I. Course Objectives:

A. An expository and practical analysis of *The Epistle to the Philippians* for today

B. The development of a Christian mindset (*phronesis*) in light of the teachings of *The Epistle to the Philippians*

C. A better understanding of the Christian ministry in view of its struggles and joys

D. The development of a biblical ethic in the personal and social conduct of the ministry
II. Required Texts:


*Christianbook.com*

Address:

140 Summit St.
Peabody, MA 01960

Phone:

1-800-CHRISTIAN (1-800-247-4784)
International Callers: 978-977-5000

Customer Service:

customer.service@christianbook.com
III. Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Punctuality

B. Participation in Assigned Study Group

C. Readings and Assignments:

1. Read *The Epistle to the Philippians* no less than ten (10) times by October 11.

2. Read in *Paul’s Letter to the Philippians* by Gordon D. Fee, pages 1-53 by October 11; and the pages corresponding to assigned texts in Study Group.

3. Read *Beyond Cheap Grace* by Eldin Villafañe by October 11.


5. Read *The Call to Joy and Pain* by Ajith Fernando, by November 15.

6. Prepare a brief reflection paper (5 pages), due November 15, responding to the following:
   a. Identify and correlate the teachings of Bonhoeffer, Villafañe, and Fernando about the crucified life and Paul’s teachings to the Philippians.
   b. Why and How are these teachings of great importance for Christian leadership today?

D. Final Paper (10 pages) due December 13, 2014.

[Base on class lectures, course required readings, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge and experience]

Prepare a brief academic paper, or a sermon, or a bible study for your congregation on one of the following themes: (Choose only one theme)
1. The Characteristics of a Christian leader according to Philippians.


3. The Epistle to the Philippians is viewed as a “letter of friendship.” What does it teach us about Christian friendship and the ministry?

4. The Epistle to the Philippians is viewed as a “letter of moral exhortation.” What does it teach us about our moral life?

5. The Christian mindset according to Philippians and our contemporary ministry.

IV. Grade Evaluation

Your class grade will be evaluated as follows:

- Class and Study Group Participation - 20%
- Brief Reflection Paper - 30%
- Final Paper - 50%

Minus any penalty for unfulfilled requirements (e.g. regular attendance, late papers)

V. Office hours – Faculty Advisement:
September 25; October 2; November 13 and December 11, 2014: from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Appointment should be made through Dr. Villafane’s Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Naomi Wilshire’s office @ nwilshire@gtcts.edu

(Course Outline)

I. Introduction to Course:
   A. “Knowing Each Other”
   B. Course Objectives and Requirements

II. *The Epistle to the Philippians*
   A. Introduction to the Epistle
   B. The Christian Mindset (*Phronesis*)
   C. Authentic Joy: Group and plenary exercises
   D. The Cross: Cruciformity and the Philippian Paradigm
   E. Marks of Authentic Community (*Koinonia*)

III. *The Epistle to the Philippians*: Biblical Reflections (Study Group)
   A. Lydia
      1: 1: 1-11
      2:  19-30
   B. Timothy
      1: 12-30
      3: 12-21
   C. Epaphroditus
      2: 1-11
      4:  1-9
   D. Paul
      2: 12-18
      4: 10-23
BIBLIOGRAPHY/BIBLIOGRAFIA
(Selective)

The Bible, The Epistle to the Philippians


____________. *Life Together* (Harper San Francisco, San Francisco (1939), 1954)

Bruce, F.F. *Philippians* (New International Bible Commentary; Peabody, 1989)


Hawthorne, Gerald F. *Philippians* (Word Biblical Commentary; Waco, TX, 1983)

Martin, Ralph P. *Philippians* (New Century Bible Commentary; Grand Rapids, 1980)

Motyer, J.A. *The Message of Philippians* (Bible Speaks Today; Downers Grove, 1984)


Paul's letter to the Philippians, written from prison, has no hint of self-pity. The letter radiates joy--joy that Christ was proclaimed, joy in fellowship with the Philippian Christians and, above all, joy in Jesus himself. In this volume of the Bible Speaks Today series, Alec Motyer identifies three major themes that filled Paul's heart and mind as he wrote: the unity of the church, the person of Jesus and what he has achieved, and the call to live a life worthy of the gospel. CONTENTS.