

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Title: #2321 Philippians (#223 Greek Exegesis)

Semester: Fall 2026

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Course Description: Study of the history and background of the Macedonian churches; special introduction to Philippians; translation and exegesis of the Greek text; special attention given to Paul's doctrine of Christology and his attitude toward God's providence in his life.

Delivery: In-person, 16-week semester schedule

Course Prerequisite(s): Advanced Greek (can be in progress)

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the historical, literary, and theological background of Philippians, including the relationship between the Apostle Paul and the church at Philippi, and identify the structure, major themes, and contents of the epistle.
2. Translate the Greek text of Philippians accurately into English, demonstrating proficiency in Greek vocabulary, morphology, syntax, and the appropriate use of lexical and grammatical tools.
3. Analyze and explain the significant grammatical, syntactical, and linguistic features of the Greek text of Philippians, including the parsing of verbal forms and identification of significant constructions.
4. Apply sound hermeneutical and exegetical principles to the Greek text of Philippians, developing and defending interpretations that take appropriate account of grammar, syntax, literary context, historical background, and authorial intent.
5. Evaluate significant textual variants in Philippians, explaining the relevant manuscript evidence and textual-critical considerations and assessing their significance for the interpretation of the text.

6. Explain and apply the major theological teachings of Philippians, particularly its Christology and teaching concerning divine providence, relating these doctrines to the broader teaching of the New Testament and communicating the results appropriately in preaching, teaching, or scholarly study.

Course outcomes:

The course Greek Exegesis is designed to equip you to apply the principles learned in the basic, intermediate, and advanced Greek language courses, so that you can confidently translate and exegete any book in the Greek New Testament. It does this by carefully working through the Greek of an individual book, providing a pattern for future study of the other books. The course in Philippians in particular provides a wide variety of content and styles, making it an excellent book for this purpose.

In particular, this course is designed to enable you to do the following:

1. Gain confidence in the use of the Koine Greek language and tools
2. Explain the doctrines emphasized in Philippians and their relation to other NT passages
3. Present sermons or Bible lessons from the book of Philippians
4. Pass ordination exams in the area of NT Greek, as well as in the book of Philippians in particular
5. Apply sound hermeneutical and exegetical procedures for a lifetime of fruitful Bible study

Course Requirements

1. Required Texts

- *The Greek New Testament* (UBS 6)
- *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (BDAG)

2. Course Schedule:

Aug.	31	Introduction; historical backgrounds
Sept.	7	(Labor Day; no class)
	14	Philippians 1:1-11
	21	Philippians 1:12-20
	28	Philippians 1:21-30
Oct.	5	Philippians 2:1-11
	12	Philippians 2:12-21

	19	Midterm Examination
	26	Philippians 2:22-30
Nov.	2	Philippians 3:1-11
	9	Philippians 3:12 – 4:1
	16	Philippians 4:2-14
	23	Philippians 4:15-23
	30	(Make-up class if needed)
Dec.	7	Special Project due
	14	Final Examination

Assignment Descriptions:

Translation assignment: You will translate the book of Philippians into English, using the format described in class. This translation will be completed in sections, according to the schedule below. During class, you should be able to translate verses from the section without frequent reference to your written translation.

Special project: Select one of the following:

1. Select a standard commentary of Philippians to read. This reading should be done by the final class before the final exam. It will be most helpful to read the commentary sections after translating and analyzing each section of the Greek text.
2. Prepare a series of three sermon or Bible study outlines using parts of Philippians.
3. Write a critical review of a scholarly journal article dealing with Philippians. The review should be about 1000 words long.
4. Read a scholarly book related to Philippians or to one of its major doctrines. Write a one-page evaluation of the book.
5. Write a paper explaining the various views regarding a difficult or controversial verse or passage in Philippians. Use exegetical arguments to support your preferred view. The paper should be about 3000 words long and be in standard format.

Examinations:

For the midterm and final examinations, you will be expected to translate portions of Philippians, to parse verb forms and identify nouns, and to be able to discuss the grammatical construction of each sentence, using only the Greek NT and a list of brief definitions of infrequent words. You should be able to intelligently discuss textual variants that appear in the UBS text. You will also be responsible for other material discussed in class. The midterm exam will cover the introductory material and Philippians 1 – 2:21. The final exam will cover Philippians 2:22 – ch. 4.

Grading:

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| • Translation | 30% |
| • Special Project | 20% |
| • Midterm Examination | 25% |
| • Final Examination | 25% |

Courseware and Copyright:

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