

NTS 6610/7710 DL: Galatians/Exegesis of Galatians

ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Summer Semester, 2020

May 11 – August 27

David A. deSilva, Ph.D.

Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek

ddesilva@ashland.edu¹

I. Course Description

Together with Romans, Paul's Letter to the Galatians has stood at the heart of discussions of Christian theology from Augustine through the Reformation to the present day. It is possibly Paul's earliest formulation (in writing) of his teachings about justification attained by trusting Jesus, the opposition between faith and "works of the Law," the role of Torah in God's plan for humanity, salvation history, and life in the Spirit. This course invites students into a close reading of the text as the basis for analysis of its theological and ethical contributions to Christian formation, both as individual disciples and as communities of faith. Students will seek out *Paul's* meaning and purposes in writing as a basis for their critical engagement with the interpretation and application of Paul throughout the Christian era and their vision for Christian formation.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes and requirements of the traditional semester course format.

As a result of successfully completing this course and its requirements, students will be able to:

- 1a. Demonstrate facility in exegetical skills in the pursuit of a plausible interpretation of Galatians in its historical-pastoral setting.
- 1b. Articulate the principal theological, ethical, and formational contributions of Galatians.
- 2.-3. Not assessed in this course.
4. Formulate exegetically-grounded constructive contributions to Christian theology and spiritual/Christian formation.
5. Not assessed in this course.

¹ We can also communicate by telephone (941-626-9226) or schedule video conferences. I would ask, however, that we communicate by e-mail to the extent possible – and prior to real-time communications.

6. Apply exegetically-grounded observations about the text of Galatians to a question or problem germane to their intended area of service.

III. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks and Other Materials

1. David A. deSilva, *The Letter to the Galatians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018. ISBN-10: 0802830552; ISBN-13: 978-0802830555.

2. John K. Riches, *Galatians Through the Centuries*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2013. ISBN-10: 1118472667; ISBN-13: 978-1118472668.

3. NTS 7710 students only:

David A. deSilva, *Galatians: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014. ISBN-10: 160258317X; ISBN-13: 978-1602583177.

Students will also be required to read a number of articles, essays, and chapters from selected books. These will all be supplied within the online course shell as .pdf files.

B. Attendance

In the context of an online class, participation on a weekly basis is expected. If an unanticipated emergency arises, contact your professor. A student who fails to participate in more than two weeks (e.g., contributing to online discussions) may, at the discretion of the professor, be required to do additional work, to withdraw from the class, to change his or her registration to an audit, or accept a lower grade.

C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning

1. Online Engagement

Throughout the course, students may be called upon to take the lead in our online discussions in a variety of ways. Students will also respond to discussion prompts and interact with peers to promote thoughtful dialogue and create a meaningful interchange of ideas. Students' posts and responses need to be substantive and integrate the assigned readings. Further instructions will be given within the online course shell.

2. Final Examination

Students will complete an essay exam (10 to 12 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt type) designed to assess the degree to which the student has digested principal topics and issues pertinent

to the interpretation of Galatians. The essays will be distributed at the beginning of the course so that students may think about them and gather pertinent material as the course progresses. Use of standard written English is expected; short references to course texts may be employed.

3. Seminar Paper

A detailed exposition of the contribution and meaning of a unit of Galatians (generally between six and ten verses) within the historical-pastoral context of the letter, with a thoughtful application of the same to the formation of Christian disciples, communities, and theology in the student's context. The papers are to fall between 12 and 15 pages (double-spaced, 12-pt type), reflect standard written English, show logical coherence, and critically interact with three exegetical commentaries (see Selected Bibliography below) and at least three further scholarly resources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles on specific issues pertinent to the passage the student has chosen or related issues). NTS 7710 students will include their own translation and notes on their grammatical decisions. Further guidelines will be provided.

4. NTS 7710 Students Only: Translation of Galatians and Analysis of Modern Translations (NIV 2011 and NRSV)

D. Calculation of Grade and Connection with Learning Outcomes²

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Online Presentations and Discussion	1a, 4, 6	33
Final Exam	1b	34
Seminar Paper	NTS: 1a, 6	33

IV. Tentative Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture/Topic</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments:</i>
1	5/11/20- 5/17/20	Galatians in the world and ministry of Paul	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 1-108 2. John M. G. Barclay, "Mirror-Reading a Polemical Letter: Galatians as a Test Case," <i>JSNT</i> 31 (1987) 73-93. 3. View video on Pisidian Antioch (https://youtu.be/hqoitv1a6KE) 4. Participate in online discussion forum(s)

² NTS 7710 students: Your translation and analytical work will provide a fourth component of your overall grade, with each other component being weighted at 25%.

