

Galatians

NT 2E03

McMaster Divinity College
Dr. Christopher D. Land
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Winter 2015
Monday 3:30–5:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians is sometimes neglected on account of its more famous cousin, Paul's letter to the Romans. Yet Paul's intensely passionate and controversial personality comes out far more clearly in the earlier Galatian letter than it does in the more measured and diplomatic Roman letter. In Galatians, Paul is surprised, disturbed, and angry. He is lashing out at Christian leaders whose behavior he regards as a betrayal of the radical message of Jesus. In this course, we will examine the text of Galatians and discuss the various historical, hermeneutical, theological and social issues that it raises. We will also explore the contemporary relevance of Paul's letter, particularly its insistence that the gospel must be embodied radically inclusive communities.

SPECIALIZATIONS

Biblical Studies (BS)

Students taking Galatians as a Biblical Studies course will be encouraged to explore the historical and cultural settings of Galatians, as well as recent discussions surrounding Pauline theology.

Pastoral Studies (PS)

Students taking Galatians as a Pastoral Studies (PS) course will be encouraged to explore how the message of Galatians is relevant for Christian faith and practice in the 21st century.

Christian Worldview (CW)

Students taking Galatians as a Christian Worldview (CW) course will be encouraged to explore how Paul's worldview relates to others both in the ancient world and in the 21st century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be encouraged to:

Knowing

- Remember the basic outline of Galatians
- Become familiar with introductory issues and scholarly debates concerning Galatians

- Understand the major theological teachings found in Galatians

Being

- Appreciate the importance of participating in critical and respectful discussions concerning biblical texts
- Become sensitive to the historical and cultural environment in which the early church first communicated the gospel
- Become competent interpreters of Paul
- Embody the passion that is so evident throughout Paul's letter to the Galatians

Doing

- Read books that engage with Galatians in a careful and critical manner
- Take time to reflect on the meaning of Galatians
- Talk intelligently about Galatians
- Discuss how Galatians is relevant to contemporary Christianity

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *Each written assignment should be uploaded in PDF format to the designated Avenue to Learn dropbox. Assignments cannot be submitted after April 10 without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (thomn@mcmaster.ca).*

1. Reading and Class Participation. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions. In addition, students should read both the relevant portion of Galatians and the relevant portion of the required commentary prior to each class session (see the schedule below).
2. Small Group Discussions (10%). During each class session, students will gather in small groups in order to reflect upon Galatians and discuss its contemporary relevance. Then, at the end of the semester, each student will complete a brief evaluation form, evaluating the level of interest and insight demonstrated by the other students in his or her discussion group. On the basis of these evaluations, each student will be assigned a small group participation grade. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes effective group participation, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.
3. Reading Response (25%). Each student will read a book corresponding to their specialization (see below) and then submit a written response that answers each of the questions listed below. Although the questions can be answered independently using a new heading for each, the thoughts included in each answer must be well organized and clearly presented in full paragraphs (i.e. these are to be formal responses). The entire reading response must be at least 1,500 words and must follow the "McMaster Divinity

College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.” It is due at **11:59pm on Friday, February 13**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective reading response, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.

4. Final Written Assignment (35%). For the major written assignment in this course, each student will write an exegetical paper that is approximately 3,000 words in length and that follows the “McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.” The paper must exegete a well-defined passage in Galatians, focusing on both the ancient text and its contemporary relevance. Before beginning to write this paper, students should discuss their proposed passage with the professor in order to confirm its suitability. The final assignment is due at **11:59pm on Friday, March 20**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective exegetical paper, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.
5. Class Presentation (10%). Each student will deliver a ten-minute presentation on the contemporary relevance of some passage in Galatians. The presentation should include a discussion of important exegetical issues, but its focus should be on the relevance of the passage to people living in the twenty-first century. In particular, attention should be paid to any factors that complicate contemporary appropriations and applications of Paul’s remarks. Following each presentation, other students in the class will have five minutes to ask questions. Presentations will take place in class on **March 30**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes effective class participation, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.
6. Concluding Reflection Essay (20%). At the conclusion of the semester, each student will write a brief reflection on Paul’s letter to Galatians, discussing *from a personal perspective* how studying the letter has shaped their understanding of history, theology, discipleship, and ministry, with emphasis falling on how the student’s understanding has been challenged and refined. The use of ‘I’ is encouraged and the use of citations and footnotes is discouraged, but the paper should nevertheless be structured in the form of an essay. The paper must be approximately 1,200 words in length and it must conform to the “McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.” It is due at **5:20pm on Monday, April 6**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective reflection essay, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.

