

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Major Letters of Paul

Course Number and Section

BIBLSTUD

5205A 550

Instructor Name(s): Nick Meyer

Instructor Email(s): nmeyer5@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course leads students in a close reading of the seven undisputed letters of Paul (those which are usually agreed to have been authored by the apostle), with an emphasis on the “major” letters of Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. Our concerns will be simultaneously historical and theological. They are historical insofar as we are concerned with what can be known about Paul, his environment, and his mission from the standpoint of critical, historical inquiry; theological insofar as we are concerned to think with Paul, to understand the substance of his convictions, both with respect to their historical contingencies and their possible enduring impact. Students will be introduced to the major scholarly debates and perspectives surrounding Paul and his letters, encouraged to form an historically sensitive understanding of the apostle, and given opportunity to develop an appreciation for the complexity of the social and theological aspects of his thought.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Students will gain close familiarity with the content and historical setting of the major Pauline letters.

Students will be able to identify the major topics of debate in the interpretation of the Pauline letters and to articulate some of the chief alternatives in the scholarly discussion.

Students will be able to recognize and, ideally, develop historically and textually sound interpretation of the Pauline letters, even as they gain an appreciation for the complexity and difficulties that accompany this task.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Sanders, E. P. Paul: The Apostle’s Life, Letters, and Thought. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015. Print copy highly suggested.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and Participation: Active participation in class is critical. Since we meet only once a week, a single absence is worth, in effect, two. Each class missed will count for a deduction of 3% Class-time will revolve heavily around a close reading of key sections of Paul's letters and of the textbook. Students are highly encouraged to procure a paper copy of the textbook, but regardless they must be able to mark it up in their reading. They will be called upon in class to remark upon sections they have noted and questions they have encountered while reading the letters and the textbook for themselves.	n/a	15
Essay, 2 Options: Paul Today or Paul and Scripture. See full syllabus for details.	10/23/2024	20
Research Essay Proposal: In preparation for their research essay (see below), graduate students will submit a statement of their topic or research question and perhaps a tentative thesis. They should note the key primary texts they plan to address and some of the secondary sources they will employ in the essay. It is recommended that students clear their choice of topic with the instructor ahead of time.	11/13/2024	5

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Profiles of the Seven Letters: On the final day of class, students will submit ca. 300-word profiles of each of the seven undisputed letters of Paul accompanied by an introduction and conclusion which tie the whole together around (a) key insight(s).	12/4/2024	20
Research Essay: Students will write a 10-page argumentative essay on a text or theme of their choice from the undisputed letters of Paul. The essay should be an historically based and academically engaged investigation into the meaning of a Pauline text or theme.	12/11/2024	40

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 26, 2024

Huron Theology Brief Course Outline