2	5/18/20- 5/24/20	Galatians 1:1-10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 111-135 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 1-82 3. Brian J. Dodd, "Christ's Slave, People Pleasers, and Galatians 1.10," <i>NTS</i> 42 (1996) 90-104. 4. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 5. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 1:1-10; Analysis
3	5/25/20- 5/31-20	Galatians 1:11-24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 136-169 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 83-95 3. T. L. Donaldson, "Zealot and Convert: The Origin of Paul's Christ-Torah Antithesis," <i>CBQ</i> 51 (1989) 655-682. 4. J. D. G. Dunn, "The New Perspective on Paul," pp. 183-214 in J. D. G. Dunn, <i>Jesus, Paul and the Law: Studies in Mark and Galatians</i> (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990). 5. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 1:11-24; Analysis
4	6/1/20- 6/7/20	Galatians 2:1-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 169-212 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 96-114 3. Hermann Lichtenberger, "The Understanding of the Torah in the Judaism of Paul's Day: A Sketch," pp. 7-23 in <i>Paul and the Mosaic Torah</i> (ed. J. D. G. Dunn; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996). 4. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 5. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 2:1-14; Analysis
5	6/8/20- 6/14/20	Galatians 2:15-21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 212-262 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 114-143 3. S. J. Chester, "It Is No Longer I Who Live: Justification by Faith and Participation in Christ in Martin Luther's Exegesis of Galatians," <i>NTS</i> 55 (2009) 315-327. 4. Michael J. Gorman, <i>Inhabiting the Cruciform God: Kenosis, Justification, and Theosis in Paul's Narrative Soteriology</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009), 40-104. 5. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 2:15-21; Analysis
6	6/15/20- 6/21/20	Galatians 3:1-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 263-305 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 144-187 3. J. D. G. Dunn, "Works of the Law and the Curse of the Law (Gal. 3.10-14)," pp. 215-241 in J. D. G. Dunn, <i>Jesus, Paul and the Law: Studies in Mark and Galatians</i> (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990). 4. Joel Willits, "Context Matters: Paul's Use of Leviticus 18:5 in Galatians 3:12," <i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>

			54 (2003) 105-122. 5. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 3:1-14; Analysis
7	6/22/20- 6/28/20	Galatians 3:15-29	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 305-343 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i> , 188-213 3. N. T. Wright, "Messiahship in Galatians," pp. 510-546 in N. T. Wright, <i>Pauline Perspectives: Essays on Paul, 1978-2013</i> (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013). 4. N. H. Young, "Paidagogus: The Social Setting of a Pauline Metaphor," <i>NovT</i> 29 (1987) 150-176. Elisabeth Schussler-Fiorenza, "Neither Male Nor Female: Gal 3:28 – Alternative Vision and Pauline Modification," pp. 205-241 in <i>In Memory of Her</i> (New York: Crossroad, 1984). 5. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 3:15-29; Analysis
8	6/29/20- 7/5/20	Galatians 4:1-11	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 343-375 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i> , 214-226 3. Martinus C. DeBoer, "The Meaning of the Phrase τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου in Galatians," <i>NTS</i> 53 (2007) 204-224. 4. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 5. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 4:1-11; Analysis
9	7/6/20- 7/12/20	Galatians 4:12-31	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 376-406 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i> , 227-244 3. Steven DiMattei, "Paul's Allegory of the Two Covenants (Gal 4.21-31) in Light of First-Century Hellenistic Rhetoric and Jewish Hermeneutics," <i>NTS</i> 52 (2006) 101-122. 4. Sam K. Williams, "Promise in Galatians: A Reading of Paul's Reading of Scripture," <i>JBL</i> 107 (1988) 709-720. 5. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 4:12-31; Analysis
10	7/13/20- 7/19/20	Galatians 5:1-12	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 407-443 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i> , 245-263 3. Participate in online discussion forum(s) 4. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 5:1-12; Analysis Light week: Work on exams and papers!
11	7/20/20- 7/26/20	Galatians 5:13-26	1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i> , 443-478 2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i> , 264-283 3. Troels Engberg-Pedersen, "Paul, Virtues, and Vices," pp. 603-633 in <i>Paul in the Greco-Roman World</i> (ed. J. Paul Sampley; Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2003).

