

Reformed Theological Seminary
Greek Exegesis
NT5150 (2 Credit Hours)
Fall 2026
Wednesday 1:00-2:55 pm

Dr. Chris S. Stevens

Phone:

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TA: TBA

1. Course Description from the RTS Catalogue (p. 69)

By studying the text of selected passages students learn grammatical analysis, apply hermeneutical principles, and develop exegetical skills.

Know (Head):

- Build upon the Koine vocabulary and grammar begun in Greek 1 & 2.
- Begin supersentential examination to exegete the texture of texts.
- Distinguishing levels of cotext, context, and canon.

Be (Heart):

- Humility when approaching the inscripturated canon.
- Understand that there are a myriad of tools necessary for exegesis, and no human contrivances are infallible.
- Become a critical inquirer of the individual pericope and canonical section.
- Reflect upon the dual authorship of scripture.

Do (Hands):

- Learn to delve beyond the rank of lexis and into the lexicogrammar.
- Recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of secondary literature, especially modern commentaries.
- Learn that there is no replacement for thoughtful personal interaction with the text.
- Create Greek exegetical notes and a paper for later preaching, teaching, and further studies.

Assignments:

Required Material

1. English Bible with cross references (CSB, ESV, NAS, etc.)
2. Hand edition of the Greek New Testament (NA28/29, UBS4-6, etc., **with apparatus**)

3. Lexicon (from bibliography list)
 - **Note:** If you are going to use Bible Software, you do not need a print copy of lexicons for class.
4. Trenchard, Warren C. *Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. Our goal is learn the vocabulary used 20+ times in NT.
5. Metzger, Bruce Manning. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament: A Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. London: United Bible Societies, 1994. (Can be electronic if desired)
 - Alternative: Houghton, H. A. G. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament: A Companion to the Sixth Edition of the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2025.
6. Means for taking notes and simultaneously interacting with your Bible, which are strongly recommended not to be electronic.

Required Texts

1. Carson, Donald A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. Pgs. 160
2. Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville: WJK, 2002. Pgs. 190 (Earlier editions will not work for this course.)
3. Mathewson, David and Elodie Ballantine Emig. *Intermediate Greek Grammar: Syntax for Students of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
4. Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament with Scripture, Subject, and Greek Word Indexes*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
5. Porter, Stanley E. and Kent D. Clarke. "What is Exegesis? An Analysis of Various Definitions," Pages 3–21 in *A Handbook to the Exegesis of the New Testament*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter. Leiden: Brill, 1997. Pgs. 18 (pdf via Canvas)
6. Your choice of a **critical academic** commentary on the Greek text of Galatians.¹ At least 200 pgs. Consult the supplementary bibliography for some examples. Please submit the selection to the professor by the second class.

Recommended Materials

1. Bible Software (Accordance, Logos, etc. There are many free resources available too.)
2. Barr, James. *The Semantics of Biblical Language*. London: Oxford University Press, 1961. Pgs. 1–45, 107–205.
3. Lightfoot, J.B. *St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. A Revised Text with Introduction, Notes, and Dissertations*. 4th ed., Classic Commentaries on the Greek New Testament. London: Macmillan 1874.
4. Porter, Stanley E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*, Biblical Languages 2. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1999. (Unfortunately, it's expensive, but a great resource.)

¹ An expository work is not a critical commentary. Consult the bibliography given in class, but generally think more NIGTC, Pillar, Calvin, ICC, etc. and not REC by P&R.

5. Lexham Methods Series: General, Approachable, and Affordable
 - a. *Social & Historical Approaches to the Bible*. Lexham Methods Series. Edited by Douglas Magnum and Amy Balogh. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2017. xviii + 256 pp.
 - b. *Literary Approaches to the Bible*. Lexham Methods Series. Edited by Douglas Mangum and Douglas Estes. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2016. xvii + 323 pp.
 - c. *Linguistics & Biblical Exegesis*. Lexham Methods Series. Edited by Douglas Mangum and Josh Westbury. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2016. xviii + 232 pp.

