

First Corinthians (NT 6305)

Aims of the Course

1. Students will acquire mastery and appreciation of the content of 1 Corinthians in the context of the faith and life of the ancient Christian church and the mission of Paul.
2. Students will increase their understanding of methods of literary, historical, and theological exegesis in application to 1 Corinthians.
3. Students will explore the application of the central emphases of 1 Corinthians to concerns in the life of the contemporary church, with particular attention to possibilities for preaching the Gospels.

Required Texts

1. Bruce Winter, *After Paul Left Corinth* (Eerdmans)
2. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., RSV, NRSV, NASB, ESV, CSB, NIV, NJB, REB). Two excellent tools for study are the Harper Collins Study Bible and the NIV Study Bible, which give the reader quick access to current academic (i.e., mainline Protestant) and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
3. Recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28th ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the Gospel and the full marginal references to parallel passages. An edition of the Nestle-Aland 27th edition bound with the Revised Standard Version is available through the American Bible Society; for more information, see Ms. Beyer in the AGST bookstore.

Course Requirements

1. Prompt attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class, completion of the assigned reading (including the primary reading in 1 Corinthians and the relevant section in Winter and in one scholarly commentary), and informed participation in class discussion. The student should note that the reading assignment includes consultation of the Scripture references in the secondary discussion. [10% of final grade]
2. Reading in its entirety of one scholarly commentary on 1 Corinthians, which the student may purchase or check out from the David Worley Library. A list of commentaries to choose from will be made available early in the course.
3. Each week, *no later than 11:59 PM on the Monday preceding each class meeting*, each student will send to the instructor via Messages in Canvas at least *one (1) question or observation arising from the primary reading* in 1 Corinthians and at least *one (1) quotation from the secondary reading assignment* (Winter or the commentary) concerning a *point significant for the interpretation of the week's primary reading assignment in 1 Corinthians*. The student may also include in this email comments or questions raised by the week's preparation, which the instructor will seek to address in class discussion. [15% of final grade]
4. Semester writing assignments:
 - a. A critical review of a book in Pauline studies, chosen in consultation with the instructor, approximately six (6) pages in length, due on October 25. [20% of final grade]
 - b. An exegetical paper, eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length, treating a passage selected from 1 Corinthians in consultation with the instructor, in accordance with

the AGST “Guide for Writing an Exegesis on a Biblical Passage”

(https://austingrad.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Resources/student/Exegesis_Guide.pdf).

- c. An essential introduction to the sort of reading required for a critical review or exegesis is Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*; a good discussion of exegetical method is found in Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*; and works that will aid in the preparation of an exegesis are thoroughly discussed in Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. The final paper is due in my Inbox by Thursday, December 12; the student may submit a draft of the paper any time before Thanksgiving for preliminary feedback from the instructor. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. Grading of the exegesis paper will be according to the AGST “Exegesis Scoring Rubric” (<https://austingrad.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Resources/student/AGST%20Exegesis%20Scoring%20Rubric-1.pdf>). [35% of final grade]
5. An expository sermon series on 1 Corinthians, including (1) an *outline* of a ten-week sermon series, indicating for each sermon the *passage* on which it will be based and a *theme statement* (on the model of Fred B. Craddock, *Preaching*, esp. pp. 155–57; see also Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, esp. pp. 145–164) and (2) manuscripts of **three** of the sermons developing the theme statement proposed on the series outline and including footnotes indicating the resources the student has consulted in the preparation of each sermon. Each graduate student should plan to preach one of these sermons to the class during the last class meeting on December 3. The series outline and three sermon manuscripts should be submitted as an attachment via Messages in Canvas by December 6. Late work will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. Grading of the sermons will be according to the AGST “Message Scoring Rubric” (<https://austingrad.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Resources/student/AGST%20Message%20Rubric.pdf>). [20% of final grade for graduate students]

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Aug. 27	Paul, the Pauline Mission, and the Corinthians
Sept. 3	Labor Day; NO CLASS MEETING
Sept. 10	The Gospel According to Paul Winter, chap. 1
Sept. 17	1 Corinthians, chaps. 1–2 Winter, chap. 2
Sept. 24	1 Corinthians, chaps. 3–4
Oct. 1	1 Corinthians, chaps. 5–6 Winter, chaps. 3–4
Oct. 8	1 Corinthians, chap. 7 Winter, chaps. 10–11
Oct. 15	1 Corinthians, chaps. 8, 10 Winter, chaps. 5, 12–13
Oct. 22	1 Corinthians, chap. 9 <i>CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE</i> , Oct. 25
Oct. 29	1 Corinthians, chap. 11 Winter, chaps. 6–7
Nov. 5	1 Corinthians, chaps. 12–14 Winter, chap. 8
Nov. 12	1 Corinthians, chap. 15
Nov. 19	1 Corinthians, chap. 16 Winter, chap. 9
Nov. 26	NO CLASS MEETING
Dec. 3	Student Sermons on 1 Corinthians
Dec. 6	<i>SERMON SERIES OUTLINE AND 3 SERMON MANUSCRIPTS DUE</i>
Dec. 12	<i>SEMESTER PAPER DUE</i>