

**Syllabus for
ROMANS (Greek)
GRK871**

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I. Catalogue Description and Course Objectives

Catalogue Description: Translation and exegesis of Romans. Attention will be given to syntax, style, and vocabulary.

Enlarged Description: In conjunction with the above, some attention will also be given to the rhetorical, epistolary, socio-historical, narrative, and theological aspects of Romans, particularly with regard to how such matters impact the translation, and therefore, the possibilities for the meaning of the epistle.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course you will have (R= Requirement related to fulfilling objective):

1. Demonstrated an ability to translate advanced grammatical constructions in Romans and to offer a compelling defense of your translation (R1, R3).
2. Demonstrated an awareness of how a translator's understanding of a variety of background issues impacts her translation (R1, R3).
3. Demonstrated an awareness of how a translator's theology and/or current ecclesial situation impacts his translation (R1, R3).
4. Demonstrated a basic understanding of the content and theology of this epistle (R1, R2, R3).

II. Required Textbooks (Other material may also be made available through the library or through Blackboard.)

A Greek New Testament.

Grieb, A. Katherine. *The Story of Romans: A Narrative Defense of God's Righteousness*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002.

Rahlfs, Alfred. *Septuaginta*.

Choose **one** of the following commentaries **in consultation with the instructor (the sooner you contact me, the more likely you are to get your first choice):**

Byrne, Brendan. *Romans*. Sacra Pagina. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 1996.

Dunn, James D.G. *Romans 1-8*. Vol. 38A; *Romans 9-16* Vol. 38B. WBC. Dallas: Word Books, 1988. (**Note that these are two separate volumes to buy.**)

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *Romans*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Jewett, Robert. *Romans: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007
(**Very long at around 1,000 pages but is the most recent, exhaustive, critical commentary on Romans available.**)

Käsemann, Ernst. *Commentary on Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Moo, Douglas. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Witherington, Ben with Darlene Hyatt. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Additional Required Reading: There may be additional required reading assigned on an ad hoc basis. If there is, it will be made available through the NTS library or through Moodle and I will base a portion of your translation grade for the day on how well you demonstrate familiarity with it.

III. Helpful Websites

<http://www.thepaulpage.com/index.html>

This is a very good site dedicated to discussion (both for and against) on “the new perspective” on Paul. One of the best overall websites on Paul.

<http://www.ntgateway.com/paul/>

This is the Paul section of the NT Gateway site. It is one of the best sites on the Web for generally reliable information on Paul and the rest of NT studies.

<http://www.torreys.org/bible/>

This is another one of the best overall websites for NT studies in general.

IV. Requirements

1. Oral Translation/Discussion of Assigned Readings. You will be expected to be able to orally translate any portion of the assigned passage for each class period, including any portion of the LXX that Paul may be alluding to in the letter. After preparing your translation, read the corresponding section in the commentary you have chosen and any additional reading assigned for the session. You will be expected to be familiar with your commentator's positions on important exegetical issues and to be able to defend them or to defend alternate positions you have taken in your translation in dialogue with your commentator. You will also be expected to be familiar with the additional assigned reading and be able to articulate how it might impact the way you translate/understand the text. You **may not** bring a written translation to class. Oral translation and discussion of the assigned reading missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up. You may earn up to 675 points over the semester for your oral translations and discussion of assigned readings.

2. Group Romans Written Summary and Class Presentation. I will divide the class into two groups. Each group will write a summary of the argument of Romans. It should be approximately 2,000-2,500 words (around 8-10 double-spaced pages). In order to do so, each group member should proceed as follows: Read Romans in English at least three times. For two of your readings, you should read from the NRSV and the NIV. You may choose any other translation (not paraphrase) for your third reading. Read Grieb's, *The Story of Romans* carefully. Then, *as a group*, write a summary in dialogue with Grieb (**avoiding long quotes** from her) making sure that you put chapter and verse references in parentheses in support of your summary statements. I will evaluate your group's written summary on the basis of: (1) how well it summarizes the argument of Romans; (2) how well it illustrates a conscious dialogue (whether in agreement or disagreement) with Grieb; (3) how well-written it is in terms of English grammar and syntax. Your group may earn up to 50 points for this part of the assignment. To submit this assignment, one group member should email the final version of it to me as an attached MS Word file by 11:59 PM on Friday, September 25.

Your group will be given one half of the class period on September 28 to summarize the argument of Romans. I'll designate a particular portion of the epistle to each group member. Therefore, every group member will give a part of the group's oral summary of the argument of Romans. However, no one will know which portion of Romans they will have to summarize until I call on them to summarize their particular portion on behalf of their group. I will evaluate your group's oral summary on the basis of: (1) how well it summarizes the argument of Romans; (2) how well it illustrates a conscious dialogue (whether in agreement or disagreement) with Grieb. However, **you will not be allowed to simply read from your group's written summary**. Note carefully: If you do a poor job, it will not only affect your grade but the grade of your group members as well. Your group may earn up to 50 points for this part of the assignment.

I will also evaluate your individual presentation along the same lines as I evaluate your whole group's oral summary. You may earn up to 25 points for your individual performance in the presentation.

3. Final Oral Exam. On December 14 (and possibly on December 7 as well) you will be given an oral exam over a passage or passages from anywhere in Romans. I will explain this in more detail as the time approaches. You may earn up to 200 points for this exam.

V. Summary of Grading Policy

The final grade will be computed using the following point scale. There are 1,000 possible points.

675 points	Daily Oral Translations
50 points	Written Romans Group Summary
50 points	Romans Group Summary Oral Presentation
25 points	Individual Performance in Group Oral Presentation
200 points	Final Oral Exam

The following point scale will determine letter grades:

A	1,000-930	C+	799-780	D-	629-600
A-	929-900	C	779-730	F	599-0
B+	899-880	C-	729-700		
B	879-830	D+	699-680		
B-	829-800	D	679-630		

VI. Selected English Commentary Bibliography (excluding the ones listed above)

- Barrett, C.K. *The Epistle to the Romans*, Harpers New Testament Commentary. New York: Harper & Row, 1957. (2nd ed. Blacks New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991).
- Barth, Karl. *The Epistle to the Romans*, E.T. London: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Bray, Gerald. ed. *Romans. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament*, Vol. VI. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- Cranfield, C.E.B. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*, 2 vols. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1975, 1979.
- Edwards, James R. *Romans*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1996.
- Keck, Leander E. *Romans*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
- Luther, Martin. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. E.T. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1976.
- Schlatter, Adolf von. *Romans: the Righteousness of God*. trans. Siegfried S. Schatzmann. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, E.T. 1995.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Romans*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Vol. 6. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.
- Stuhlmacher, Peter. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Commentary*. trans. Scott J. Hafemann. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.
- Talbert, C. H. *Romans*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2002.
- Wright, N.T. "The Letter to the Romans: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections," *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. X. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Ziesler, John. *Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Trinity Press International New Testament Commentaries. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1989.