

Paul's Epistles (4NT520) – 2009

(3 hours)

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor, and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the purpose of Romans through attention to its cultural setting (*A New Paradigm and Purpose for Romans – Problem Texts, Roman Echoes and Relationships*). **In this course students will not only gain a classic seminary understanding of Paul, but through interaction with Roman culture, understand him and his letters more broadly. In addition, it will be our purpose to understand how Paul thought as a Christian, so we might see how to think as Christians today.**

< Office hrs: Th, 11.00-1pm. Email me for an appointment; blowe@rts.edu >

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Little needs to be said about Paul. He and his letters are a vital part of how we are to understand the Christian faith. In this course there is both a theoretical and practical bent. You will be given an understanding of Paul himself, but will also be exposed to the cultures which shaped him. It is only as we understand both of these that we are truly in a position to see his mind and thus the way a Christian should think.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a general understanding of each of Paul's letters.
2. To highlight the specific value of each of Paul's letters for today – particularly the counter-cultural message Paul presented in his own day and its relevance for us today.
3. To resolve the key issues & 'problem passages' in Paul and his writings.
4. To consider how a Christian should think.

Required Texts:

Carson & Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Zondervan, 2005)
ISBN 0310238595

Hawthorne, Martin & Reid (eds.), *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP, 1993)
ISBN 0830817788

Williams, *Paul's Metaphors* (Hendrickson, 2003)
ISBN 1565632877

Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (Eerdmans, 1997)
ISBN: 978-0-8028-4469-9

ASSESSMENT

40% Research Paper; due on or before last class (i.e. May 14th)

20% Mid-Term Exam; Download after Feb 19th; complete by March 12th

40% Final exam - due two weeks after last class (i.e. Midnight 28th of May)

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

Thursday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, February 05 - May 14

General Outline

Session	Date	Class Lectures
1	F5	The Center of Paul?
2	F12	The Center of Paul?
3	F19	The Center of Paul? & Romans (Part I)
4	F26	Romans (Part II)
	M5	Break

5	M12	Romans (Part III) & The Center of Paul?
6	M19	Galatians/Colossians
7	M26	Ephesians/Philippians
8	A2	1Thessalonians/2Thessalonians
	A9	Week of Easter
9	A16	1Corinthians
10	A23	1Corinthians
11	A30	1Corinthians/2Corinthians
12	M7	2Corinthians
13	M14	Pastorals