books and journal articles). The notes must follow the outline provided on A2L, concluding with a well-formatted bibliography. Third, the student will write at least one page (double-spaced) that situates their chosen passage within its ancient literary, sociological, and historical contexts and that culminates with a thesis concerning the original historical and social function of the passage. Fourth, the student will make a proposal regarding the contemporary relevance of the chosen passage within some specific contemporary context, providing a one page (double-spaced) explanation that justifies the student's contemporary application. The assignment is due on **February 26th at 11:59pm**.

**Expository Sermon (30%)**

Each student in NT 2G03 will write a sermon on their chosen passage from Galatians (see above) that responsibly exegetes the text and then applies it to contemporary life. Although the sermon need not explicitly discuss the Greek (generally, this is a bad idea!), it must draw upon the student's existing exegesis of the text (see above) and must use footnotes to supply supporting discussion and citations for any exegetical work not already developed in the earlier exegetical research. The main body of the sermon should be around 3,000 words in length. The overall submission must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*, including a title page and bibliography. It is due on **March 19th at 11:59pm**.

**GRADING SUMMARY (NT 2G03)**

Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Seminar Preparation	20%
Seminar Participation	10%
Exegetical Paper	30%
<u>Expository Sermon</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

**NT 6J06****Vocabulary Quizzes (0%)**

Students in NT 6J06 must complete the same vocabulary quizzes as professional degree students, although they will not count towards the final grade.

**Seminar Preparation and Follow-up (40%)**

Students in NT 6J06 will undertake the same seminar preparation as students in NT 2J03 (consulting both Porter's *Idioms* and Mathewson & Emig's *Intermediate Greek Grammar*), but their written grammar summaries will be of Downing's *English Grammar*. Comments and questions on the assigned New Testament passage must reflect the competencies expected of advanced degree students. In addition, advanced degree students are expected to interact not only with a single commentary, but with the relevant secondary literature more broadly considered.

**Seminar Participation (20%)**

Students in NT 6J06 are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions together with professional degree students.

**Research Paper (40%)**

Research degree students will submit a text-oriented paper that analyzes the language of Galatians in order to clarify or resolve a specific interpretive issue. The focus of the paper can be either the Greek language in general (with some application to Galatians) or a specific passage in Galatians (with reference to general features of the Greek language). The paper must be 7,000 words in length and must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*. It is due on **April 9th at 11:59pm**.

**GRADING SUMMARY (NT 6J06)**

Vocabulary Quizzes	0%
Seminar Preparation	40%
Seminar Participation	20%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

**TEXTBOOKS**

All students are required to possess the following:

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (26th–28th ed.) or the UBS *Greek New Testament* (4th–5th ed.).

A suitable Greek–English lexicon (see bibliography below).

A suitable commentary on Galatians (see bibliography below).

Mathewson, David, and Elodie Ballantine Emig. *Intermediate Greek Grammar: Syntax for Students of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Students in NT 6I06 are also required to possess the following:

Downing, Angela. *English Grammar: A University Course*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Students are recommended to possess (or have access to) the following:

A parsing tool, such as biblewebapp.com, Bibleworks, Logos, or Accordance.

Porter, Stanley E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994

[Professional Students:] Omanson, Roger L. *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament: An Adaptation of Bruce M. Metzger's Textual Commentary for the Needs of Translators*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.

[Advanced Degree Students:] Metzger, Bruce Manning. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994.

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](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates * = Quiz ▶ = Prof. Away	Written Assignments (Due @ 11:59pm)	Grammar Summaries (Due Before Class)	Assigned Passage (Due at Seminar)
Jan 8		Introduction	
Jan 15		E&M Ch. 1	Gal 1:1–5
*Jan 22		E&M Chs. 2–3	Gal 1:1–10
Jan 29		E&M Chs. 4–5	Gal 1:11–24

Feb 5		E&M Ch. 6	Gal 2:1–14
*Feb 12		E&M Ch. 7	Gal 2:15–3:6
Feb 19	Reading Week (No Class)		
Feb 26	Exegetical Notes (2G03)	E&M Ch. 8	Gal 3:7–20
*Mar 5		E&M Ch. 9	Gal 3:21–4:11
Mar 12		E&M Ch. 10	Gal 4:12–5:1
Mar 19	Sermon (2G03)	E&M Ch. 11	Gal 5:2–15
*Mar 26		E&M Ch. 12	Gal 5:16–6:6
Apr 2		E&M Ch. 13	Gal 6:7–18
Apr 9	Exegetical Paper (2J03) Research Paper (6J06)	Concluding Class Discussion	

### SUITABLE GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICONS

[BDAG:] Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Danker, Frederick W. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

[LSJ:] Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. [Available @ <http://www.tlg.uci.edu/lsg/>] [8th edition available @ <https://archive.org/details/cu31924012909697>]

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889. [Available @ <https://archive.org/details/intermediategree00lidd>]

Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.

Thayer, J.H., *A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament*. New York: American Book Company, 1897. [Available @ <https://archive.org/details/04508981.1536.emory.edu>]

### **SUITABLE COMMENTARIES ON GALATIANS**

Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Boer, Martinus C. de. *Galatians: A Commentary*. NTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011.

Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Burton, Ernest DeWitt. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*. ICC. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1988.

Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

Longenecker, Richard N. *Galatians*. WBC 41. Dallas: Word, 1990.

Martyn, J. Louis. *Galatians: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. AB 33A. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

Matera, Frank J. *Galatians*. SP 9. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2007.

Meyer, Heinrich August Wilhelm. *Critical and Exegetical Hand-Book to the Epistle to the Galatians*. Translated by G. H. Venables. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1884.

Moo, Douglas J. *Galatians*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

### **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, 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://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdc\\_styleguide.pdf](https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdc_styleguide.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.**