

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Early Christianity in Paul's Churches [Bib-302] Wesley Center

Professor: Robert W. Smith	Spring Semester 2013 – 3 Units
Office: Smee Hall #211	Monday / Wednesday / Friday 7:25-8:20 AM
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Course Description

A study of the presentation of Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, the theology of Paul, and the Pauline literature.

Prerequisite: Bible 102.

Purpose of the Course

The letters of Paul have played a major role in shaping the teaching of the Christian church. The purpose of this class is to provide a first hand reading of the thirteen letters attributed to the Apostle becoming away of their specific purpose(s) and characteristic themes. As a product of Judaism, Paul can only be understood within the context of late second temple Judaism and its place within the Roman Empire. It is within this context that the gospel takes on a universal character as Jews and Gentile alike are accountable to Jesus Christ. Critical issues related to the reading of these letters will be addressed. The study of Paul's letters will conclude with a discussion of Paul's theology emphasizing the how his Christology shapes the life and ministry of the church. The class will begin with a brief study of the Acts of the Apostles noting Luke's portrait of Paul and the spread of the gospel throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Required Texts

Bird, Michael F. (ed.). *Four Views on the Apostle Paul*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. [MFB]

Gorman, Michael J. *Inhabiting the Cruciform God: Kenosis, Justification, and Theosis in Paul's Narrative Soteriology*. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009. [MJG]

Kim, Yung Suk. *A Theological Introduction to Paul's Letters: Exploring a Threefold Theology of Paul*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011. [YSK]

Taylor, Walter F., Jr. *Paul, Apostle to the Nations: An Introduction*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012. [WFT]

A standard translation of the Bible -- e.g., NIV, NRSV, NASB, NKJV, etc.

Required Reading:

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament* [REB]

“The Acts of the Apostles” 279-332.

“Epistle (Letter) to the Ephesians” 620-37

“Letter to the Colossians” 599-619

“Pastoral Letter to Titus” 638-652

“Pastoral Letter: The First to Timothy” 653-73

“Pastoral Letter: The Second to Timothy” 674-80

“Second Letter to the Thessalonians” 590-98

DeSilva, David. *An Introduction to the New Testament* [DDS]
“The Acts of the Apostles” 348-90

Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul the Apostle*.
“Contingency and Coherence in Paul’s Letters” 23-36
“Paul’s Apocalyptic Theology.” 135-81

Course Objectives

- To learn to read Paul’s letters and the Acts of the Apostles against the backdrop of their historical and cultural settings in the Roman Empire of the first century.
- To comprehend the nature and significance of Paul’s gospel and its implications for ministry within the Christian church.
- To recognize the indispensable role of Jesus Christ in Pauline thought and how it shapes the ministry of the early church.
- To become familiar with the major themes and motifs of Pauline thought.
- To discern the difference between the images of Paul as revealed in the letters and in Luke’s portrait of Paul as he proclaims the message of Jesus Christ throughout the Mediterranean basin.

The student will learn to discriminate between the historical, literary, and theological worlds of the world of early Christianity.

Course Requirements

- Complete all assigned readings from the Bible and the textbooks, and required readings.
- Complete all writing assignments and examinations on the designated dates.
- Write a 3500 word biblical interpretation paper on a significant Pauline text following the exegetical method presented in class lectures. The paper is due April 15, 2013.
- Participate in class discussions.
- The Professor assumes that the student will read and re-read the biblical texts.

Grading

Exam 1 [Mid-Term]	200
Exam 2 [Final]	200
Biblical Interpretation Paper	300
Writing Assignments	300
Total	1000 points

Important Student Information

Note: Academic Accommodations

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set by the Professor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services available to them in the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as required

by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

Note: Inclusive Language Statement

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry (STCM) is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion of inferiority of women, the STCM urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writing.

Note: Academic honesty is expected in all writing assignments and on the Examinations.

Note: General Education Statement

These courses are basic components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of Responding to the Sacred. By including these courses in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Date	Lecture / Assignments	Readings
Jan 8	Introduction to the Class Acts – 1 [Acts 21:1-26]	
Jan 9	Acts – 2 [Acts 1-12]	[REB 279-332] [DDS 348-90]
Jan 11	Acts – 3 [Acts 13-20]	[MFB 9-64]
Jan 14	Acts – 4 [Acts 21-28]	
Jan 16	Basic Themes in Early Christianity	[WFT 3-34] [JCB 23-36]
Jan 18	Background to Paul’s Letters	[WFT 35-50]
Jan 21	MLK, Jr. Day – No Class	
Jan 23	Romans – 1 [Introduction]	[WFT 223-35, 50-52] [JCB 135-81]
Jan 25	Romans – 2 [Chapter 1;1 – 2:16]	[WFT 236-37] [WFT 51-89]
Jan 28	1 Thessalonians	[WFT 127-41]
Jan 30	Galatians – 1	WFT 143-59]
Feb 1	Romans – 3 [Chapter 2:17 – 3:20]	[WFT 91-123]
Feb 4	Galatians – 2	[MFB 65-112]
Feb 6	1 Corinthians – 1	[WFT 161-88]
Feb 8	Romans – 4 [Chapter 3:21 – 4:25]	[WFT 238-41]
Feb 11	1 Corinthians – 2	[MJG 1-39]
Feb 13	2 Corinthians – 1	[WFT 189-221]
Feb 15	Romans – 5 [Chapter 5]	
Feb 18	2 Corinthians – 2	[MFB 113-58] Dr. Frank G. Carver
Feb 20	2 Corinthians – 3	Dr. Frank G. Carver
Feb 22	Romans – 6 [Romans 6]	[WFT 241-44]
Feb 25	Philippians – 1	[WFT 255-76] [MJG 40-104]
Feb 27	Philippians – 2	
Mar 1	Mid-Term Exam	
Mar 4	Spring Break – No Class	
Mar 6	Spring Break – No Class	
Mar 8	Spring Break – No Class	
Mar 11	Romans – 7 [Romans 7]	[MJG 105-73]
Mar 13	Philemon	[WFT 277-88]
Mar 15	Romans – 8 [Chapter 8]	

Mar 18	Ephesians – 1	[WFT 289-307] [REB 620-37]
Mar 20	Ephesians – 2	
Mar 22	Romans – 9 [Romans 9:1 – 10:21]	[WFT 244-46]
Mar 25	Colossians – 1	[MFB 159-216] [REB 599-619]
Mar 27	Colossians – 2	
Mar 29	Easter Recess – No Class	
April 1	Easter Recess – No Class	
April 3	2 Thessalonians	[REB 590-98]
April 5	Romans – 10 [Chapter 11:1 – 12:8]	[WFT 246-48]
April 8	The Pastoral Epistles – 1	[YSK 1-62] [REB 538-80]
April 10	The Pastoral Epistles – 2	
April 12	Romans – 11 [Chapter 12:9 – 13:14]	
April 15	The Pastoral Epistles -- 3 Interpretation Paper Due!	[YSK 63-108]
April 17	Pauline Christianity – 1	
April 19	Romans – 12 [Romans 14:1 – 15:13]	
April 22	Pauline Christianity – 2	[YSK 109-36]
April 24	Pauline Christianity – 3	
April 26	Romans – 13 [Romans 15:14 – 16:27]	[WFT 248-250]
May 1	FINAL EXAMINATION – 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	

Class Procedure:

During each class session, one major question will be addressed that arises out of your reading and the lecture material. These questions will provide the content for the essay questions in each exam.

During the course of the lectures, Prof. Smith will outline a specific method for reading/interpreting a biblical text. You will be responsible to take note of the method he presents.