

NT743-COLOSSIANS

Class Syllabus

Fall-1995

I. Introduction to the course

A. Formal Syllabus Data

The character of the course

DESCRIPTION:

An exegetical study of the Book of Colossians with attention to marginal Jewish movements and gnosticism that form a background to the epistle and consideration of the importance of the letter to this age.
Prerequisite: NT504. Three hours.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. To familiarize the student with the content of the letter to the Colossians as it unfolds in a careful exegesis of the text itself, illuminated by a study of the religious background of the Greco-Roman world of the first century, particularly those religious groups which show some similarity to the heresy dealt with in the letter.
2. To introduce the student to these religious movements which were important as Christianity first began to spread in the ancient world.
3. To help the student see how this letter is particularly applicable in our own century, which resembles the first in its wide diversity of syncretistic religious movements.
4. To reinforce in the mind of the student the centrality and sufficiency of Christ as the living revelation of truth.

METHODS EMPLOYED TOWARD SECURING COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Assignment and discussion of matters regarding date, authorship, and circumstances of the letter to the Colossians.
2. A verse by verse study of the letter, including student preparation outside class in translation and reading of commentaries with class discussion of grammatical, historical and theological matters relevant to understanding the letter.
3. The student will consider key questions raised concerning the understanding of the book.