GRADING SUMMARY

Reading & Class Participation	----
Small Group Discussions	10%
Reading Response	25%
Exegetical Paper	35%
Class Presentation	10%
Concluding Reflection Essay	20%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to possess the following:

An English translation of the New Testament.

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

Students must also possess one of the following, in accordance with their specialization:

Elliott, M. W., et al, eds. *Galatians and Christian Theology: Justification, the Gospel, and Ethics in Paul's Letter*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014. **(PS, CW)**

Silva, Moisés. *Interpreting Galatians: Explorations in Exegetical Method*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. **(BS)**

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

Dates	Class Sessions
Jan 5	Introduction to the Course
Jan 12	Paul's Apostleship
Jan 19	The Galatian Situation
Jan 26	The Galatian Letter
Feb 2	1:1–2:14
Feb 9	2:15–3:14
Feb 16	Reading Week (No Class)
Feb 23	Paul's Use of the Scriptures
Mar 2	3:15–4:11
Mar 9	4:12–5:12
Mar 16	5:13–6:10
Mar 23	6:11–18 & Course Summary
Mar 30	Class Presentations
Apr 6	Exam Week (No Class)

QUESTIONS FOR THE BOOK RESPONSE

1. Which statements in the book were the most significant to you personally, as a reader? Select five quotations from the book that made you stop and think, briefly explaining your reasons for each choice.
2. How has this book deepened your understanding of the world within which the Apostle Paul lived and ministered? Give specific examples.
3. How has this book deepened your understanding of Galatians as both a letter from Paul and a part of the New Testament? Give specific examples.
4. How has this book deepened your understanding of Paul's theology? Give specific examples.
5. How has this book affected your thinking about what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century? Give specific examples.

SOME RECENT STUDIES ON GALATIANS

- Asano, Atsuhiko. *Community–Identity Construction in Galatians: Exegetical, Social-Anthropological, and Socio-Historical Studies*. London: T & T Clark, 2005.
- Bachmann, Michael. *Anti-Judaism in Galatians? Exegetical Studies on a Polemical Letter and on Paul's Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Bryant, Robert A. *The Risen Crucified Christ in Galatians*. Atlanta: SBL, 2001.
- Burke, Trevor J. *Adopted into God's Family: Exploring a Pauline Metaphor*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.
- Cummins, Stephen Anthony. *Paul and the Crucified Christ in Antioch: Maccabean Martyrdom and Galatians 1 and 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Davis, Basil S. *Christ as Devotio: The Argument of Galatians 3:1–14*. Lanham: University Press of America, 2002.
- Du Toit, A. B., Cilliers Breytenbach, and David S. Du Toit. *Focusing on Paul: Persuasion and Theological Design in Romans and Galatians*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2007.
- Eastman, Susan. *Recovering Paul's Mother Tongue: Language and Theology in Galatians*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.
- Elliott, M. W., et al, eds. *Galatians and Christian Theology: Justification, the Gospel, and Ethics in Paul's Letter*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.
- Elliott, Susan. *Cutting Too Close for Comfort: Paul's Letter to the Galatians in Its Anatolian Cultic Context*. London: T & T Clark, 2003.

