

Syllabus for  
**GBIB 729—Colossians/Ephesians (Greek)**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Fall 1999

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is primarily a translation and detailed exegesis of the original text of these Epistles, with special attention given to grammar, interpretation, and application.

The composition, authorship, interrelationships, and purposes of the two letters in their historical settings will be considered in preparation for the exegesis.

II. COURSE GOALS

The course will enable the student to do the following:

- A. understand the composition of the letters in their historical contexts.
- B. comprehend the relationship between the letters—literary, historical, and theological.
- C. know diverse interpretations of the texts and defend his/her personal interpretation.
- D. discuss the central theological issues and themes treated in the texts.
- E. appreciate more fully the preaching and writing ministries of the author(s) and the power and pertinence of their messages today.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Terminal Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

- 1. list and explain the background factors (literary-historical) pertinent to the study of Ephesians and Colossians.
- 2. state the literary, historical, and theological relationships between Ephesians and Colossians.
- 3. exegete orally or in writing any passage in the texts.
- 4. explain major theological themes developed in the texts.
- 5. express orally the correlation between the ethical-theological motifs portrayed in the letters and the ministry demanded of disciples today.

B. Unit Objectives

- 1. Unit A: Introduction  
State the requirements and objectives of the course.
- 2. Unit B: Literary Historical Background for the Study of Ephesians and Colossians
  - a. Identify the author, date, provenance, and sources involved in the composition of these letters.
  - b. Discuss the structure of the letters and their purposes.
  - c. Describe the relationship of Ephesians to Colossians.
- 3. Unit C: Exegesis of Ephesians and Colossians

- a. Define key theological terms.
  - b. State the central meaning of each pericope and section.
  - c. Relate and compare similar or contrasting themes.
  - d. Recite the major teachings of Paul in each of these letters.
  - e. Explain the unifying themes and factors of each of these letters.
  - f. Explain the central theological themes to be deduced from each letter.
  - g. Apply the themes and truths of the letters to the individual, church, and world.
4. Unit D: Summary and Conclusion
    - a. Summarize the results of our study.
    - b. List areas and topics for further study.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

##### A. Required Texts:

1. Greek New Testament.
2. Lincoln, Andrew. Ephesians. Waco: Word, 1982.
3. O'Brien, Peter. Colossians, Philemon. Waco: Word, 1982.

##### B. Reserved Texts:

See the Permanent Reference collection in the Reserve-Reference Room, LRC, 4th floor for commentaries, Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias.

#### V. COURSE PROCEDURES

##### A. Course Prerequisites: GBIB 571 New Testament Synthesis or its equivalent, plus a basic biblical exegesis course.

##### B. Evaluation Procedures Grading Procedure:

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Literary Critical Paper      | 15% |
| 2. Hour Exam (Midterm)          | 20% |
| 3. Sermon/Meditation            | 10% |
| 4. Exegetical-Theological Paper | 30% |
| 5. Final Exam                   | 25% |

##### C. University Policies

1. "Consistent with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ORU ensures that no 'qualified individual' will be denied reasonable accommodation in the form of modifications of policies, practices, and/or procedures." Students with disabilities who wish to access services should contact their professor(s) and the Office of Disability Services at Ext. 7355 to initiate the process.
2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
3. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.

D. Other Information

1. Refer to the Graduate School of Theology and Missions Student Handbook for additional policies and procedures.
2. Course Requirements
  - a. Prepare the daily class assignments.
  - b. Regular class attendance in accordance with ORU policy.
  - c. Literary Critical Paper: "Introduction to Ephesians" or "Introduction to Colossians." Maximum length—8 pages. **Date due:** September 17.
    - (1) Identify audience, context, and theological climate.
    - (2) Present background topics, issues, and themes necessary or helpful for interpreting the text.
    - (3) Selected Bibliography—not included in 8-page maximum, although footnotes are included.
3. Exegetical-Theological Paper—12-15 pages. **Date due:** November 5. Topics will be assigned during the first week of class.
  - a. State theological topic and methodology.
  - b. Exegetical analysis and discussion.
  - c. Clarify the contribution of the pericope(s) and theme to the writer's letter.
  - d. Illustrate the significance of the passage and theme for your understanding of the letter and Christian ministry today.
  - e. Notes and Selected Bibliography.
4. Sermon or Meditation (to be presented orally during the course; assignments to be made during first week). Each student will select a passage and prepare a written sermon or meditation which develops the content and present the work to the class in a presentation of 15-20 minutes duration. **Date due:** November 12.

VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
- B. Double cuts are given for absences immediately preceding or following holidays and/or breaks.
- C. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
- D. The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is stated in each syllabus and is as follows for the three-semester-hour class:
  1. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.
  2. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 8 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.
  3. If the class meets once a week, the missing of 3 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 6 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of F.

