



Theology of Paul- THCM 4320

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies Division

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Classes Meet: July 7-11, 2014

Time 1-4pm

Room H216

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church.

[If] you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones— bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas. — C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, (New York: Simon & Schuster/Touchstone, 1996) p.136-7.

Core Value Focus

This year's core value is **Doctrinal Integrity: *Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional statements are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.***

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: This course will require the student to engage, embrace, and faithfully articulate the biblical teaching on the major doctrines.
2. *Theological and historical perspective*: Furthermore, this course will require the student to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the various theological themes found within the writings of the Apostle Paul. The course will focus upon Paul's texts and the doctrines constructed upon those writings. Special emphasis will be given to Paul's concepts of the law and the new covenant.

Learning Objectives

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Comprehend theological themes with the Pauline corpus.
2. Value the ecclesiastical contributions of Paul's thought.
3. Articulate their personal understanding of Paul's emphases.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

The Bible (a modern version is preferable)

Ben Witherington III, *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2001.

Supplemental Texts

Elwell, Walter. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2001. ISBN: 0-8010-2075-1. ISBN

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN: 0-226-82337-7.

Optional Texts

Grenz, Stanley, and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. (This book can be previewed at books.google.com.)

Course Teaching Methodology

This is an inquiry-based learning course which requires attainment of knowledge, reflection, questioning, and application for your ministry context. The course will involve reading, lectures, participation in discussion forums, test to assess requisite knowledge, interactive essays to demonstrate your competency in articulating a theological viewpoint in a coherent and cogent constructive reflection.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. **Prework:** Before the first day of workshop, each student will have completed the following exercises:
 - a. Each student will have read the following all of the Pauline books in their entirety with particular attention to : 1 Thess, Gal, Phil, 1 and 2 Cor, Rom, and

Phlm. You will be required to sign a statement that you read at least the above books. The reading of the Bible books will compose 10% of the course grade.

- b. Each student will have read and taken reading notes on Witherington’s *Paul Quest*. These notes may be outline in form, summarizations, or direct quotes taken from the book. Students will be allowed to turn in their actual book if their note-taking method was page highlighting. The reading notes will be turned in hard-copy form on the first day of class (July 7, 2014). **The reading notes will not be accepted late– they must be completed by the first day of class.** The reading notes will compose 10% of the final semester grade.
2. **Coursework during workshop:**
 - a. **Class Notes/Discussion:** The student will be expected to take notes and engage in the class discussion demonstrating their familiarity with the Pauline corpus as well as the information provided in the textbook. Class participation will constitute 10% of the grade
 - b. **Final exam:** An open book final exam will be administered in the final hour of the course. Hence, the importance of taking notes in class. The exam will constitute 30% of the grade
 3. **Post workshop work:** Each student will complete the following exercises (see due dates):
 - a. **Interactive essay:** Students are required to submit two (2) interaction assignments reflecting a theological topic from the course. The interaction assignments are designed to integrate cognitive learning and ministry application. Consequently, students have the choice to submit: (1) a full manuscript sermon, (2) a Sunday School lesson (must be for young adult and higher class), or (3) a persuasive essay. These assignments must (1) reflect bachelor’s level scholarly thinking and writing and (2) be persuasive, that is it must require the reader/listener to make a decision. Use the Bible, the textbook as well as at least 3 other sources. There is no page limit but front matter must be in NOBTS Turabian format. The interactive essays will compose 40% of the course grade.

Course Policies

1. *Attendance and Participation:* Attendance at class sessions is mandatory. Should a student miss a class period, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain class notes. The professor does not provide copies of lecture notes.
2. *No Late Assignments Accepted:* No late assignments and/or tests will be accepted. The instructor may consider exceptions in cases of emergency or other extenuating circumstances. No extra points will be awarded for early submission.
3. *Professor Availability and Feedback:* The professor will answer most emails within 24-48 hours.

Course Grading

Assignment/Activity	Due Date	% of grade
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Reading of the Pauline works	July 7	10
Reading Notes of Textbook	July 7	10
Class Participation	July 7-11	10
Final exam	July 11	30
Interactive Essay #1	July 18	20
Interactive Essay #2	August 1	20
TOTAL		100%

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	93-100%	85-92%	77-84%	70-76%	Below 70%

Course Schedule

Note: Assignments must be completed one hour before the class meets. For example, Unit quiz 1 must be completed on or before 2pm EST August 26, 2013

Selected Bibliography

Ellis, E. Earle. *Pauline Theology*. Lanham, Maryland: Univ. Press of America, 1997.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *Paul and His Theology: A Brief Sketch*, 2d. ed. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1989.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *The Law and Its Fulfillment: A Pauline Theology of Law*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.

Witherington, Ben, III. *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2001.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Paul's Narrative Thought World: The Tapestry of Tragedy and Triumph*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1994

Wright, N. T. *The Climax of the Covenant: Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Ziesler, John. *Pauline Christianity*. The Oxford Bible Series. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.