Course Format

The primary text for this course is the Greek text of Galatians found in NA28, UBS4–6, or Tyndale House Greek Text. Other reading is supplementary. We will read, exegete, and wrestle with Galatians beginning with 1:1 and getting as far as we can.

Prior to class, you will need to have completed the assigned readings and created translation notes, which you must bring to class. Classroom instruction will assume proper preparation.

For our covenantal relationship, let me be clear about class preparation:

- a) Read the assigned pages of secondary readings.
- b) Maintain progress on vocabulary words.
- c) Read the assigned biblical passages. Prepare ‘reading/exegetical’ notes that include: parsing of all verbs and predicators, ready gloss of ALL lexical items (yes, including *untranslatable* particles), and acknowledging syntagmatic relations.
- d) Be prepared to ‘read’ in class and answer questions about grammatical form and function, within the cotext and immediate textual context.
- e) Do not be afraid. You do not come to a mountain of blazing fire. You come to a pool for weary souls where tired pilgrims gather to be refreshed.

Assignments

1. **Mid-term 10%**: An exegetical translation of a pericope of Galatians. Then, questions on grammar and introductory tools of exegesis.
2. **Exam 20%**: An exegetical translation during finals week. The exam will cover the portion of Galatians examined in class. You will be asked on the exam about the portion of the required reading you completed, which will be 5% of your final exam.
3. **Exegetical Paper 30%**: You will write an exegetical paper on a latter portion of Galatians. The paper will be 2000–2500 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography.
 - a. Besides the requisite features of a quality paper (clear thesis, logical argumentation, appropriate conclusion, etc.), it should include some comment on the following features: textual criticism, lexical analysis (more than a feigning reference to BDAG), syntactical discussion, structural analysis, and location within book, which will conclude with some biblical theological significance (remember the layers of **cotext**,

- context, and canon**). There must be meaningful interaction (a minimum of **eight distinct** references) with secondary literature: journal articles, commentaries, monographs, biblical theologies, systematics, etc. The style and form of papers should be conducted according to the school policy. The style and tone of papers should conform to theological journals (see for instance *JBL, JETS, JTS*).
- b. Text Body: left justified, Font Times New Roman (or Brill, Helvetica Neue), 12 pt., 1-inch margins, indent ½ inch, and double-spaced. **Footnotes:** left justified, 10 pt., first line ½ inch indent. Footnotes and bibliography are SBL Style (5th), use inclusive and appropriate language, and be consistent: *behaviour* or behavior. Pagination on the top right. I am dyslexic, so I am sympathetic to typos, spelling errors, and grammatical abominations. However, you are in a master's program, so labor well in proofreading and make the paper easier for me to read, or such errors will lower your grade.
 - c. Furthermore, I do not want a summary of commentators' opinions. Likewise, you are not measured by finding something new or novel. The assignment aims to practice engaging with the biblical text and using tools for productive learning and articulation. I want to see you learn and grow in thinking as Christian scholars. One or two exceptional papers per semester will be selected for praise and reward.
 - d. Appendix to the Exegetical paper will be a Bible study or Sunday school outline of the pericope. This outline is your original work, borne of your exegesis, and useful for teaching a group of educated adults.
4. **Attendance and Participation 20%:** I pray you consider the actual value of attending RTS. To that end, all absences will be handled according to school policies. Two tardies (arriving after the beginning of class) constitute an hour of absence. Students missing more than two sessions (for any reason) may **either** submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] **or** choose to receive a full letter grade reduction in their final grade.
- Class participation requires: preparation, reading assignments, active listening, and class discussion. You will be called on in class, and your responses will be graded (See the "Waters Way" below). Classroom disrespect will not be tolerated, including verbal interaction, and all devices must be used solely for classroom participation. **I do not want to see cellphones.** Any student doing other activities will be dismissed and counted absent.
5. **Vocabulary 20%:** The first quiz will be vocabulary of the GNT 50x and up. The following quizzes will come from Trenchard down to 20x and up. Quizzes will be administered outside of class.

Grading Policy:

All assignments must receive a passing grade to pass the class. There is no mathematical passing without a valid attempt at every assignment. The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale on *RTS Catalog*, pg.48. Also, the professor reserves the right to grade papers, final exams,

and other assignments on a comparative scale. In exams and papers, students are not required to agree with the professor or RTS. They are measured by their merit, method, and execution.

