

# BIBL 567: PHILIPPIANS

Michael Gorman

May 24 – 28; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

Live online & Recorded

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be a careful study of Paul's short but powerful letter to the early Christian community in Philippi. Although Philippians is often called a letter of joy or a letter of friendship, we will see that it is much more than either of these. We will begin with an overview of the city of Philippi and of Paul's ministry there according to Acts and the letter itself. We will then concentrate on the so-called Philippian hymn (Phil 2:6-11) to show its central role in the letter before working through the epistle chapter by chapter. In addition to considering the basic content and argument of the letter, we will look at its contributions to Christian theology (especially Christology), spirituality, community, unity, and mission. Class lectures will be interactive, and student participation, especially in groups, will permit close readings of key texts and discussion of the letter's contemporary significance.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Describe the social, cultural, and historical contexts of Paul's ministry with the Philippian community and of his letter to them.
2. Describe the contents of the letter, including its principal themes.
3. Critically and constructively utilize some of the various approaches to the interpretation of Philippians, especially those that employ some form of theological and/or missional hermeneutic.
4. Articulate some aspects of the significance of Philippians for contemporary Christian belief and practice, including Christology, spirituality, suffering, community, unity, and mission.

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Day 1 May 24** Introductions: Theological and Missional Hermeneutics; Paul, Philippi, Philippians; Philippians 2:6-11

**Day 2 May 25** Philippians 1

**Day 3 May 26** Philippians 2

**Day 4 May 27** Philippians 3:1-4:1

**Day 5 May 28** Philippians 4:2-23; Summary and Final Reflections

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Flemming, Dean. *Philippians: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*. New Beacon Bible Commentary. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2009. A mid-length commentary by a New Testament scholar and missiologist in the Nazarene tradition.

Gupta, Nijay K. *Reading Philippians: A Theological Introduction*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020. A very brief overview in the Wesleyan/Free Church tradition.

Hogan, Laura Reece. *I Live, No Longer I: Paul's Spirituality of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2017. A work of spirituality grounded in Philippians by a poet and spiritual writer in the Catholic tradition.

Hunsinger, George. *Philippians*. Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2020. A mid-length commentary by a systematic theologian in the Reformed tradition.

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: [moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)

