



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

NT 753

1 and 2 Corinthians

January Term, 2010

Fridays, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Due West Campus

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- I. Course Description:** This course surveys the historical background, content, structure and theological meaning of these two letters. Special emphasis is given to how the Corinthian letters give us a candid view of early church life. **Note regarding exegesis papers:** *Prerequisite: In order to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (and, where applicable, Greek I and II) prior to taking this class. Please see Course Requirements below. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*
- II. Course Objectives:** The mission statement of Erskine Seminary indicates that its purpose is to educate its students “for service in the Christian Church”, in particular, the study of the Bible “in its own literary, historical and theological settings”, so that the student may “interpret it with relevance and meaning applicable for today.” This course examines the literary and historical aspects of the Corinthian correspondence, with particular emphasis upon critical examination and interpretation of the biblical text. In addition to the close exegesis of the text and its historical context, theological issues connected with the interpretation of the books are treated. Students will be expected (see Course Requirements below) to demonstrate a familiarity with the backgrounds, message and critical issues related to the study of the books of 1 and 2 Corinthians.
- III. Required Textbooks:**
Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students’ and professors’ purchases

through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Martin, R. *2 Corinthians*, Vol. 40, Word Biblical Commentary. Waco: Word, 1986.
ISBN #: 0-8499-0239-8

Thiselton, A.C. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
ISBN#: 0-85364-559-0

The NIV Bible text (Barker, Kenneth, general editor, *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), notable for its affordable price, popular translation and excellent notes and maps, will be used in this course, and is suggested reading of each student. The selection of a Bible translation, however, will be left to the individual student.

In addition, there will be small reading assignments and/or handouts throughout the course to help the student organize and understand the relatively large amount of material to be learned.

IV. Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Attendance in the *first meeting of the class is mandatory*; if the student cannot attend this meeting, please do not register, or if registered, complete the drop/add procedure. If a student must be absent due to an emergency or illness for all or part of a session, the student is responsible for all work done and due for that session. *No more than one session may be missed*. Due to the nature of the course, missing classroom discussion will almost certainly adversely affect the student's performance on the scheduled exams.

Students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class session, particularly the biblical reading assignments due. Classroom discussion will constitute an important element of our learning together, and will be adversely affected by poor preparation.

One objective exam will be administered, and will be related to the biblical, background and critical material covered in the introductory session. The test must be taken on the assigned date. See course outline for the test date.

Two papers will be assigned treating 1) "The Regulatory Function of 1 Corinthians 13" and 2) "A Mirror Reading of 2 Corinthians". Guide sheets will be provided for these assignments.

A short **oral presentation** will be given on the students' selected exegesis passages. A guide sheet will be provided.

Students taking this course for exegesis credit will be required to tender an exegetical paper based on a portion of the text of 1 or 2 Corinthians (either

English-language based or Greek). Please consult the professor for details and exegesis guidelines. A guide sheet will be provided for the preparation and presentation of an exegesis paper.

- V. **Evaluation:** The Seminary grade scale (*Catalog*, p. 36) will be used in determining a letter grade. The student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

Test = 25%
2 Papers, 25% each = 50%
Oral Presentation = 25%

Note: Completed and graded tests and papers will be returned to the student in a subsequent class period. Papers and tests tendered at the end of the semester (where impossible to return in class) will be held by the professor for pick-up by the student. Alternately, if the student wishes, the paper/test may be placed in the student's campus mailbox, or mailed to the student. In such cases, the student should indicate the mailbox number on the paper/test, or, when mailed, supply a SASE.

- VI. **Class Meeting Dates:** This course will meet for four eight-hour sessions on the following Saturdays: January 12, 19, 26 and February 2. See course outline below for details.

- VII. **Seminary Policies:** Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract. The student is encouraged to read the Erskine Seminary 2009-2010 *Catalog* for important information regarding drop/add procedures and deadlines (p.4, "academic Calendar"), course withdrawal (p. 35, 37), as well as the correct manner of dealing with the grade status of "incomplete" (p.44). Please consult the Student Handbook for policies re. writing style and ethics, e.g., inclusive language and plagiarism, as well as the Seminary Catalog, p.43f. A brief summary of these policies is as follows:

A grade of "**incomplete**" is not a privilege if the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when (1) the student has completed most of the assigned coursework and (2) when the student has been providentially hindered from completing the rest. The student and professor must complete the appropriate form before an "incomplete" can be given. The final date that an "incomplete" can be changed to a grade for the Fall semester is March 1, 2011. After this date, the grade of "incomplete" will automatically become an "F", and cannot be altered. Note that there is a fee associated with "incompletes".

If the student needs to **withdraw from a course**, a withdrawal form may be procured from the Registrar's office. A professor cannot withdraw a student from

a class. A student who fails to go through the proper withdrawal procedure will be charged full tuition for the course, regardless of attendance.

The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is **inclusive** rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalogue stands as an example of recommended usage.

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the *Catalog* for more information.

Papers submitted in this class should be submitted in typed, double-spaced format, and written according to Erskine Seminary's "Style and Form Standards for All Master's Level Programs". The student must be especially careful regarding citation of sources in all Seminary course work, including both footnotes and a full bibliography. Failing to cite a reference, or claiming other's material as one's own constitutes a type of fraud known as **plagiarism**. A charge of plagiarism is serious, and can result in the student's expulsion from the Seminary.

Course Outline

Session 1: Friday, January 7 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Introduction: An overview of the Corinthian correspondence. Issues regarding the integrity of the letter, intended audience, occasion, history of interpretation, letter-writing, etc. will be treated. Please read Thiselton, pages 1-52 in preparation for this class session.

Exegetical Work: 1 Corinthians. In this session, we will begin our exegetical examination of the letter.

Session 2: Friday, January 14 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Exegetical Work: 1 Corinthians. In this session, we will continue our exegetical examination of the letter.

Note: *The test, which covers the introductory material, will be administered during this class session..*

Session 3: Friday, January 21 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Exegetical Work: 1 Corinthians. In this session, we will finish our exegetical examination of the letter, and introduce the 2nd Letter to the Corinthians.

Discussion: 1 Corinthians 13 as “regulatory map”.

Work due: Paper #1, “The Regulatory Function of 1 Corinthians 13”.

Session 4: Friday, January 28 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Exegetical Work: In this session, we will finish our exegetical examination of the 2 Corinthians.

Discussion: Mirror readings as interpretative methodology.

Work due: Paper #2, “A Mirror Reading of 2 Corinthians”.

Oral Presentations

Note: Due to the compressed nature of the January term, for those submitting an exegesis paper, it will be due on Friday, February 4, to allow students extra time for writing and research. It is of utmost importance, however, that this deadline be kept!