Grading:

1. Mid-term 10%
2. Final Exam 20%
3. Exegetical Paper & Bible Study 20%
4. Attendance & Participation 20%
5. Vocabulary Quizzes 20%
6. Reading 10%

Due Dates:

1. Mid-term (week after reading week)
2. Final Exam December (second week)
3. Papers week before final, 11 pm via Canvas
4. Reading report on Final Exam

Late Assignments:

Late assignments lose one letter grade per day, excluding Sundays. A 'day' is any time after the beginning of class. So, if you are going to be one hour late, you might as well use the rest of the day to ensure everything is perfect. Must be either time-stamped at the front desk or prior to 11 pm on Canvas.

Plagiarism: In accordance with school policy, any cheating (quiz, paper, exam, etc.) will be submitted to the Academic Dean for resolution. Furthermore, the use and abuse of AI tools are explained in the Artificial Intelligence Policies for Use in Coursework. If there is evidence of widespread abuses, the Professor reserves the right to change how assignments are handled.

Adopting the "Waters Way"

Guidelines for in-class *reading* and *translating* for NT5150.

1. Interlinears are forbidden in class and generally should be treated like a second commandment violation.
2. When you are called upon in class to *read on the fly*, you may not consult a prepared translation (whether your own or otherwise), a vocabulary list, or any other such aid.
3. In short, with a clean text before you, you should be able to do the following:
 - a. Provide an understandable English translation of the text.
 - b. Define all lexical items, provide their lexical form, and have a ready gloss for ALL lexical items (including the function of all *untranslatable* particles).
 - c. Parse all verbs, predicators, etc.
 - d. Answer questions about grammatical form and function within the cotext and

immediate textual context.



Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Greek Exegesis (NT5150)

Professor: Chris Stevens

Campus: Jackson

Date: Fall 2025

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Course basic exegetical principles for interpreting Scripture
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	See course title and description
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed distinctives on Scripture and its interpretation are carefully considered
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Scripture is the primary means of grace, its study ought to be an act of love toward God
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Focused on interpreting Word of God rightly

Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	Though we hope the professors and students exemplify this spirit
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Must understand what the text means to preach it rightly
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Course is relevant to worship but is not centered on worship, as such
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Using Scripture rightly is central to good shepherding
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Though alternative approaches to Scripture will be considered and application of original meaning to contemporary contexts

Additional Bibliography

Exegetical Discussions:

All books on this list, read critically for learning, not simply to adopt the thinking of the author.

- Beale, G. K. *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
- Bultmann, Rudolf Karl. "Is Exegesis without Presuppositions Possible?" *Encounter* 21. 2 (1960): 194–200.
- Casurella, Anthony. *The Johannine Paraclete in the Church Fathers: A Study in the History of Exegesis*. Beiträge zur Geschichte der Biblischen Exegese. 25. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1983.
- Conzelmann, Hans, and Andreas Lindemann. *Interpreting the New Testament: An Introduction to the Principles and Methods of N.T. Exegesis*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1988.
- Longenecker, Richard N. "Can We Reproduce the Exegesis of the New Testament." *Tyndale Bulletin* 21, (1970): 3–38.
- Porter, Stanley E. and Kent D. Clarke. "What is Exegesis? An Analysis of Various Definitions," Pages 3–21 in *A Handbook to the Exegesis of the New Testament*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Runge, Steven E., *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction for Teaching and Exegesis*. Lexham Bible Reference Series. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010.

Lexicon:

- Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, and William Arndt. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, Henry Stuart Jones, and Roderick McKenzie. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Revised and Supplemented ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.
- Louw, J. P. and Eugene Albert Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988.
- Montanari, Franco, Stephanos Matthaios, and Antonios Rengakos. *The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek*, Brill's Companions in Classical Studies. Leiden: Brill, 2015.

