



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Jeff Peterson, Instructor

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Zoom/Phone Appointments Scheduled via Email

5250 First Corinthians

June 2024, Memphis

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision at any point during the course. The instructor will make every effort to notify students of any changes in a timely fashion and with sensitivity to the time needed to complete assignments.

Overview

This intensive course guides students through an exegetical reading of the apostle Paul's first surviving letter to the converts to Christ in the commercial and cultural center of southern Greece (the Roman province Achaia) and illustrates the value of this approach to the text for understanding Paul's witness to the saving work of God in Christ and preaching today.

Consent to Syllabus Terms and Honor Code

Your signature is required below to indicate your acceptance of both the syllabus provisions and the honor code. Your signature is required on this document and due on the date of the first class meeting. Please send a scanned copy of the first page to me as an attachment via Canvas.

SYLLABUS: I have read this syllabus in its entirety and agree to comply with its requirements.

HONOR CODE: I acknowledge that academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, or even dismissal from the School.

I swear/affirm that I will neither give nor receive assistance on quizzes and exams in this course, nor will I present as my own composition the work of another (whether received from a personal acquaintance or service, copied from a book, article, website, Large Language Model or other AI, or derived from some other source than my own reflection on sources of information I judge trustworthy). If I learn of any student doing so, I will immediately report this to the instructor.

Signature

Aims of the Course

1. Acquire mastery and appreciation of the content of 1 Corinthians in the context of the Pauline and early Christian mission, the faith and life of the ancient church, and the historic faith of Christians.
2. Increase one's understanding of methods of literary, historical, and theological exegesis in application to 1 Corinthians.
3. Explore the application of the central emphases of 1 Corinthians to concerns in the life of the contemporary church, with particular attention to possibilities for preaching the letters.

Required Texts

1. Bruce W. Winter, *After Paul Left Corinth* (Eerdmans) — to be read in its entirety before our sessions on campus in Memphis, and discussed in May Zoom sessions if possible to schedule.
2. Richard E. Oster, *1st Corinthians* (College Press NIV Commentary; College Press) — to be read in its entirety along with the complete text of the letter, preferably in the NIV and at least one other recent translation, before completing the major writing assignments.
3. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., NRSV, NASB, NIV, RSV, ESV, CSB, NJB, REB). Two excellent tools for study are the *HarperCollins Study Bible* and the *NRSV [or NIV] Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* (Zondervan), which provide ready access to representative current and informed academic (or mainline Protestant) and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
4. Recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28th ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the Gospel and the full marginal references to parallel passages. An edition of the Nestle-Aland text bound with the Revised Standard Version is published by the American Bible Society.
5. Recommended: An essential introduction to the sort of reading required for a critical review or exegesis is Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*. A good discussion of exegetical method is found in Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*, and many works that will aid in the preparation of an exegesis are thoroughly discussed in Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*.

Textbooks may be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Additional readings, assignment submissions, and grades will be made available via Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

Course Requirements

1. Completion of all assigned reading and participation, attendance at Zoom and Memphis sessions, and informed participation in class discussion. The reading assignments include consultation of the key Scripture references cited in the secondary texts. This includes, if possible to schedule, participation in a weekly Zoom meeting of 90 minutes for coverage of introductory material. The instructor will contact students before the beginning of the course to seek to identify a weekly time that will fit everyone's schedule. (If scheduling Zoom sessions proves impossible, it will lengthen our daily sessions in Memphis, and the schedule will be adjusted accordingly.) [10% of final grade]
2. Composition of periodic Canvas "Discussion" posts responding to a prompt by the instructor, and discussion of fellow class members' posts. [20% of final grade]
3. Major assignments:
 - a. An exegetical paper, eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length, treating a passage selected from 1 Corinthians in consultation with the instructor. The paper should be submitted as an attachment via Canvas by 11:59 PM by Monday, July 22; the student may submit a draft of the paper for preliminary feedback any time before 11:59 PM (CT) on Monday, July 1. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor and will be subject to being penalized one point off per day late for the first three days, and three points off per day late thereafter (excluding Sundays), up to 20 points total. [35% of final grade]
 - b. An expository sermon series on 1 Corinthians, including (1) an *outline* of a sermon series, indicating for each sermon the *passage* on which it will focus and a *theme statement* (on the model of Fred B. Craddock, *Preaching*, esp. pp. 155–57; see also Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, esp. pp. 145–164) and (2) a manuscript or full outline of **one (1)** of the sermons developing the theme statement proposed on the series outline and including citations indicating the resources the student has consulted in the preparation of each sermon. Each student should plan to present that sermon during the last Zoom session (or, if a workable meeting time on Zoom cannot be found, to make and share with the instructor a video recording of the sermon). The series outline and sermon manuscript should be submitted as an attachment via Messages in Canvas by 11:59 PM (CT) on Monday, June 24. Late work will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor and will be subject to being penalized one point off per day late for the first three days, and three points off per day late thereafter (excluding Sundays), up to 20 points total. [35% of final grade]

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.

HST Live Course Etiquette (with thanks to Prof. Carlus Gupton, Lipscomb University)
HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. As to responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on campus.

All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the instructor’s decision whether to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is unprofessional to simply inform the instructor that you will be early/late, especially during class.

“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all scheduled class sessions (e.g., a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.

Please arrange in advance to be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g., a chair at a desk in your office). It is not appropriate to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.

Please remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class. Please arrange in advance for your HST Live environment to be as free as possible of distractions (e.g., background family noise, TV, etc.)

Canvas Online Learning System

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed via <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact the instructor via email, it is best to use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your instructor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g., dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

HST Live Interactive Video Education via Zoom

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

Equipment Needed for HST LIVE Sessions:

- Internet access using the latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone (one good option: Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>).
- Additional monitor – live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

Schedule (subject to adjustment)

May TBD Four 90-minute introductory Zoom sessions, if possible to schedule, in which case the Memphis sessions will be reduced by 6 hours, as indicated below.

Topics: "Exegetical" reading; the Pauline mission, gospel, and letters; Paul's Corinth; Acts 18:1-21.

Mon., June 10	8 – 10:50 AM 1 – 4 / 5 PM	1 Cor. 1-2 1 Cor. 3-4
Tues., June 11	8 – 10:50 AM 1 – 4 / 5 PM	1 Cor. 5-6 1 Cor. 7
Wed., June 12	8 – 10:50 AM 1 – 4 / 5 PM	1 Cor. 8-10 1 Cor. 11
Thurs., June 13	8 – 10:50 AM 1 – 4 / 5 PM	1 Cor. 13-14 1 Cor. 15
Fri., June 14	8 – 10:50 AM 1 – 2 / 3 PM	1 Cor. 16; 2 Corinthians Romans 15; 1 Clement
June, TBD		One or two 90-minute Zoom sessions for student presentation of sermons on a passage in 1 Corinthians (if possible to schedule).