

**Syllabus for
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS (Greek)
GRK676**

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I. Catalogue Description and Course Objectives

Catalogue Description: Translation and exegesis of selected portions of 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Attention will be given to syntax, style, and vocabulary.

Enlarged Description: In conjunction with the above, some attention will also be given to recent studies on the historical, socio-rhetorical, and epistolary aspects of the letters, particularly with regard to how such matters impact the translation, and therefore, the meaning of their rhetoric.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course you will have:

1. Demonstrated an ability to translate advanced grammatical constructions in 1 & 2 Thessalonians and to offer a compelling defense of your translation.
2. Demonstrated an awareness of how a translator's understanding of the historical, socio-rhetorical, and epistolary background of these letters impacts her or his translation.
3. Demonstrated an awareness of how a translator's theology and/or current ecclesial situation impacts her or his translation.
4. Demonstrated a basic understanding of the content and theology of these letters as it emerges in a close reading of their rhetoric.

II. Required Textbooks (Other material may also be distributed if the instructor gets his rough draft comments finished in time to make them available as we go.)

Harink, Douglas. *Paul among the Postliberals: Pauline Theology Beyond Christendom and Modernity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2003.

Malherbe, Abraham. *The Letters to the Thessalonians*, AB 32b. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

III. Helpful Websites

<http://www.thepaulpage.com/index.html>

This is a very good site dedicated to discussion (both for and against) on “the new perspective” on Paul. One of the best overall websites on Paul.

<http://www.ntgateway.com/paul/>

This is the Paul section of the NT Gateway site. It is one of the best sites on the Web for generally reliable information on Paul and the rest of NT studies.

<http://www.torreys.org/bible/>

This is another one of the best overall websites for NT studies in general.

IV. Requirements

1. Daily Oral Translation. You will be expected to be able to orally translate any portion of the assigned passage for each class period. After preparing your translation, read the corresponding commentary by Malherbe and by me (if I have given it to you beforehand). You will be expected to be familiar with Malherbe's comments and my own and defend your translation in dialogue with them. You may choose to write a translation of the passage in your preparation for class but you **may not** bring it into class. You will have two "free" days (one before mid-term and one after) in which you may (without penalty) decline the privilege of translating orally in class. Oral translation missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up. You may earn up to 600 points over the semester for your oral translations.

2. Fishbowl Discussions of Douglas Harink's, *Paul among the Postliberals*. You may earn up to 150 points by actively participating in three "fishbowl" discussions of Harink (50 points per discussion). The "fishbowl" will consist of a seminar type whole class group discussion/critical analysis of this book. **I will not simply give these points away because you show up in class that day.** You must make regular contributions during this discussion period in a way that demonstrates an understanding of, and a critical engagement with, the book. I would strongly encourage you to take notes on your reading or even to bring a summary of each chapter in the book to refer to during the discussion. This discussion will last the whole class period and will occur in three class sessions:

February 22, pages 9-65

March 1, pages 67-149

March 15, pages 151-260

3. Final Exam. There will be a comprehensive final examination. It will either be take-home in nature or will be given on the time set for the final exam by the registrar. You may earn up to 250 points on this exam.

V. Summary of Grading Policy

A Word about Grading: Evaluation in this kind of course, by its very nature, involves an element of subjectivity. It involves someone who is an expert in the field making a judgment on the kind of work you produce. That is a part of what you are paying for in this class. The primary factors I take into account in assessing "good solid graduate work," the sort of work to which I assign a "B" are (1) ability to demonstrate a breadth and depth of understanding of the material engaged; (2) ability to engage this material **in a critical way**; (3) ability to exhibit how the material is related to a larger theological and ecclesial context. If you demonstrate a **consistent** ability to do these things in all your coursework, you can expect to receive a B. If you demonstrate consistent ability to do them **incisively and with excellence**, you can expect to receive an A (assuming you are doing the optional

paper). If you demonstrate an ability to do these things **often, but not consistently**, you can expect to receive a C. (Hence, I assume that a C means “average,” or “satisfactory” work. It does **not** mean “bad” or “unsatisfactory.”) If you **seldom** demonstrate an ability to do these things, you can expect to receive a D.

The final grade will be computed using the following point scale. There are 1,000 possible points.

600 points	Daily Oral Translation
150 points	Harink Fishbowls
250 points	Final Exam

The following point scale will determine letter grades:

A	1,000-900
B	899-800
C	799-700
D	699-600
F	599-0