Lexis and Method:

- *Porter, Stanley E., and Chris S. Stevens. "Doubting BDAG on Doubt: A Lexical Examination of Διὰ κρίνω and Its Theological Ramifications." *FN XXVII* (2017) 83–110.
- Stevens, Chris S. "Clause Structuring and Transitivity: Advantages of Opentext.Org and Its Prospects," Pages 63–86 in *Linguistics and the Bible: Retrospects and Prospects*. Edited

by Stanley E. Porter, Christopher D. Land, and Francis G. H. Pang. Vol. 9 of McMaster New Testament Studies. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2019.

*Stevens, Chris S. "John's Portrayal of Jesus as the Divine-Adamic Priest and What It Means for the Temple Cleansing in John 2:13–25," Pages 169–185 in *Johannine Christology*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter and Andrew W. Pitts. Vol. 3 of JOST. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

Grammars:

Abbott, Edwin Abbott. *Johannine Grammar*. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1906.

*Blass, Friedrich. *Grammar of the New Testament Greek*. Translated by Henry St. John Thackeray. London: Macmillan, 1898.

Blass, Friedrich, Albert Debrunner, and Robert Walter Funk. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Buttmann, Alexander, and Joseph Henry Thayer. *A Grammar of the New Testament Greek*. Andover: W.F. Draper, 1873.

*Dana, H. E., and Julius R. Mantey. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. New York: Macmillan, 1957.

One of the best older grammars that is easy to use and continues to be valuable.

Gignac, Francis Thomas. *A Grammar of the Greek Papyri of the Roman and Byzantine Periods. Testi e Documenti Per Lo Studio Dell'antichita'* 55. Milan: Istituto Editoriale Cisalpino-La Goliardica, 1976.

Goodwin, William W. *Greek Grammar*. Revised and Enlarged ed. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1900.

*Moulton, James Hope. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Prolegomena*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1906.

Moulton, James Hope, and Wilbert Francis Howard. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Accidence and Word-Formation*. Vol. 2. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1963–.

*Moulton, James Hope, and Nigel Turner. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Syntax*. Vol. 3. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1963–.

Moulton, James Hope, and Nigel Turner. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Style*. Vol. 4. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1976–.

If you ever find a copy of volumes 2 or 4 at a used bookstore, you are encouraged to call me with the price. They are difficult to find and I would love to have them.

*Robertson, A. T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*. 3rd ed. New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1919.

The largest and most famous NT grammars. Certainly, try to acquire a copy if you can.

Runge, Steven E. *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction for Teaching and Exegesis*. Lexham Bible Reference Series Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010.

Turner, Nigel. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Syntax*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1963.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament with Scripture, Subject, and Greek Word Indexes*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

- Winer, Georg Benedikt. *A Treatise on the Grammar of New Testament Greek: Regarded as a Sure Basis for New Testament Exegesis*. Translated by W. F. Moulton. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2001.
- Zerwick, Maximilian. *Biblical Greek: Illustrated by Examples*. English ed., Scripta Pontificii Instituti Biblici. Rome, 1963.

General Linguistics:

- Thiselton, Anthony C. "Semantics and New Testament Interpretation," Pages 75–104 in *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*. Edited by I. Howard Marshall. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

Galatians

- Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia*, Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Burton, Ernest DeWitt. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*. ICC Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1952.
- Calvin, John, and William Pringle. *Commentaries on the Epistles of Paul to the Galatians and Ephesians*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2010.
- Dunn, James D. G. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. BNTC London: Continuum, 1993. Gupta, Nijay K. Galatians. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023.
- Lightfoot, Joseph Barber, ed. *St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. A Revised Text with Introduction, Notes, and Dissertations*. 4th ed. Classic Commentaries on the Greek New Testament. London: Macmillan and Co., 1874.
- Longenecker, Richard N. *Galatians*. Vol. 41 of Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990.
- Martyn, J. Louis. *Galatians: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Vol. 33A of Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2008.
- Ridderbos, Herman N. *The Epistle of Paul to the Churches of Galatia*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. Galatians. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.
- Silva, Moisés. *Interpreting Galatians: Explorations in Exegetical Method*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Wright, N. T. "The Letter to the Galatians: Exegesis and Theology." In *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology*, edited by Joel B. Green and Max Turner, 205-36. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.