COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of Acts and Paul’s Epistle to the Romans that emphasizes both the original meaning and the modern meaning (RTS Catalog).

COURSE OBJECTIVES
2. To examine the place of Acts within the larger picture of Biblical Theology.
3. To trace the missions activity of the early Christians, and especially the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. To use Acts, then, as a map against which to understand Paul’s life and ministry.
4. To gain an appreciation for Paul not as “abstract theologian,” but as a missionary, and to see how Romans serves his missiological purposes.
5. To understand Paul’s letter to the Romans within its first century historical setting. Biblical studies must always begin with historical questions: Who wrote it? What were the particular circumstances of the author? To whom is it addressed? What were the circumstances of the addressees? What factors, either in the author’s life or in the lives of the addressees, might have caused the letter to be written?
6. To see many of the implications of Romans both for theology and for daily life.
7. To gain a better understanding of the biblical foundation for many of the rich theological concepts presented in the letter. These include justification by faith, sanctification, union with Christ, redemption, reconciliation, covenant, propitiation and election.
8. To gain insight into the critical question, How does Paul describe the believer’s relationship to the Law? This has important implications both for understanding Paul and for understanding the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
9. To understand some of the main lines of development in the history of interpreting Paul, including the so-called “new perspective” on Paul in recent biblical scholarship.

TEXTS


P. T. O’Brien, Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul

Thomas Schreiner, Romans
EVALUATION

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

1. Completing all of the assigned reading for the course. In addition, students must read both Acts and Romans twice. (10%)
2. A final exam, worth 50% of your final grade. This exam will be a take-home exam, handed out on the last day of class. It will be due four weeks after the class is completed (Friday, 2/8, by 12:00 noon). The exam will be based on class lectures and all reading assignments.
3. An 8-10 page exegetical paper on one of the passages from Romans listed below. See handout for more details. This paper will be due at the same time as the final exam (either one can be turned in any time before that). (40%)

1:18-23
2:12-16
3:21-26
5:12-21
7:7-13
9:30-10:4