

STMA-538-01: LETTERS OF PAUL

(NOTE: Full version of syllabus will be provided on the first day of class)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this advance course we will examine the letters of the apostle Paul as both, Sacred Scripture and secular texts which are literary, rhetorical and ideological products that emerged from the particular historical reality of the Roman Empire of the 1st century CE.

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the content of the Pauline corpus and some of the academic interpretive approaches to enable them to become critical and informed readers of diverse cultural texts, such as the Pauline letters, in order to interpret them in their cultural context of origin to make them pertinent for our cultural context today.

The class will have three main components: interactive-lecture, students' presentations, group discussions, and group exegetical work.

OBJECTIVES

1. Equip students with the necessary tools to understand the Pauline letters in their own cultural and historical context.
2. Enable students to become critical and informed readers of cultural texts—hybrid texts—fully aware of their social location and the ways it informs their interpretations.
3. Practice a variety of interpretive models to help students appreciate the richness of meaning in the biblical text when diversity and inclusion are considered.
4. Explore the ramifications of the Pauline letters for ministry.

REQUIREMENTS

1. PARTICIPATION IN CLASS (50%):

a. Careful reading of assigned materials: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings and be prepared to share their views in class.

b. Active participation in group-discussions: In the interest of promoting a dynamic discussion please, come prepared to share at least two insightful ideas, views, reactions, responses,

opinions or comments that emerged while reading the material for class.

c. Committed attendance to class: Students' active presence is vital for the group's learning process. If a student cannot come to class, for whatever reason, please notify the instructor ahead of time to make the proper arrangements for class dynamics.

d. A 2-minute individual report on your assigned topic during each class: starting on April 5th, each student will come prepared to present a brief report to the class on the selected topics as they appear in each of the writings of the Pauline corpus. Students will submit a written compilation of these oral reports at the end of the quarter. Detailed instructions for this presentation will be given the first day of class.

2. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (50%):

a. Seven outlines: Students will write a one-page outline for each of the following letters: 1 Thessalonians; Galatians; 1 Corinthians; Philippians; Philemon; Romans; and 1 Timothy. Outlines are due on the day the assigned letter will be studied in class. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be given on the first day of class. (20%)

b. A final exegetical essay: Students will write a 3000-word exegetical essay (10/11 pp), not counting bibliography, on one of the four selected topics/passages. The selected topics and texts will be presented on the first day of class, as well as the detailed instructions for this paper. Paper is due on May 31st, 2012.

M.Div. Learning Outcomes:

- Ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of Christian Tradition.
- Ability to read scriptural texts critically.
- Awareness of their own social location/ assumptions/ hermeneutics as they engage the text in their own lives, their communities, and the larger world.
- Ability to use biblical tools and resources as a way to inform their own exegesis for the purpose of doing ministry.

- Ability to draw critically and constructively on Christian moral traditions to lead toward a more just and sustainable world.
- Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview.

Academic Honesty: The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook. (see the Seattle University website).

Students with disabilities: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/ or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. The New Testament: NRSV version (always bring the NT or Bible to class)
2. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context* (4th edition) by Calvin J. Roetzel
3. *Final Account: Paul's Letter to the Romans* by Krister Stendahl and Jaroslav Pelikan
4. *Liberating Paul* by Neil Elliott
5. A selection of electronic Articles. A list will be provided on the first day of class.

BACKGROUND TEXTBOOKS

(The one you used for Christian Scriptures)

1. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* by Mark Allan Powell (MAP)
2. *The New Testament: History, Literature, and Social Context* (4th edition) by Dennis C. Duling (DD)

COURSE CALENDAR – **STMA-538-01: LETTERS OF PAUL**

S #	assignments	Topics for discussion and assigned readings:
1	March 29	<p>Introduction: syllabus, participants and Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presuppositions – texts: perceptions and approaches; readers: history and identity; meaning: ideology and the text-reader tension; Biblical Criticism today: hermeneutical paradigms; hermeneutical spiral <p>Paul and his World</p> <p>Read: Roetzel,1-50 - Background: DD – Chapter 4; MAP – Chapters 10, 11</p>
2	April 5 1 Thess outline & reports	<p>Anatomy of the Letters and Traditions behind them: 1 Thessalonians</p> <p>Read: 1 Thessalonians; Roetzel,51-83; e-Article - Background: DD-5; MAP-19</p>
3	April 12 Gal outline & reports	<p>Galatians (class will be conducted via Skype from Baltimore)</p> <p>Read: Galatians; Roetzel,96-103; e-Article - Background: DD-6; MAP-15</p>
4	April 19 1 Cor outline & Reports	<p>The Corinthian Correspondence</p> <p>Read: 1 & 2 Corinthians; Roetzel,83-96; e-Article - Background: DD-5; MAP-13, 14</p>
5	April 26	<p>Mission Day at SU: no morning classes ☹</p> <p>Read: Liberating Paul by Neil Elliott, Part I: Paul in the Service of Death</p>
6	May 3 Philip & Phile Outlines & Reports	<p>Philippians & Philemon</p> <p>Read: Philippians & Philemon; Roetzel,113-132; e-Article - Background: DD-5; MAP-17, 22</p>
7	May 10 Romans Outline & Reports	<p>Romans</p> <p>Read: Romans; Roetzel,103-113; Stendahl,1-76 - Background: DD-6; MAP-12</p>
8	May 17	<p>First Interpreters of Paul 1: Colossians, Ephesians, 2 Thessalonians</p> <p>Read: Colossians, Ephesians, 2 Thessalonians; Roetzel,133-152; e-Article - Background: DD-7; MAP-16, 18, 20</p>
9	May 24 1 Tim Outline & Reports	<p>First Interpreters of Paul 2: The Pastoral Letters</p> <p>Read: Pastorals; Roetzel,153-160; e-Article - Background: DD-13; MAP-21</p>
10	May 31 Final paper	<p>Conclusion: on Liberating Paul and other Pauline issues</p> <p>Read: Roetzel,161-190; Elliott - Liberating Paul (Parts 1 & 2)</p>