			<p>4. Stanley K. Stowers, "Paul and Self-Mastery," pp. 524-550 in <i>Paul in the Greco-Roman World</i> (ed. J. Paul Sampley; Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2003).</p> <p>5. Participate in online discussion forum(s)</p> <p>6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 5:13-26; Analysis</p>
12	7/27/20-8/2/20	Galatians 6:1-10	<p>1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 478-499</p> <p>2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 284-288</p> <p>3. Richard B. Hays, "Christology and Ethics in Galatians: The Law of Christ," <i>CBQ</i> 49 (1987) 268-90.</p> <p>4. Michael Winger, "The Law of Christ," <i>NTS</i> 46 (2000) 537-546.</p> <p>5. Participate in online discussion forum(s)</p> <p>6. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 6:1-10; Analysis</p>
13	8/3/20-8/9/20	Galatians 6:11-18	<p>1. deSilva, <i>Galatians</i>, 500-517</p> <p>2. Riches, <i>Galatians</i>, 289-301</p> <p>3. Participate in online discussion forum(s)</p> <p>4. NTS 7710: Translate Gal 6:11-18; Analysis</p> <p>Light week: Work on exams and papers!</p>
14	8/10/20-8/16/20	Synthesis; reading Galatians from additional "global" locations (note: .pdf files of these three readings will be provided)	<p>1. Néstor Oscar Míguez, "Galatians," pp. 463-472 in Daniel Patte, ed., <i>Global Biblical Commentary</i> (Nashville: Abingdon, 2004);</p> <p>2. Francisco Lozada, Jr., "Galatians 2:11-14: An Ideological Strategy," pp. 83-110 in <i>Toward a Latino/a Biblical Interpretation</i> (Atlanta: SBL, 2017);</p> <p>3. David A. deSilva, <i>A Sri Lankan Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Galatians</i> (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2011), 85-93, 136-148, 188-195, 228-243, 275-283, 302-314.</p> <p>4. Participate in online discussion forum(s)</p> <p>Light week: Work on exams and papers!</p>
15	8/17/20-8/23/20	Independent Work on Exegesis Papers	Finalize work on exams and papers.
16	8/24/20-8/28/20	"Exam Week"	All written work (final exam, exegesis paper) is due before August 28th at 5pm.

V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

1. Read more widely in the scholarly literature on Galatians, perhaps beginning with a second critical commentary on Galatians that you can set in dialogue with the principal commentary used in this course.

2. Read more widely in the historical literature on Galatians, e.g., the major commentaries by Chrysostom, Augustine, Luther, and Calvin, with a view to evaluating the exegetical

and hermeneutical decisions made by the author, to understanding how the author's situation and interests shaped his (or her) reading, and to analyzing the contributions and effects the author hoped the commentary would make to the questions and challenges posed by his (or her) setting.

3. Take a further course in the exegesis of a Pauline letter or in the theology of Paul.

4. Broaden your exploration of Paul's vision for Christian formation by working through other letters in the Pauline corpus applying the methods and skills used in this course.

VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary's core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one's own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one's own capabilities to achieve one's fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the *Student Handbook*.

B. Seminary Writing Consultation Service

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters and doctoral qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person.

To schedule an appointment, visit [Writing Center Online](#) and select "Graduate and Online" from the schedule menu.

C. Accessibility Resources and Accommodations

It is Ashland University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Center at [419-289-5904](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to dservices@ashland.edu. The Student Accessibility Center office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Quality	Percent	Description
A	4.0	97-100	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding

			evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	3.7	92-96	
B+	3.3	89-91	
B	3.0	86-88	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	2.7	83-85	
C+	2.3	80-82	
C	2.0	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	1.7	74-76	
D+	1.3	71-73	
D	1.0	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	0.7	65-67	
F	0.0	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

VII. Selected Bibliography

The bibliography in my commentary is extensive. I would recommend the following list of commentaries as the pool from which to select your minimum of three “critical/exegetical” commentaries for the purpose of your exegesis paper:

- Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Das, A. Andrew. *Galatians*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2014.
- deBoer, Martinus C. *Galatians*. NTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010.
- deSilva, David A. *The Letter to the Galatians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.
- Dunn, James D. G. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993.
- George, Timothy. *Galatians*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Longenecker, Richard N. *Galatians*. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1990.
- Keener, Craig. *Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019.
- Martyn, J. Louis. *Galatians*. AB 33A. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1997.
- Moo, Douglas J. *Galatians*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Schreiner, Thomas. *Galatians*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Grace in Galatia: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.