

	SYALLABUS	
BI 316: Pauline Epistles		Bill Moulder, Instructor
Spring Semester, 2008		Office: 342; Ext. 7159
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Course description (college catalog): This course is designed to acquaint the student with the theology of Paul in his primary epistles, with special emphasis on his understanding of salvation, the nature of the body, the church, the Holy Spirit, and the last days. It will include a brief examination of the historical setting of these epistles.

Aims and goals: the objectives of this course are that the students will be able to—

- (1) describe the nature and purpose of the Pauline writings as letters .
- (2) apply the appropriate procedures for interpreting them.
- (3) relate the person and ministry of St. Paul to his teachings as found in the corpus Paulinum.
- (4) explain Paul’s practical, situational and flexible theological method in applying theology to life.
- (5) outline basic Pauline themes and selected topics and texts dealt with in this course.

Assessment tools will be the exams and papers.

Attendance: no record of attendance will be taken, but given the importance of in-class activities and discussion, regular attendance is strongly urged and will affect grades in marginal cases.

Texts:

Required Texts—General:

Jouette M. Bassler. *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts*. Louisville, KY.:

Westminster-John Knox, 2007 ISBN 978-0-664-2741-8 [NP]

Luke Timothy Johnson. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*. Rev. Ed. Minneapolis, MN:

Fortress, 1990 ISBN 0-8006-3072-6 [WNT]

David Trobisch. *Paul’s Letter Collection: Tracing the Origins*. Minneapolis, MN.: Fortress, 1994. ISBN

8006-2597-8 [PLC]

N.T. Wright. *Paul*. Minneapolis, MN.: Fortress, 2005. ISBN 978-0-8006-3766-8 [P]

Strongly recommended for methodology:

Thomas R. Schreiner. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1990. [ISBN 0-8010-8302-8] [IPE]

Recommended Texts—General

C.K. Barrett. *Paul: An Introduction to His Thought*. Louisville, KY.: Westminster/John Knox, 1994. [ISBN 0-664-25541-8]

Calvin Roetzel. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*. 2nd Ed. Atlanta, GE.: John Knox, 1982 [0-8042-0209-5] [LP]

David Wenham. *Paul: Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity?* Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1995. [ISBN 8028-0124-2]

Ben Witherington, III. *Paul’s Narrative Thought World*. Louisville, KY.: Westminster/John Knox, 1994. [0-664-25433-0]

Recommended Commentaries

Students who know (even a little) *Greek should use the *Word Commentaries* (on the Greek text)—viz., Dunn on Romans, Longenecker on Galatians, O'Brien on Colossians, etc. Also excellent (for the most part) are the *Anchor Bible*, *International Critical Commentaries* [Greek], *Hermeneia* [Greek], and often the *Interpretation Commentaries*.

C.E.B. Cranfield. *Romans: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1985. [0-8028-0012-2]

Those who know Greek should instead of this see Cranfield's 2 volume commentary on *Romans in the *International Critical Commentary* series, one of the finest commentaries ever written!

Joseph A. Fitzmyer. *Romans*. New York: Doubleday, 1993. *Anchor Bible*. [0-385-23317-5]

C.K. Barrett. *I Corinthians*. Black Commentaries. Peabody, MA.: Hendricksen.

Jerome Murphy O'Connor. *St. Paul's Corinth*. Collegeville, MN.: Liturgical Press, 1983.

Ernest Best. *II Corinthians*. Interpretation Commentaries.

J.D.G. Dunn. *Galatians*. Black Commentaries.

Ralph P. Martin. *Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon*. Interpretation Commentaries

Ralph P. Martin. *Philippians*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1980, [0-8028-1840-2]

Donfried, Karl P. and I.H. Marshall. *The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Epistles*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996. [052136731x]

Ernest Best. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Peabody, MA.: Hendricksen, 1972. [1-56563-019]

Luke Timothy Johnson. *First and Second Letters to Timothy*. New York: Doubleday. *Anchor Bible*.

Donald Guthrie. *The Pastoral Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans.

Young, Frances. *The Theology of the Pastoral Letters*. Cambridge.: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994. [0521379318]

Bibliography: historical and introductory issues, see recommendations in Schreiner, pp. 63-68, 74-75, as well as other bibliography in chapters on various procedures and in footnotes throughout; commentaries, see Schreiner, pp. 165-167; see also suggestions in Barrett, pp. xi-xii et passim; Wenham, pp. 412-428; valuable background texts (ancient) are discussed in O'Connor. Additional bibliography will be attached to syllabus or given as a separate handout.

Students should read from required texts and from recommended commentaries in coordination with the classroom lectures and discussions.

Memory verses: extra credit on exams will be given for the following verses: Romans 5:1-5; 8:31-39; 12:1-2; I Corinthians 13; Galatians 3:28; 5:1 ; Ephesians 2:6-10; Philp. 2:3-11; Colossians 3:1-3: 1 Thess. 5:23-24 or 2 Thess. 2:16-17; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; 2 Tim. 2:2-3, 15; you may memorize as much or as little as you wish and credit will be given accordingly.