- E. The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies, illnesses, etc., and are not designed for indiscriminate use. Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in these allowable absences in each course. Only those absences documented with an administrative excuse will be exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University's administration.
- F. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. Two tardies will equal one absence.

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

### THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS

Session 1	I.	Salutation 1:1-2
Session 2	II.	Thanksgiving and Intercessory Prayer 1:3-12
Session 3	III.	The Person and Work of Christ 1:13-23
	A.	Mediator of deliverance and redemption 1:13f
Session 4	B.	Mediator of creation 1:15-17
	C.	Head of the church 1:18
Session 5	D.	Mediator of Reconciliation 1:19-23
	IV.	Paul's Ministry 1:24-2:5
Session 6	A.	Proclaimer to everyone of the Disclosed Mystery 1:24-29
Session 7	B.	Minister in absentia to the Colossians concerning this Mystery 2:1-5
Sessions 8-10	C.	Exhorter to Proper Theological Awareness and Religious Deportment 2:6-3:4
	V.	Living as God's Chosen People 3:5-4:6
Sessions 11-12	A.	"Put to death . . ." 3:5-11
Session 13	B.	"Put on . . ." 3:12-17
Session 14	C.	"Be subject . . ." 3:18-4:1
Session 15	D.	Pray and be prepared 4:2-6
Session 16	VI.	Personal Messages 4:7-18
	A.	The Messengers 4:7-9
	B.	Greetings from others 4:10-14
	C.	Paul's final greetings and instructions 4:15-18

### Part I: The Mystery of the Call of the Gentiles, Chs. 1-3

Session 17	I.	Greetings Eph. 1:1-2
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## THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS

Sessions 18-19	II.	Doxology 1:3-14
Session 20	III.	Thanksgiving and Intercession 1:15-23
	IV.	Doctrinal Section 2:1-3:21
Sessions 21-22	A.	Persons are made alive in Christ 2:1-10
Sessions 23-24	B.	Jew and Gentile are one in Christ 2:11-22
Sessions 25-26	C.	Paul's Commission 3:1-13
Sessions 27-28	D.	Paul's Prayer for the Readers 3:14-19
Session 29	E.	Concluding Doxology 3:20-21

### Part II: The Life of the New Self, Chs. 4-6

Sessions 30-31	I.	Summons to Unity 4:1-16
Session 32	II.	Renounce Former Heathen Life 4:17-19
Session 33	III.	Basis for Life Like God 4:20-24
	IV.	"Regulations" in the Community of God 4:25-6:18
Sessions 34-35	A.	Concerning all members of the body 4:25-5:21
Sessions 36-37	B.	Concerning husbands and wives 5:22-33
Session 38	C.	Concerning children 6:1-4
Session 39	D.	Concerning slaves and masters 6:5-9
Sessions 40-41	E.	Concerning personal resistance of the Devil 6:10-18
Session 42	V.	Conclusion 6:19-24
Sessions 43-45		Catch-up; critique of papers; review of course

## VIII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

### ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

GBIB 729  
Course #

Colossians/Ephesians(Greek)  
Title of Course

Dr. Trevor Grizzle  
Instructor

#### MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word “Wholeness.” ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

#### GENERAL OUTCOMES

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Development | 6. Valuing in Decision Making |
| 2. Physical Development  | 7. Social Interaction         |
| 3. Communication         | 8. Global Perspectives        |
| 4. Analysis              | 9. Effective Citizenship      |
| 5. Problem Solving       | 10. Aesthetic Responsiveness  |

#### MAJOR OUTCOMES

**Spiritual formation/leadership:**

Demonstrates Spirit-filled, biblically, theologically competent and historically informed church leadership.

**Critical thinking/analysis/ problem solving:**

Understands and applies biblical/theological principles in the practice of ministry.

**Communication/social interaction/global perspective:**

Demonstrates the ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural texts.

**Value/ethics/decision making:**

Integrates Judeo-Christian values and ethics in personal life and ministry.

#### COURSE OUTCOMES

Understand epistles in historical setting; comprehend the letters’ relationship; know diverse interpretations; defend personal interpretation; discuss central theological issues and themes; exegete orally or writing any passage in the texts; express the correlation between ethical-theological motifs; appreciate more fully the preaching and writing ministries of the authors; express the ministry demanded of disciples for today.

#### ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OUTCOMES

**Stimuli:**

- (1) Literary Critical Paper
- (2) Hours Exam
- (3) Sermon/Meditation
- (4) Exegetical-Theological Paper
- (5) Final Exam

**Criteria:**

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| (1) | 15% |
| (2) | 20% |
| (3) | 10% |
| (4) | 30% |
| (5) | 25% |