

Corinthians and Thessalonians (Fall 2024)



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Course Description

This course is a textual study of 1 and 2 Corinthians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. We will study these letters in their historical context and bring out their eternal, normative significance for both the church collectively and the individual Christian.

Course Objectives

- 1) To learn what God has communicated in these four books about Himself, His expectations, and His plans for the world.
- 2) To grapple with the historical situatedness and yet eternal, normative significance of these four letters.
- 3) To draw ourselves and the congregations of which we are a part closer to the ideal enshrined in these four books.

Course Evaluation

DISCUSSIONS (15%)

LESSON (25%)

QUIZZES (30%)

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS (30%)

Required Readings

- A Bible. I typically use the ESV, but you are welcome to use the version of your choice.
- Credit students will need to ensure that they have access to library resources. Feel free to ask me about the options available through the GLBC library.

Course Schedule

Week 1	9/5	Syllabus Introduction to 1 Corinthians 1 Corinthians 1–2	
Week 2	9/12	1 Corinthians 3–5	
Week 3	9/19	1 Corinthians 6–7	
Week 4	9/26	1 Corinthians 8–9	
Week 5	10/3	1 Corinthians 10–11	<i>Lesson Topics Due</i>
Week 6	10/10	1 Corinthians 12–13	
Week 7	10/17	1 Corinthians 14–16	1 Corinthians Quiz
Week 8	10/24	Introduction to 2 Corinthians 2 Corinthians 1–2	
Week 9	10/31	2 Corinthians 3–5	
Week 10	11/7	2 Corinthians 6–8	

Week 11	11/14	2 Corinthians 9–11	<i>Lesson Draft (Optional)</i>
Week 12	11/21	2 Corinthians 12-13 Introduction to 1 Thessalonians	2 Corinthians Quiz
Week 13	11/28	1 Thessalonians 1–3	
Week 14	12/5	1 Thessalonians 4–5 Introduction to 2 Thessalonians	<i>Final Copy of Lesson</i>
Week 15	12/12	2 Thessalonians 1-3 Class Presentations	1&2 Thessalonians Quiz

Assignments Description

Discussion (15%)

I will post a discussion thread in Populi each week with a question relating to the week's material. Please post a response to the question before class on Thursday and a response to one other student's post by 11:59 PM on Saturday. The initial post should be about 150 words. Responses do not have to be any certain length, but the points awarded will be commensurate with the apparent level of effort.

Lesson (25%)

Written (20%): The written manuscript should be roughly 2,000 words long. Please type this assignment in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. Please cite at least 7 sources. Footnote formatting should follow the *SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition. The bibliography at the end of the paper should contain everything cited in the footnotes. Papers should address each of the following questions clearly:

- (1) How does this passage relate to the rest of the book?
- (2) What are the relevant features of the historical/cultural background?
- (3) What is the main idea of the passage?
- (4) How does the passage support this main idea?
- (5) How does this main idea affect our lives today?

Oral (5%): The oral presentation should be about 10 minutes. This will probably involve abridging the paper. The format for this presentation will be discussed closer to the due date, as how much class time can be devoted to this depends on factors that are hard to predict in advance.

Quizzes (30%)

There will be three quizzes during the semester. Each quiz consists of two assignments in Populi. The first assignment, worth 75 points, will consist of multiple-choice, matching, and essay questions over the text and class discussions. The second assignment, worth 25 points, contains blanks for a set of memory verses. They are due at 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week designated in the table above.

Weekly Assignments (30%)

You are expected to read through the books of Corinthians and Thessalonians during the semester (ideally, more than once, using a variety of translations). As you are reading, jot down observations/questions about the text that jump out at you. Beginning with Week 2, you should submit your observations/questions about the week's material to the appropriate dropbox in Populi by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, as they will form a partial basis for our class discussion on Thursday evening. At least

one of your observations or questions should relate to the content of the text, at least one should relate to the application of the text for today's church, and at least one should relate to the worldviews found in the text, i.e., either God's or that of those whom the text originally addressed.

Policies and other information

Attendance (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Students are required to attend classes regularly. One unexcused absence for every credit hour in a given course may be permitted, i.e. per one-hour class. Two percent (2%) of the course grade per academic hour for each hour of classroom instruction missed may be deducted for each unexcused absence beyond the above.

Late Work (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Assignments for the term are listed in the syllabus supplied for each course. Every assignment so listed must be completed to pass the course. Late submission of assignments need not be accepted by the instructor. Extenuating circumstances and emergencies will be taken into consideration. If a late assignment is accepted, a grade reduction of 5% per instructional day may be assessed.

Bibliography

Commentaries

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Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000. Logos Bible Software edition.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., and Ralph P. Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993. Logos Bible Software edition.

Language Helps

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Danker, Fredrick W., Walter Baur, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Moule, C.F.D. *An Idiom-Book of New Testament Greek*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971.

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Zerwick, Maximillian. *Biblical Greek Illustrated by Examples*. 4th ed. Scripta Pontificii Biblici 114. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1963.