The Letter to the Galatians, while addressed originally to people facing a very particular attack upon their Christian freedom, is surprisingly applicable to significant numbers of Christian people today. It constitutes what many see as the charter of Christian freedom, and provides guidelines for life in the Spirit, as well as being a most salutary warning to all engaged in ministry to the people of God.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

To enable participants:
1. to acquire an understanding of the way the material in Galatians relates to the historical crisis which called it forth;
2. to recognise the contribution of recent scholarly work to an understanding of Galatians;
3. to develop greater exegetical competence by a detailed study of the text of Galatians;
4. to distil what may be learned about Paul’s understanding of the law, justification and life in the Spirit from his response to the Galatian crisis;
5. to appreciate Galatians as a resource for pastoral ministry;

PRE-INTENSIVE READING

MA students are required to have completed a minimum of 500 pages of reading chosen from books listed in the bibliography prior to the commencement of classes. A list of the material read is to be submitted on the first day of classes.

REQUIRED READING

MA students are required to complete a total of 2000 pages of reading. A reading log is to be submitted as evidence. The pre-intensive reading may be included in the reading log.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The unit will consist of classes spread over two weeks. Approximately half the class time will be spent on the exposition of the text of Galatians, the rest will be used for exploring introductory matters, theological themes and ministry issues, in addition to student presentations.

Each student will make a class presentation on a prepared topic and participate in discussions. The presentation will form the basis of the student’s major essay. A list of possible topics is provided below from which students may choose (no two students may choose the same topic); alternatively they can negotiate a topic with the unit lecturer. A 1 or 2 page draft summary (this may be in point form) is to be made available to class members on the day when the presentation is made.
## EXPOSITION AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

### Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Galatians 1:1-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Galatians 2:1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Galatians 2:11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Galatians 3:1-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Galatians 3:15-29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The situation in Galatia

Analyses of Galatians – including rhetorical analyses

Paul and the Jerusalem church

Judaism and the ‘new perspective’ on Paul

The importance of the Abraham traditions

### Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Galatians 4:1-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Galatians 4:21-5:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Galatians 5:7-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Galatians 6:1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spiritual abuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student presentation(s):

Student presentation(s):

Student presentation(s):

Life in the Spirit and the paradox of Christian living

### ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES

It is important that students do not miss classes for it is in these that you will be introduced to the subject matter. ACT and MST have an attendance requirement of 80% of classes, i.e. 8 out of the 10 days. Out of courtesy, lecturers should be notified of reasons for absence from class.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. **One 3500 word exegetical essay** (worth 40%) on a passage from Galatians, with homiletic application for the life of a present day Christian congregation.

2. **One 4500 word major essay** (worth 60%) on one of the topics below. It is to be submitted in written draft summary form and presented orally in class.

   Students are to submit a final written version of their major essay, after taking into account comments and criticisms following their class presentation. The essay should include a brief exploration of the relevance of the subject matter for Christian life and ministry today.

### Major Essay Topics for Galatians:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpretations of ‘the works of the law’ in recent discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>The theological significance of ‘the Antioch Incident’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul’s arguments in support of justification by faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>The role of the law in the life of the believer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual abuse - then and now</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengths and/or weaknesses of ‘the new perspective’ on Paul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preparation of Essays

When preparing papers you should follow the guidelines set out in the MST Postgraduate Institute Style Guide. (available online at [http://postgrad.mst.edu.au](http://postgrad.mst.edu.au) under ‘Resources’).

Assigned work must be original. Plagiarism or the direct use of another's ideas without crediting the source is liable to jeopardise a student's candidature.

An electronic copy of all assessment items are to be sent to my email address shown at the top of this unit description.
Essays should be typed, contain a bibliography and use footnotes (rather than endnotes). The topical essay should include a synopsis. The MST Postgraduate cover sheet should be on the first page (available online at http://postgrad.mst.edu.au under ‘Resources’).

**Due dates for Submission of Assignments**
- The 3500 word exegetical essay is to be submitted **on or before May 1**
- The 4500 word major seminar paper is to be submitted **on or before June 12** (the draft summary of the major seminar paper is to be submitted **on the day of presentation**.)
- The reading log is to be submitted **on or before June 12**.

**MA 700 level marking criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fail (0-49%)</th>
<th>Pass (50-64)</th>
<th>Credit (65-74)</th>
<th>Distinction (75-84)</th>
<th>High Distinction (85%+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Range of Views</strong></td>
<td>Little or no engagement with points of view other than their own.</td>
<td>Shows awareness of and compares a range of scholarly points of view.</td>
<td>Fairly represents and assesses a range of scholarly points of view.</td>
<td>Empathetically represents and critiques of a wide range of scholarly points of view.</td>
<td>Empathetically represents and critiques a wide range of scholarly points of view.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Engaged</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Coherence</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of unconvincing or unsubstantiated conclusions, little or no argument presented.</td>
<td>Arguments presented, not always coherently, but leading to a plausible if not compelling conclusion.</td>
<td>Emerging capacity to make scholarly judgments, a mostly coherent argument supporting a reasonable conclusion.</td>
<td>Evidence independent scholarly judgments, a coherent argument supporting a strong conclusion.</td>
<td>Evidence of independent scholarly judgments, compelling argument supporting an insightful or original conclusion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reasoning</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td>Inadequate attempt to marshal primary sources or little or no evidence of competence in the discipline.</td>
<td>Knowledge of the broader issues and signs of the foundations of the discipline.</td>
<td>Clear understanding of the central issues and competence in the discipline for early post-graduate work</td>
<td>Comprehensive grasp of the of the critical issues and mastery of the discipline, worthy of post-graduate level</td>
<td>Skilful Synthesis of the critical issues and superior exhibition of the discipline, worthy of publication</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exhibited</strong></td>
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**Late Submission of Assignments**

Late Penalty for assessments: the following deductions shall apply to all courses: 3% per day, including weekends and public holidays, up until fourteen (14) days after the due date, after which no assignments will be accepted without prior permission being granted. The percentage deduction will be off the total mark, not the actual mark awarded, e.g. if an assignment is marked out of 100, 3 marks (3%) will be deducted if one day late; 6 marks if 2 days late etc.

In the case of special circumstances, e.g. personal illness, bereavement etc, or for other legitimate reasons, then the extra time may be deemed appropriate without penalty. Such instances must be cleared with the Dean of Studies prior to the due date. Being over-busy with study or the normal demands of ministry (which should be expected to vary at times) does not of itself constitute a reason for an extension. Any request for extension should be made on the proper form before the date of submission. The approved extension slip should then be attached.
to the front page of the assignment or essay.

Deductions of marks due to late penalty can result in an overall fail in the unit and marks will not be adjusted so that the student passes. If an assignment is handed in more than 14 days late, no marks will be awarded and the subject will be failed. Note however, that, as indicated above, extensions for legitimate reasons can be sought prior to the due date.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Commentaries
Hansen, G. W. *Galatians* (IVPNTC, Downers Grove/Leicester: IVP, 1994).

Monographs and Collected Essays
Elmer, Ian J., *Paul, Jerusalem and the Judaisers: The Galatian Crisis in Its Broadest Historical


Kruse, C. G., Paul, the Law and Justification (Leicester: IVP, 1996).


Martyn, J. Louis, Theological Issues in the Letters of Paul (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997).

Westerholm, S., Israel’s Law and the Church’s Faith: Paul and His Recent Interpreters (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).

Westerholm, S., Perspectives Old And New On Paul (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2003).

Periodical Literature


Books - thematic and pastoral
Enroth, Ronald, *Recovering from Churches that Abuse* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).