

**LIDLAW COLLEGE**  
*Te Wananga Amorangi*

**LIDLAW GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**R144.830: The Epistle to the Philippians**  
**Course Outline**

NQF Level: 8  
Credit Value: 30

**Delivery Mode**

MODE 3: Thirty lecture hours in non-consecutive blocks of intensive teaching, normally of one week each, with reading and assignments prior to and following teaching sessions over the equivalent of one semester.

**Course Description:**

The course involves a detailed discussion of the book of Philippians and its relevance for today. The course includes detailed analysis of the key critical issues related to the book; different views of central themes and rhetorical strategy; and detailed exegesis of the text. Attention is paid to secondary literature, especially recent secondary literature to foster interaction with current discussion. In addition, students are encouraged to relate the key issues in Philippians with the contemporary Christian scene today. Students will be encouraged to read a range of introductory material before the course generally acquainting them with the issues related to the interpretation of Philippians. These issues will be discussed in the first part of the lecture program. The remaining time will be spent working through the text of Philippians, pericope by pericope and verse by verse. At times there will be pauses to discuss an issue at hand in terms of the broader redemptive story, theology and especially the other letters of Paul. After each pericope time will be spent discussing and applying what has been presented to today's world.

**Learning Outcomes:**

In the completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the core critical issues when studying Philippians including provenance, date, integrity, genre, rhetorical strategy, recipients, structure, overall purpose and themes.
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply advanced critical and exegetical skills to one passage in Philippians and present these findings coherently.
3. Demonstrate an ability to critically explore a central theme from Philippians and discuss it with interaction with the text of Philippians, Paul's broader theology and with secondary literature and apply it to today.