

BN3032W Galatians: Faith, Law and the Love-Centred Community (BN3732W – Online)

Offered: 2018: Semester 1 (Also offered online Semester 1 – as BN3732W)

In this unit students will explore Paul’s letter to the Galatians with a focus on the themes of faith, the law, and the Spirit-inspired love-centred community through examination of the plausible reconstructions of the social and historical contexts of the letter, as well as the different rhetorical structures proposed by scholars. Students will engage with recent scholarship regarding the traditional, salvation-historical, and apocalyptic readings of the letter. Exegesis of selected key texts in Galatians will be undertaken, employing a combination of literary, rhetorical, and social-scientific approaches. Students will also investigate the christological, ethical, pneumatological, ecclesiological, and missiological themes of the letter, and explore the implications for the life and mission of the church today.

Upon successful completion of the unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. critique the social, cultural, religious, and historical contexts in which the letter was written;
2. evaluate the possible identities of the “agitators” in Galatians, and how they may influence the interpretation of the key issues of the letter;
3. articulate Paul’s understanding of faith and the law in the communal life of the Galatian house churches;
4. analyse the use of the Old Testament in Galatians;
5. critically analyse selected texts in Galatians using a range of interpretative methodologies; and
6. reflect critically on the implications of Paul’s Christology, ethics, pneumatology, and ecclesiology for the life and mission of the church today.

Prerequisites: BN1001W or equivalent

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment:

Classroom:	One thematic tutorial paper (1,000 words)	(20%)
	One exegetical essay (2,000 words)	(40%)
	One thematic essay (2,000 words)	(40%)

Online:	Online tutorial participation responding to set readings and peer interactions (at least 5 entries of approximately 200 words each)	(20%)
	One exegetical essay (2,000 words)	(40%)
	One thematic essay (2,000 words)	(40%)

Faculty: Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Barclay, John. *Paul and the Gift*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015.

Bird, Michael J. and Preston Sprinkle, eds. *The Faith of Jesus Christ: Exegetical, Biblical, and Theological Studies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009.

de Boer, Martinus. *Galatians: A Commentary*. NTL. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2011.

Elliott, Mark W., Scott Hafemann, N. T. Wright and John Frederick, eds. *Galatians and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2014.

Hays, Richard B. *The Faith of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

Longenecker, Bruce, ed. *Narrative Dynamics in Paul*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Longenecker, Bruce. *The Triumph of Abraham’s God*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998.

Lopez, Davina. *The Apostle to the Conquered: Reimagining Paul’s Mission*. Minneapolis, MN: fortress, 2010.

Martyn, J. Louis. *Galatians*. Anchor Bible. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1997.

Moo, Douglas. *Galatians*. BECNT, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013.

Nanos, Mark D. ed. *The Galatians Debate: Contemporary Issues in Rhetorical and Historical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.

Oakes, Peter. *Galatians*. Paideia. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2015.

Witherington, Ben. *Grace in Galatia. A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.