



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/333-6254

## BIB760 - Theology of Paul Spring 2009, Thursday AM Block Schedule

### **Essential Information**

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available under the Syllabus link in the Blackboard course. Additional information can be found at <http://bbwiki.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

### **Instructor Information**

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10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

### **Catalog Description**

An introduction to Paul's theological method and an exploration of the fundamental theological insights of his Epistles.

### **Course Narrative & Rationale**

The Theology of Paul is a Biblical Theology elective course. It may fulfill the Biblical Theology requirement of the M.Div. or the MACE degree. It may fulfill an option requirement in Biblical Theology or Theology or serve as an elective in Biblical Studies in the M.Div. or the MATS programs. It may also serve as a free elective in any of the Masters level degree programs. BIB550, Biblical Hermeneutics is prerequisite. Students who have not had at least one course in exegesis should consult with the instructor before enrolling.

As a course in Biblical Theology, Theology of Paul assumes exegetical and hermeneutical skills and experiences. In the NTS Bible curriculum courses in Biblical Languages, Biblical Hermeneutics, and Exegesis develop analytical skill in the study of the Bible. The courses in Biblical Theology are synthetic in nature, built on the assumption of the analytical work as foundational.

### **Course Outcomes**

At the completion of this course the student should:

- Be able to describe the broad contours of the history of Pauline studies in the

19th and 20th centuries, identifying the major influences and turning points to the present,

- Be able to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of viewing Paul primarily from a Hellenistic perspective and from a Jewish perspective,
- Be able to describe the “New Perspective” on Paul and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses,
- Be able to identify and evaluate the major streams of interpretation of Paul's view of Sin, humanity, Law, the person of Christ, the work of Christ, righteousness, being "in Christ," sanctification, the church, and the sacraments,
- Be able to identify the significant passages in Paul dealing with Sin, humanity, Law, the person of Christ, the work of Christ, righteousness, "in Christ," sanctification, the church, and the sacraments,
- Be able to identify and assess the major issues for interpreting a significant selected Pauline issue or passage,
- Be able to identify and classify the approaches of the major contemporary Pauline scholars, and
- Be able to apply Paul's thought to contemporary Christian and world issues.

## **Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies**

The following COSAC Competencies are addressed in this course:

CN 11 Ability to identify the significant elements of the message of Jesus and Paul

CN 14 Ability to identify and describe the major theological concepts of the New Testament

## **Required Texts & Course Materials**

The Bible: Students who do not use Greek and Hebrew should access the text through the NASB or NRSV. The reading of the Pauline letters should be done from an edition with the fewest interpretive aids printed with the biblical text.

Childs, Brevard S. *The Church's Guide for Reading Paul: The Canonical Shaping of the Pauline Corpus*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008.

Dunn, James D.G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.

Gorman, Michael J. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul & His Letters*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

## **Course Outline**

- I. Introductory Material
  - A. Paul in the 19th and 20th Centuries
  - B. Contemporary Issues in Methodology
    1. Paul the Letter Writer
    2. Sources and the question of authorship
    3. The Use of Acts and Pauline Chronology
    4. Recent Approaches to Paul and his Thought
  - C. Context and Assumptions
    1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Judaism
    2. The Hellenistic World
    3. Pre-Pauline Christianity
    4. Paul's Theological Presuppositions
    5. Eschatology as a Framework for Pauline Thought
  - E. Paul's Use of the Old Testament.

- II. Issues Relating to Soteriology
  - A. Paul's View of Humankind apart from Christ
  - B. Sin and the Flesh
  - C. Law and the Old Testament
  - D. The Person of Christ
  - E. The Death of Christ
  - F. The Resurrection of Christ
  - G. The Righteousness of God

- III. Areas Relating to Life "In Christ"
  - A. Paul's "in Christ" mysticism
  - B. Sanctification
  - C. The Church
  - D. The Sacraments and Ministry
  - E. Ethics
  - F. Israel

IV. Key Issues and Passages in Paul

### **Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. Textbook Reading - The texts by Dunn and Gorman are to be read in conjunction with the seminar segments of the class as indicated below. The text by Childs should be read carefully and an evaluative summary/response paper of 500-750 words will be due on May 7. Part of the class time on May 7 will be devoted to discussion of the implications of Childs' work.

You should also read the letters attributed to Paul in the New Testament and the section of Acts dealing with Paul several times within the course of the semester.

2. The first three weeks of class will be devoted primarily to lecture designed to set the stage for seminar work on Paul the remainder of the semester.

Below is a calendar listing the subject matter, the teaching style (lecture or seminar discussion guided by instructor), the required reading **pages** from the textbooks, the key Pauline texts you should read, and space to indicate the reading you will be assigned for the seminar discussions.

