



# TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

## Course Syllabus MTS MODULAR

### NEW TESTAMENT BOOK STUDY: EPHESIANS

NEWT M517

Cohort 32

JANUARY 8, 15, 22, 29, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

6:00 – 10:00PM

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. ALAN DAVEY**

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## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a detailed examination of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Critical issues with regard to cultural and historical contexts, authorship and literary characteristics will be presented. Contemporary approaches to the texts will also be considered as a way to help us further understand the significance of the text for Christians in the twenty-first century.

### Introduction

The Book of Ephesians is a marvelous piece of writing which presents the Apostle Paul's writing at its most profound and sophisticated level. Themes that explore both the macro and micro dimensions of Jesus Christ's work are presented in this letter. Insightful teaching on the church, the work of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual journey and spiritual formation issues are all woven together in this theological treatise. It is a working document for the faith community applied to liturgical and secular settings alike and is meant to inform and shape the lives of the participants who read, hear and study the document. Similarly, we as contemporary

readers want to hear the message and then open our lives up to its message so that we can also be shaped by it. At this juncture, we can then enter into the on-going dialogue that the writing evokes and become active participants in the people of God and the mission that such participation entails.

This course will use a variety of pedagogical tools to serve as possible entry points into the text: these will include lecture format, group discussions and presentations, liturgical components, self-reflection exercises and journaling. These reinforcing perspectives and opportunities will engage both the message and the participant to more fully understand and experience the startling fresh and creative message of the Book of Ephesians.

The letter of Ephesians is a liturgical document. It was written for a living faith community with the intent to further the praise of God. Thus, we want to interact with the material in a way that will understand and promote the liturgical emphases within the text and underscore the liturgical value to the present church community as we make application of the materials. Further, the letter was written to stimulate the Christian community to engage in the great work of partnership with Jesus in receiving and living out the kingdom of God. We desire to hear the text in a manner that will motivate us to engage the great work of God in our world and to become active participants in the missional church.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding and competence in evaluating the primary meaning of the text in its original context and be able to apply the material to issues in the contemporary church setting.
- Identify, evaluate, and present materials relevant to their understanding of the text. The student will demonstrate an ability to synthesize the material connecting the original and contemporary settings in group discussion and presentations.
- Establish and nurture relationships with other students dealing with practical issues of time management, negotiating priorities, and cooperatively presenting research to the class.
- Demonstrate an expanding skill set in applying the biblical material to a pastoral setting including visitation, preaching, small group teaching and working with church leadership teams reflected in class discussion and written work.
- Demonstrate the capacity to understand key biblical attitudes germane to the text and be able to translate them into effective practice of Christian spiritual disciplines reflected in the journaling exercises and subsequent interactions.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Perkins, Pheme. *Ephesians*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Simpson, F. K. and F. F. Bruce. *Ephesians and Colossians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.

Stott, John. *God's New Society: The Message of Ephesians*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1979.

Talbert, Charles H. *Ephesians and Colossians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

#### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**Readings:** Please read the appropriate sections from each of the three textbooks for each class session. For example, for the first class read the textbooks covering Ephesians 1. For week two, read the material as it covers Ephesians 2. The reading will provide the base for our discussion.

##### **Attendance/Participation (10%)**

**Presentation and Paper (40%)** on thematic interplay with contemporary church scene:

Details will be discussed the first week of class. It will involve a group presentation in classes 2-5 on specific themes, related to the weekly study of the text.

**Due Week 4, January 29**

##### **Journaling (10%)**

In class meditations on themes related to class material.

**Due Week 5, February 5**

##### **Final Take Home Exam (40%)**

A final exam in essay form will be handed out the last class.

**Due Monday, February 19**

#### C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.46 to 10.51](#) and [14.253 to 14.254](#).

### **Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

### **D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following:

Attendance and Class Participation	10 %
Presentation and Paper	40 %
Journaling	10 %
Final Take Home Exam	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

### **E. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

## **IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS**

### **Week 1 (January 8)**

Introduction  
Comments on the historical context of Ephesians  
Exposition of Ephesians 1:1-14  
Meditative Exercise  
Exposition of Ephesians 1:15-23  
Contemporary Application: "Ephesians as a Liturgical Document"

### **Week 2 (January 15)**

Worship  
Exposition of Ephesians 2:1-10  
Application: *A Consideration of Good Works?*  
Group Presentation: *Unity in Christ: Ecumenism and the Body of Christ*; "A Study of Ephesians 2:11-22"  
Contemporary Application: "The Body of Christ as a Community of Reconciliation"

### **Week 3 (January 22)**

Worship  
Exposition of Ephesians 3:1-21  
Meditation/Journaling response to "Paul's prayer of love" (Ephesians 3:14-19)  
Group Presentation: *Partnership in the Kingdom: The Great Work*; "A Study of Ephesians 4:1-16"  
Exposition and Application of Ephesians 4:17-32: "The Paradigm of The True and False Self"

### **Week 4 (January 29)**

Worship  
Exposition of Ephesians 5:1-20  
Meditation: "Be Imitators of God"  
Group Presentation: *Man and Woman in Christ*; "A Reflection on Mutual Submission & Study of Ephesians 5:21-33, 6:1-9"  
"Spiritual Themes" from Ephesians 5:1-33: "Spiritual Assistance for the Journey"

### **Week 5 (February 5)**

Worship  
Group Presentation: *Struggle with Evil in the Christian Life*; "A Study of Ephesians 6:10-18"

Reflections on Prayer from Eph 6:18-24  
“Journaling on Prayer”  
Final Reflections  
Class Evaluation

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(See also the Tyndale [Ephesians Online Reading Room](#))

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- Allan, John A. *The Epistle to the Ephesians*. Torch Bible Commentary. London, UK: SCM Press, 1959.
- Arnold, Clinton E. “The ‘Exorcism’ of Ephesians 6.12 in Recent Research: A Critique of Wesley Carr’s View of the Rule of Evil Powers in First-Century AD Belief.” *JSNT* 30:71-87, 1987.
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- Bassler, Jouette. *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Beare, Frank W. “Ephesians.” In *The Interpreter’s Bible*, edited by G.A. Buttrick et al., 10:595-749. New York, NY: Abingdon Cokesbury Press, 1953.
- Brown, Raymond, E. *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1984.
- Bruce, F. F. “The Quintessence of Paulinism.” In *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.
- Caird, George B. “Ephesians.” In *Paul’s Letters from Prison*. New Clarendon Bible. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Cousar, Charles. *The Letters of Paul*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Cross, Frank Leslie, ed. *Studies in Ephesians*. London, UK: A. R. Mowbray & Co., 1956.

Davey, Alan, and Elizabeth Davey. *Abba's Whisper*. Eugene, O: Wipf and Stock, 2017.

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Donelson, Lewis. *Colossians, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

Fee, Gordon D. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Feldman, Louis H. *Jew and Gentile in the Ancient World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993.

Fitzmayer, Joseph A. *Romans*. AB 33. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Goodspeed, Edgar J. *The Meaning of Ephesians*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1933.

Houlden, J. L. *Paul's Letters from Prison (Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians)*. Pelican New Testament Commentaries. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin, 1970.

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Kitchen, Martin. *Ephesians*. London/New York: Routledge, 1994.

Lincoln, Andrew T. "The Church and Israel in Ephesians 2." *CBQ* 49:605-24, 1987.

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