

BI 658D NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS II (3 credits)

Professor: David P. Moessner; **Prerequisites: BI511D, BI550D, BI657D Spring 2010

DESCRIPTION:

This second required Greek exegesis course introduces students to the principles and methods of interpreting the Greek text of a Pauline epistle and builds on the pre-requisite, NT Exegesis I, of interpreting the Gospels. This introduction is designed on the theory that the best way to learn exegesis of a Pauline letter is to apply the principles and methods of epistolary interpretation through the discipline of regular practice and discussion.

OBJECTIVES:

This course therefore:

- 1) introduces the formal characteristics of ancient letters;
- 2) grounds students in the exegetical methods developed to interpret a Pauline epistle;
- 3) will translate/interpret a shorter Pauline letter;
- 4) introduces students to the theology of the larger Pauline corpus;
- 5) forms Christian character through Paul's notion of imitatio Christi.

These goals thus entail regular preparation as essential to meeting the requirements of the course.

Curricular Objectives:

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals (emphasis added):

1. *Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture* and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
2. Interpret the Christian Scriptures *through faithful exegesis* and *in the light of the Christian tradition*.
3. Preach the Word of God *with faithfulness and clarity*.
4. Evangelize the world with faithfulness and *contextual sensitivity*.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

1. The translation of a portion of the Greek text of Philippians in the context of a continuing study of the meaning of the passage in its larger literary and historical contexts. A study sheet for each translation is handed out in advance with suggested exegetical tasks.
2. Reading on methods and special issues of exegesis from a secondary source.
3. Researching specific topics and reporting to the class on the findings.
4. Faithful class attendance and preparation for each class discussion of the exegetical issues are central to the course.
5. An exegesis paper on a passage from Philippians is due no later than the end of term. The paper must be written in clear and cogent style and provide full bibliography and notes (see, e.g., Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*).

Class participation: 20%; Oral Report: 20%; Exegesis paper: 60%

BIBLIOGRAPHY (required for purchase)

Nestle-Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27th ed.

L. C. L. Brenton, *The Septuagint with Apocrypha*, Greek—English, Hendrickson, 1986.

G. D. Fee, *The Epistle to the Philippians*, 1995.

H.–J. Klauck, *The Religious Context of Early Christianity*, 2003.

B. Reicke, *Re-examining Paul's Letters*, ed. D. P. Moessner, I. Reicke, 2001.