Date	Subject	Style	Gorman Pages	Dunn Pages	Key Texts in Paul	Assignment
2-5	Introduction Organization 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Lecture				
2-12	Contemporary Issues in Methodology	Lecture	74-97	1-26		
2-19	Context and Assumptions	Lecture	1-73, 131-182	27-50		
2-26	Humankind Flesh Sin	Seminar	227-286	51-127	Rom. 5:12- 7:25; 2 Cor. 5:1-5	
3-5	Use of OT Law	Seminar		128-161	Rom. 7; Gal. 3-4	

3-26	Person of Christ	Seminar	412-453, 471-497	182-206, 234-293	Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:15-20	
4-2	Work of Christ or Atonement	Seminar	98-114	207-233	Eph 2; Rom. 3-5:11	
4-9	Righteousness of God and justification	Seminar	183-226, 338-411	317-389	Rom. 3-4; Gal. 2:11-4	
4-16	"In Christ" & sanctification	Seminar	115-130	390-441, 461-498	2 Cor 5:17-21; Phil 3:3-16	
4-23	Church and Sacraments	Seminar	498-531	533-564, 442-460, 599-624	1 Cor. 3, 10-14; Rom. 6, 12-15:13	
4-30	Ministry Ethics Israel	Seminar	532-592, 454-470, 287-337	625-712, 499-532	Rom. 9-13; 2 Cor. 4-5; Phil. 3:3-11	
5-7 Final Exam Period	Report on Papers Discussion of Childs					

Four times within the seminar you will be assigned an outside reading that will relate to the subject of one of the days listed in the course calendar. You will receive the reading assignment during the class organization time on the first day. You will be responsible to report the perspective of your assigned reading in the course of the seminar discussion that the instructor will guide. You should be able to describe the perspective or "angle" taken by your author, the flow of argument (if any), the key scripture passages your author identified and how she or he used those passages. You do not need to hand in a written report, but it would be helpful for you to have written sufficient notes to answer the questions just described. You will not be asked to read a report. Rather as the discussion moves along you should discuss with the group if and how your author dealt with the subject/passage under discussion. On the four days you are not assigned an outside reading, you will be assigned to read and study selected passages from Paul that pertain to the subject. You should be prepared to follow the discussion and as it relates to the passages you have been assigned to indicate their role in the issue.

After the first three days of the class the primary source of instruction will be come through student participation. Your attendance *and participation* is crucial because you are a primary resource. Your attention is important when others are speaking because you may have material that is needed to respond to the other's material. Your attendance and participation record will be considered heavily in the course grade.

3. Major Paper - The final and major evaluative piece for the class will be major paper on a significant subject or passage in Paul. The paper should be approximately 5,000-6,000 words and follow the style guidelines of Turabian. The due date will be April 23. The paper must be submitted in electronic form designed for use in the Logos Book Builder program. This will allow a copy of all papers to be distributed to the class on April 30 in preparation for discussion of the papers on May 7.

Possible subjects include:

- Paul's Understanding of Apostleship
- Paul's Understanding of the Gospel
- The Significance and Influence of Paul's Conversion
- Paul's Theology of the Resurrection of Jesus

- *Hilasterion* in Romans 3:21-26
- Galatians 5:16-25 as a rhetorical climax to Galatians 2:15-5:15
- Paul's Self-Estimation
- Paul's Understanding of Israel
- Paul's View of Women
- Christology in Colossians
- The Theology of one of the Hymns (Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:15-20; 1 Tim. 3:16)
- Spiritual Gifts in Light of Paul's Theology of the Church
- Romans 7 - The Impact of Differing Interpretations on Exegesis of Romans
- Letter and Spirit: Paul's Hermeneutic and 2 Corinthians 3
- Contributions of Sociological Exegesis to the Theology of Paul
- Paul's Understanding and Exercise of Authority
- Themes in the Prayers and/or Prayer Reports of Paul
- Paul's Methods of Conflict Resolution
- Pauline Adaptations of Pre-Pauline Traditions
- Pauline Use of Household Codes

Other paper topics are possible, but must be approved by the instructor. The decision of your paper topic must be finalized by Mar. 26.

### **Policy Regarding Late Work**

Late work may result in reduction of the grade. Lack of participation in the seminar due to failure to have read the assigned material will result in a zero for the day.

### **Course Grading**

The final grade will be computed on the basis of the following percentages:

Contribution in 4 Seminar Discussions - Outside reading @ 6% each	24%
Contribution in 4 Seminar Discussions -Scripture @ 4% each	16%
Paper	35%
Childs Report	20%
Responses to the Papers on May 7	5%

It is the commitment of NTS and of this instructor to make every reasonable effort to facilitate the learning of students capable of graduate level seminary work. Any student who has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of her or his abilities (e.g., difficulty seeing or hearing, dyslexia or other learning disabilities) should contact the instructor immediately, or as soon as possible, to discuss learning needs, alternatives which have worked for the student in the past, and mutually acceptable accommodations to ensure the student's full participation and appropriate evaluation in the course.

### **Course Calendar**

See above

### **Bibliography**

Dictionaries:

Prior to research in the monographs it is often profitable to consult dictionary articles that provide summations of scholarship. The following dictionaries may be helpful in this regard.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. et. al. eds. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Rev. Ed. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

Buttrick, George Arthur, et. al. eds. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* 4 vols. + supplement. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962, 1976.

Elwell, Walter A. ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Freedman, David Noel, et. al. eds. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Hawthorne, Gerald F.; Martin, Ralph P.; and Reid, Daniel G. eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob, et. al. eds. *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006, 2009. (Vols. 1-3 presently available)

### Monographs:

Aageson, James W. *Written Also for Our Sake: Paul and the Art of Biblical Interpretation*, 1993.

Andrews, Elias. *The Meaning of Christ for Paul*, 1949.

Baird, William. *Paul's Message and Mission*, 1960.

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