

#2319 Galatians  
Western Reformed Seminary  
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Spring 2024

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### ***Course description***

Study of the background, audience, and occasion of the epistle; translation and exegesis of the Greek text; special attention given to Paul's doctrine of justification and its relation to good works. Prerequisite: Advanced Greek, taken or in progress.

### ***Student learning objectives***

1. Understanding Paul's Letter to the Galatians:
  - Objective: Analyze the historical context and background of Paul's letter to the Galatians.
  - Description: You will be able to critically evaluate the main arguments regarding the date and recipients of the letter, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of its historical context.
2. Translation of the Book from Greek to English:
  - Objective: Translate the entire book of Galatians from Greek to English.
  - Description: You will apply your knowledge of the Greek language to effectively translate the book, ensuring accuracy and fluency with minimal external aids.
3. Exegesis of the Book:
  - Objective: Exegete selected portions of the book using grammatical and analytical methods.
  - Description: You will be able to critically examine and interpret specific passages of the book through detailed grammatical and analytical approaches.
4. Discussion and Relating Paul's Teachings:
  - Objective: Critically discuss Paul's teachings in Galatians and relate them to other New Testament texts.

- Description: You will synthesize your understanding of Paul's teachings in the book, and intelligently discuss how these teachings connect with other relevant passages in the New Testament.

## 5. Concentrated Research and Application Concerning Galatians:

You will choose one of the following:

- Research Paper on a Passage in Galatians:
  1. Objective: Conduct in-depth research and analysis on a controversial or interesting passage in Galatians.
  2. Description: You will critically analyze a selected passage, considering historical, theological, and literary aspects. The goal is to produce a comprehensive research paper of approximately 3,000 words, adhering to standard academic formatting and research methodologies.
- Response to a Scholarly Article on Galatians:
  1. Objective: Critically evaluate and respond to a contemporary scholarly article about Galatians.
  2. Description: You will read and assess a current academic article on Galatians, then compose a thoughtful and scholarly response suitable for publication in a journal. This exercise encourages critical thinking and engagement with contemporary scholarship.
- Book Review on a Subject Related to Galatians:
  1. Objective: Synthesize information from a book related to Galatians and write a concise review.
  2. Description: You will read a book on a topic related to Galatians and synthesize the main ideas and arguments presented. You will then write a 2-3 page review, reflecting on the book's relevance and contribution to the understanding of Galatians.
- Outlines for Sermons or Bible Studies on Galatians:
  1. Objective: Develop and organize outlines for a series of sermons or Bible studies on Galatians.
  2. Description: You will create five detailed outlines for sermons or Bible studies, each focusing on different aspects of the book of Galatians. This objective emphasizes the application of theological understanding in a practical, teaching-oriented format.

6.

## **Translation**

The book of Galatians is to be translated from Greek to English in the format described in class. Please use either the UBS 5<sup>th</sup> edition or the Nestle-Aland 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Greek New Testament and a standard Greek-to-English lexicon. Please follow the format described in class. You should be able to translate orally the section for each class session with minimal assistance.

## **Assigned reading**

- *Machen's Notes on Galatians*, edited by John H. Skilton. Machen covers Galatians 1-3, with special application for modern liberal theology and ecclesiology. His grammatical questions (pp. 182-199) cover chapters 1-4; they are a real help in mastering exegetical details.
- A standard commentary on the book of Galatians, incorporating the Greek text.

## **Special assignment**

Choose one of the following:

- Write a research paper on an interesting or controversial passage in Galatians. Use standard format. The paper should be about 3,000 words long.
- Read a contemporary scholarly article about Galatians, and write a response that would be suitable to publish in a journal.
- Read a book dealing with a subject related to Galatians, and write a 2-3 page review.
- Prepare five outlines for a series of sermons or Bible studies on the book of Galatians.

## **Examinations**

There will be two examinations, the midterm and the final. These examinations will cover primarily translation of portions of Galatians from the Greek, and will include questions about the grammar and interpretation of those portions. The midterm examination also will include introductory material about the book of Galatians. For these exams you are to use only a Greek New Testament and a provided sheet of uncommon NT words.

## **Grading**

Weekly translation assignments      25%

Class attendance and participation	10%
Special assignment	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

### **Course schedule**

Jan.	22	Introduction to Galatians
	29	Gal 1:1-14
Feb.	5	Gal 1:15-24
	12	Gal 2:1-10
	19	(Presidents Day recess)
	26	Gal 2:11-21
Mar.	4	Gal 3:1-20; <i>Machen's Notes on Galatians</i> due
	11	Gal 3:21 – 4:7
	18	Midterm Exam (Gal 1:1 – 3:20 and Introduction)
	25	(Spring Recess)
Apr.	1	Gal 4:8-20
	8	Gal 4:21 – 5:1
	15	Gal 5:2-21; Special Assignment due
	22	Gal 5:22 – 6:8
	29	Gal 6:9-18; Commentary reading due
May	6	Final Exam (Gal 3:21 – ch. 6)