

'Acts & Pauline Epistles' (2NT518/01)

Syllabus

CLASS TIMES

Mon to Fri 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, June 02 - June 13

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 the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. 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 / Ancient History, where his thesis has focused on the purpose of Romans through attention to its cultural setting ("*Complicating to Simplify the Romans Debate*"). **Both Paul and Acts are a special area of interest for Dr. Lowe, through published work, his PhD, through thesis work and conference papers. 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 against their cultural back-drop.**

CONTACT INFORMATION: <blowe@rts.edu>

OFFICE HOURS: I will be available during the weeks of the intensive at the end of the lunch break, each day (12:20pm – 12:45pm)

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. But more than this Paul (in combination with Acts) gives us a window into how we should think as Christians (esp. when seen against his own culture). The Lord has blessed us through Paul's writings and information from Acts so that we can "know the man." This course will therefore focus on the content of Acts and Paul's letter, but also upon how we should think as Christians, in light of Paul himself.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a general understanding of each of Paul's letters & Acts.
2. To highlight the specific value of each of Paul's letters for today – particularly the cultural & counter-cultural message Paul presented in his own day and its relevance for us.

ASSESSMENT

- 10%** Two page “book review” of pp. 13-90 of Ridderbos’ “Paul”; **Due the beginning of class June 2nd**
- 20%** Oral Mid-Term – **Half-hour blocks at various times on Friday 13th of June) – Covering all reading requirements & “The Center of Paul”¹**
- 30%** Final exam - **due two weeks after last class (emailed to me by Midnight 27th of June)**
- 40%** Research Paper; **three weeks after last class (emailed to me by Midnight, 4th of July)**

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, 1975)
ISBN 978-0-8028-44699

Reading Requirements:

- The first 90 pages of Ridderbos (see 10% book review, due first day of class)
- All entries for each separate letter of Paul, from **Carson & Moo** are required for the Mid-term Oral (see below), as are the **IVP dictionary entries** “Conversion of Paul”, “Romans”, “Galatians”, “Philippians” and “The Corinthian letters (see below)
- The information in the above entries will also be required again for the final exam. The final will also require a reading of **William’s book** and the additional entries on *Acts* from the **IVP dictionary** and from **Carson and Moo** (see below)
- **The best thing to do will be to read as much of the material in advance!!!**

¹ It is important that you pass yourself for this course. It is a four hour subject and so there is a lot expected. **TRY TO GET THE READING DONE IN ADVANCE!!!** The Oral exam will consist of you being interviewed for half and hour (perhaps on your own perhaps in groups of two or three, depending on class size). For this exam you will need to know the reading material listed in the table below, excluding information on Acts – note brackets.

General Outline

Session	Date	Reading Requirements / Assessment	Outline
1	June 2	10% Ridderbos review IVP entry, “Paul and his Interpreters” C&M Col., Eph., Gal.	What is the Center of Paul? (Colossians, Ephesians, Galatians, Paul’s Conversion in Acts)
2	June 3	C&M Romans IVP “Conversion & Call of Paul”	What is the Center of Paul? (II) (Paul’s Conversion in Acts, Ridderbos, Romans)
3	June 4	IVP Dictionary entries on “Romans” & “Galatians”	Romans & Galatians
4	June 5	C&M Philippians & 1&2Thess.	Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians & 1Thessalonians
5	June 6	IVP Dictionary entries on “Philippians” & “Corinthians letters”	2Thessalonians & 1Corinthians
6	June 9	C&M 1&2 Corinthians	1Corinthians & 2Corinthians
7	June 10	C&M Pastoral Epistles	Pastoral Epistles & Acts

8	June 11	(C&M Acts) – not required for Oral	Acts
9	June 12	(IVP entry “Acts”) – not required for Oral	Acts
10	June 13	Study for Oral	“Mid-Term” Oral Exam
Final Exam	June 27 th (mid-night)	30% Final (download from iqweb, and email to me)	All material may be tested: all required reading as well as all lecture material
Assign.	July 4 th (mid-night)	40% Assignment (email to me)	

Assignment Question (40%):

- What is the New Perspective on Paul? What benefits (if any) has the movement brought to the study of Paul in the 21st century, and to what extent (if at all) is it problematic? Recommended Starting resource: Guy Water’s book “Justification and the New Perspectives on Paul” and reference therein.