- Elmer, Ian J. *Paul, Jerusalem, and the Judaizers: The Galatian Crisis in Its Broadest Historical Context*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2009.
- Hansen, Bruce. *'All of You Are One': The Social Vision of Galatians 3.28, 1 Corinthians 12.13 and Colossians 3.11*. New York: T & T Clark, 2010.
- Hardin, Justin K. *Galatians and the Imperial Cult: A Critical Analysis of the First-Century Social Context of Paul's Letter*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008.
- Harmon, Matthew S. *She Must and Shall Go Free Paul's Isaianic Gospel in Galatians*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2010.
- Hays, Richard B. *The Faith of Jesus Christ: The Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1–4:11*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Hietanen, Mika. *Paul's Argumentation in Galatians: A Pragma-Dialectical Analysis*. London: T & T Clark, 2007.
- Hogan, Pauline Nigh. *"No Longer Male and Female": Interpreting Galatians 3:28 in Early Christianity*. New York: T & T Clark, 2008.
- Howard, George. *Paul: Crisis in Galatia: A Study in Early Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Kahl, Brigitte. *Galatians Re-imagined: Reading with the Eyes of the Vanquished*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Kern, Philip H. *Rhetoric and Galatians: Assessing an Approach to Paul's Epistle*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Kwon, Yon-Gyong. *Eschatology in Galatians: Rethinking Paul's Response to the Crisis in Galatia*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2004.
- Morales, Rodrigo Jose. *The Spirit and the Restoration of Israel: New Exodus and New Creation Motifs in Galatians*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *Keys to Galatians: Collected Essays*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2012.
- Nanos, Mark D., ed. *The Irony of Galatians: Paul's Letter in First-Century Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.
- Nanos, Mark D. *The Galatians Debate: Contemporary Issues in Rhetorical and Historical Interpretation*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Niang, Aliou C. *Faith and Freedom in Galatia and Senegal: The Apostle Paul, Colonists and Sending Gods*. Leiden: Brill, 2009.

- Park, Eung Chun. *Either Jew or Gentile: Paul's Unfolding Theology of Inclusivity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Perkins, Pheme. *Abraham's Divided Children: Galatians and the Politics of Faith*. Harrisburg: Trinity, 2001.
- Rapa, Robert K. *The Meaning of "Works of the Law" in Galatians and Romans*. New York: Peter Lang, 2001.
- Riches, John Kenneth. *Galatians Through the Centuries*. Malden: Blackwell, 2008.
- Silva, Moisés. *Interpreting Galatians: Explorations in Exegetical Method*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Smiles, Vincent M. *The Gospel and the Law in Galatia: Paul's Response to Jewish-Christian Separatism and the Threat of Galatian Apostasy*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Tantiono, Paulus T. *Speaking the Truth in Christ: An Exegetico-Theological Study of Galatians 4.12–20 and Ephesians 4.12–16*. Rome: Editrice Pontificia Università Gregoriana, 2008.
- Tolmie, D. F. *Persuading the Galatians: A Text-Centred Rhetorical Analysis of a Pauline Letter*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005.
- Tsang, Sam. *From Slaves to Sons: A New Rhetoric Analysis on Paul's Slave Metaphors in His Letter to the Galatians*. New York: Peter Lang, 2005.
- Wakefield, Andrew K. *Where to Live: The Hermeneutical Significance of Paul's Citations from Scripture in Galatians 3:1–14*. Atlanta: SBL, 2003.
- Wiley, Tatha. *Paul and the Gentile Women: Reframing Galatians*. New York: Continuum, 2005.
- Wilson, Todd A. *The Curse of the Law and the Crisis in Galatia: Reassessing the Purpose of Galatians*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007.
- Wisdom, Jeffrey R. *Blessing for the Nations and the Curse of the Law: Paul's Citation of Genesis and Deuteronomy in Gal. 3.8–10*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2001.

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:

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

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for grading and plagiarism detection, and the student's continuation in the course represents his or her consent to the use of this service. If a student has objections to the use of this service, alternate arrangements for assignment submission must be made with the professor in advance of the assignment deadlines.

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 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.