

**Note:**

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.  
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection  
and is not binding in any form.

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## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Course Information

BI6624 *Studies in the Epistles*, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

This course is an analysis of selected portions of the New Testament letters. It includes an analysis of the structure, content, historical-cultural background, and theological contribution of a portion of the letters. Additional attention will be paid to various methods and approaches to the books.

**Prerequisites:** BI-5500 *Hermeneutics* and BI-5532 *New Testament History, Literature, and Theology*

### Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify the major themes in select portions for the letters.
2. Explain key interpretive categories such as literary structure and historical-cultural for the letters.
3. Distinguish appropriate methods of interpretation in the context of the NT letters to which those methods apply.
4. Develop skill in communicating NT letters based on differing interpretive methods and approaches.
5. Formulate tentative conclusions concerning contemporary church issues.

### Course Materials (required)

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

*NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.*

### Course Work

All course work is due according to the **Course Schedule**.

**A. CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: content expectations (reading/listening/watching) and discussion boards (student interaction). Class Participation contributes significantly to the final course grade.

1. **Content Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video review, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You should complete these content expectations prior to your initial discussion board posting each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
2. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Refer to the discussion board instructions listed on the **Course Schedule** for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. If not specified, **post your initial**

**response** to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm Central Time (CT)). Then read all other threads and **respond to at least two (2)** other student initial threads by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

**B. ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments are the primary means of assessing whether learning has transpired and may include papers, reports, exams, projects, and the like. Assignments are submitted through a link in Blackboard so they can be recorded in the Blackboard Grade Center. Your instructor will grade your assignments and return them through the Grade Center. Specific detail for each assignment is listed below and in Blackboard. All assignments are to be submitted by **Monday at 11:59pm Central Time (CT) unless otherwise stated** in the directions. Specific detail for each assignment is listed Blackboard.

**Assignment 1-1 Chart - Two Views on Paul's Visit in Galatians 2:1-10:** After studying whether Gal 2:1-10 refers to Acts 11:27-30 or Acts 15:1-35, develop a one-page bullet point chart that covers the key points for each of the two views. After listing the most important points/counter-points, come to a conclusion as to which Acts passage is in view in Paul's retelling of the confrontation in Gal 2:1-10.

**Assignment 1-2 Paper - Attending Church with Paul:** Use your research informed insights to write a two-page paper describing what it would be like to attend a Pauline congregation. Where would they meet, what kind of people would attend, and what would they do while gathering?

**Assignment 2-1 Paper - Apocalyptic in Galatians:** In providing a solution to the problem that is facing the Galatians, Paul articulates his response within an apocalyptic framework. In two pages, describe this framework while attending to key passages that highlight this way of viewing the cosmos.

**Assignment 2-2 Worksheet on Galatians 1:10-2:14:** Develop a one-page worksheet that helps a person uncover the way Paul's narration of his past in Galatians 1:10-2:14 addresses issues pertinent to the crisis in Galatia, then develop three scenarios that would lead the person to discover the way these verses apply to problems in the contemporary church setting.

**Assignment 3-1 Paper - Corinth as a Roman Colony:** Using the information from *Reading 1 Corinthians*, in two pages describe Corinth as a Roman colony (not a Greek city) and connect characteristics of the colony generally with some of the problems Paul addresses specifically in 1 Corinthians.

**Assignment 3-2 Outline - 1 Corinthians Topic:** Using the outline in *Reading 1 Corinthians* as a guide, develop a one-page outline of the identity-focused topics that Paul addresses in the structure of 1 Corinthians.

**Assignment 4-1 Chart - Weak and Strong Comparison:** After reading Romans 14:1-15:13 and the material on these verses in *Thinking through Paul*, compare that with chapter 7 in *Reading 1 Corinthians* that deals with 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1. Develop a one-page chart that shows the similarities and differences between the two sections and apply their teaching to the issue of tolerance within the church.

**Assignment 4-2 Outline - Romans Civic Identity:** Refer back to chapter 3 in *Reading 1 Corinthians* in order to list, in one page, the key indicators of Roman civic identity, return to Romans and outline verses

that indicate that a similar problem was in view. End the outline with reflections on the way contemporary civic identity can adversely impact our Christian mission in the world.

**Assignment 5-1 Paper – Christology:** Write a two-page paper that explains the point of Philippians 2:5-11 and then trace this idea through other portions of the letter.

**Assignment 5-2 Small Group Bible Study:** Write a two-page Bible study that addresses how Paul makes his appeal to Philemon and what is it that Paul is requesting Philemon to do?

**Assignment 6-1 Chart - 1 Timothy and 1 Corinthians Comparison:** Write a one-page chart that compares (a) 1 Timothy 2:8 with 1 Corinthians 11:5; (b) 1 Timothy 5:14 with 1 Corinthians 7:8-9; and 1 Timothy 2:13-14 with 1 Corinthians 11:11-12, by addressing what differences are evident between these texts and whether or not the same person who wrote 1 Corinthians could have written 1 Timothy.

**Assignment 6-2 Paper - Virtue List:** Write a two-page paper that identifies the virtue lists in the Pastoral Letters and what kind of guidelines should be employed in interpreting these texts? Address the way these should be used in relation to church leadership today.

**Assignment 7-1 Paper - Legalism Position:** After reading the Jewish texts provided in the textbook in Lifestyle 1 and 2 in chapter 12, write a two-page position paper that addresses to what extent these texts reflect a “legalistic” understanding of law observance. How do these text help you understand the concern of the New Perspective on Paul? How about contemporary struggles with legalism?

**Assignment 7-2 Care for the Poor Bible Study:** Read the following: 2 Corinthians 8-9; Romans 12:13, 16; Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Titus 3:14; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; and Galatians 2:10, then put together a two-page theological Bible study that addresses Paul’s concern for the poor and the way that we today should embody a similar concern.

**Assignment 8-1 Major Paper - Post-Supersessionism:** *Reading 1 Corinthians* was written from a post-supersessionist perspective. The author argued that Paul continued to identify himself as Jewish, in two pages, evaluate some of the sections of the book that address this (e.g. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23). What concerns do you have about that claim? How might supersessionism reveal itself in your contemporary context? Cite and interact with at least 3 commentaries and 2 journal articles. (Moody Logos Library has resources available to meet this requirement.)

**Assignment 8-2 Major Paper - Existing Identities:** *Reading 1 Corinthians* was written from a perspective that argues that existing identities continue to matter in Christ (1 Corinthians 7:17-24). Paul’s rule is that one should continue to identify with their existing ethnic and social identities in Christ, in two pages, evaluate that claim (any other scriptures in Paul that need to be addressed?). Are there any limits to this? How can Paul’s rule work in a multiethnic church setting? What are some potential challenges in trying to live out Paul’s rule? Cite and interact with at least 3 commentaries and 2 journal articles. (Moody Logos Library has resources available to meet this requirement.)

**Assessments**

Grades for this course will consist of:

Assessment		Points	% of Grade
Discussions (8)		160	16%
A1-1 A4-1 A6-1	Charts	100	9%
A1-2 A2-1 A3-1 A5-1 A6-2 A7-1	Papers	100	30%
A2-2	Worksheet	100	3%
A3-2 A4-1	Outlines	100	10%
A5-2 A7-2	Bible Studies	100	10%
A8-1 A8-2	Major Papers	100	22%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>760</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work