Course outline and due dates:

Session date	Topic	Due	Session date	Topic	Due
1-1/10	Introduction	Handout: who is Paul?	15-3/11	Ephesians	<i>WNT</i> , 407-421
2-1/15	Intro. Cont'd Paul	<i>WNT</i> , 1-38, 73-155; <i>PLC</i> , vii-54 [<i>IPE</i> 1& 6]	16-3/13	Ephesians	
3-1/17	Romans	QUIZ <i>WNT</i> , pp. 343-366	17-3/18	I Cor.-Eph.	TEST 2
4-1/22	Romans		18-3/27	Philippians	QUIZ on Philp. Col, Philm. <i>WNT</i> , 369-383
5-1/24		PAPER 1	19-4/1	Col/Phn.	<i>WNT</i> , 393-404 PAPER 4-B [bibliography &outline]
6-1/29	Romans	<i>Navigating Paul</i>	20-4/3	I Thess.	QUIZ on 1&2 Thess. <i>WNT</i> , 281-293
7-1/31	Romans	PAPER 4-A [topic]	21-4/8	2 Thess.	PAPER 3
8-12/5	Romans		22-4/10	I Timothy	QUIZ on Pastorals <i>WNT</i> , 423-452
9-2/7	Introduction and Romans	TEST (incl. Romans, <i>WNT</i> , <i>PLC</i>)	23-4/15	2 Timothy	PAPER 4-C [FINAL DRAFT]
10-2/12	I Corinthians	QUIZ <i>WNT</i> , 295-324	24-4/17	Titus	
11-2/14	I Corinthians		25-4/22	Philippians-Titus	TEST 3
12-2/19	I Corinthians	PAPER 2	26-4/24	Issues in Paulines	PAPER
13-2/21	2 Corinthians		27-4/29	Issues continued	
14-2/26	Galatians	QUIZ on Gal. & Eph. <i>WNT</i> , 327-340	28-5/1	Issuescontinued	N.T. Wright. <i>Paul</i>
			Exam 5/10 1-3pm	Summary & evaluation	

Papers: 3 short papers and one longer paper are required—

Papers 1-3 are initial explorations of the contents and issues of selected books, using the form attached at the end of the syllabus. See the methods suggested in *IPE*, chapters 1 (nature of letters), 4 (investigating historical and introductory issues), and 6 (tracing the argument) 10 pts per paper

P-1: Romans or Galatians; P-2: 1 or 2 Cor. or Gal. Eph. Phil, or Col.

P-3: 1 or 2 Thess. or 1 of Pastorals

Paper 4 is an investigation of an issue in the Pauline texts.

Choose from the list of topics and texts provided (see below)

8-10 pages, up to 50 pts. It is suggested that you follow the methods of Schreiner, chs. 5-9. Paper is to be submitted in STAGES: A-topic (due session 7) B-bibliography & outline (due session 18) C-final draft (due session 23)

For all papers, all applicable course texts (required and recommended commentaries) must be used. Paper topics are to be chosen in consultation with instructor to insure all books and topics will be covered.

Total points for papers: 80

Tests: 3 test on above dates covering the material from the textbooks, Pauline epistles, and other classroom material provided during that section of the course (i.e., tests are not comprehensive), each worth 25 points.

Total points for tests: 75

Quizzes: there will be a thorough and detailed quiz over the contents (not interpretations; based on *NRSV*) on each epistle (or group of epistles), given on the dates indicated above.

Total points for quizzes: 35

Class Participation: in class exercises, discussion, writing, etc. 10 pts.

Grading scale

Total points possible for course=200

Grade	%	Points	Grade	%	Points
A	94	188	C+	77	154
A-	90	180	C	74	148
B+	87	174	C-	70	140
B	84	168	D+	67	134
B-	80	160	D	64	128

Paper topics: (scriptures given are suggestive, not comprehensive: students should examine **all** relevant scripture in Paulines [you will be expected to search these out as part of your research], their interpretation in required & recommended commentaries & other helpful books, and related texts in the rest of the NT)

Gender issues—

Gender meaning, difference, and their expression (what is permanent, what is cultural): I Cor. 11:2-16 et al.

Gender roles in the church: I Cor. 11:2-16; 1 Tim. 2; Rom. 16; et al.

Gender roles in the home: Eph. 5:21-6:4 et al.

(Gal. 3:28 for all of the above)

Ethnic and racial issues—Jew and Gentile in early church; racism in today's church: Eph. 4; Gal. 3:28 et al.

Economic justice, the poor, etc. II Cor. 8-9 (esp. 8:13-14) et al.

Social justice—slavery: Philemon, Eph. 6:5-9 et al.

Faith and works: Romans, Galatians, Phil. 2:12-13, et al.

Paul's prayers—their content and form as models; Eph. 1, Col. 1 et al.

Unity of the church: Eph. 4; Rom. 12:1-3; I. Cor. 12 et al

Suffering: Rom. 5:1ff.; Philippians et al.

Christology: Col.; Eph.; Phil. 2 et al.

Christian life & practice in “grey areas”—“weak & strong believers”: Rom. 14-15; I Cor. 8, 10; et al.

Christian ministry: 2 Cor. (esp., but not exclusively 4-6) et al.

Sexual practice, marriage, divorce, singleness: I Cor. 5, 7 et al.

Church's sacraments/ordinance: Rom. 6; I Cor. 10, etc.

Soteriology, eschatology, or any other aspect of Pauline theology!

Prayers: O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teachings; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for the Conversion of St. Paul [Jan. 25], BCP)

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdom: Grant that you Church, instructed by their teaching and example, and knit together in unity by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, which is Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Saint Peter and Saint Paul [June 29], BCP)