

Tuesdays, 7:00-10:00 pm, Auditorium
Instructor: Prof. Andrea Di Giovanni
Email: adigiov2@uwo.ca, Office: Room 229
Office Hours: TBD

A. Course Description

This course examines the life and letters of St. Paul by comparing the portrayal of Paul in his own letters and in the Acts of the Apostles. The original setting, structure, and the inspired message of the authentic letters for modern readers are considered. Attention is also given to the letters whose Pauline authorship is disputed. The course will explore the main themes and theological emphases of the letters by or associated with Paul in the New Testament. (*3 hours per week; antirequisites: the former Biblical Studies 336E and 403B*)

B. Goals and Objectives

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge

- Familiarity with the generally accepted contours of St. Paul's life and missionary work; his situation within three intersecting worlds (Jewish, Greek, Roman)
- An understanding of the distinction drawn by scholars between letters of unquestioned Pauline authorship, and the "Deutero-Pauline" letters whose Pauline authorship is debated;
- Familiarity with the concept of *literary pseudonymity* as it was practiced in the ancient Greco-Roman world;
- Familiarity with key themes, motifs, and vocabulary in the Pauline literature;
- A recognition of the place of the Pauline literature in the Church's Sunday lectionary.

Skills

- The ability to integrate exegetical study with one's own faith and spiritual life, without compromising one or the other;
- The ability to understand and explain Pauline texts in a way that is theologically informed, culturally relevant, and pastorally helpful.

Attitudes

- Respect for the work of exegetes, translators, and biblical commentators;
- Pastoral sensitivity to some of the contemporary issues (gender roles, sexual morality, Jewish-Christian relations, etc.) that frequently arise in connection with the reading, study and preaching of the Pauline literature;
- Respectful and genuine interest in the contributions of one's classmates and an openness to learning from the insights of others.

By the end of the course it is expected that every student will have carefully read through the entire Pauline corpus.

C. Assessment

1. **Participation: 10%:** Weekly attendance is mandatory. Preparation for, and active and informed participation in, class discussion is also a major aspect of this component of your grade. Respectful interaction with one's peers is essential. Since students interact with material in different ways, various kinds of participation will be noted towards your grade. For example, listening attentively, asking questions (even by email), and making comments are all good ways to demonstrate that you are thinking critically about the material. Participation marks are lost when it is clear that a student has not done the readings, and, though perhaps physically present, is not engaged with the material or class discussion.
2. **Assignment 1: 25%. 5-7 pages. Due Friday, February 16, 2017, 4:30 pm via electronic upload to OWL. (Please place a hardcopy in my mailbox ASAP)**
 - Select one of the *Undisputed Pauline Letters* for examination, and, after describing the pertinent historical details behind the letter, provide an exegetical analysis of one important passage, theme, or issue in the letter. How would this passage/theme/issue have been understood by Paul and his audience? How can we understand it thoughtfully today? Use of commentaries, materials on ATLA, and the course textbook is required.
3. **Assignment 2: 25%. 5-7 pages. Due Friday, April 6, 2017, 4:30 pm via electronic upload to OWL. (Please place a hardcopy in my mailbox ASAP)**
 - Select one of the *Deutero-Pauline or Pastoral Epistles* for discussion, and, after describing the pertinent historical details behind the letter, provide an exegetical analysis of one important passage, theme, or issue in the letter. How would this passage/theme/issue have been understood by Paul and his audience? How can we understand it thoughtfully today? Use of commentaries, materials on ATLA, and the course textbook is required.
4. **Take Home Exam: 40%**

A summative assignment, intended to integrate the learning of the whole semester. Due electronically via OWL and in hardcopy on the date set by the Dean of Theology.

N.B. Both written assignments and the Take Home exam must be submitted via OWL and in hardcopy.

D. Readings or Textbooks

Required textbooks (available from the UWO Bookstore):

1. A bible in a contemporary English scholarly translation (NRSV is preferred).
2. Daniel J. Scholz, *The Pauline Letters*, Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2013.
3. Other reading materials will be supplied in class or via OWL, or placed on reserve in the A.P. Mahoney Library.

E. Schedule of Topics and Readings

| Date | Topic | Readings to Prepare* |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Jan. 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Remarks • Aspects of 1stc AD Greco-Roman Context | Scholz, Introduction |
| Jan. 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Paul's life • Paul as he is depicted in Acts | Scholz, Chapter 1 Acts 7-28 |
| Paul the Apocalyptic Thinker | | |
| Jan. 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greco-Roman Letter Form • 1 Thessalonians | Scholz, Chapter 2 |
| Jan. 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Corinthians | Scholz, Chapter 3 |
| Feb. 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Corinthians | Scholz, Chapter 4 |
| Paul and the Torah | | |
| Feb. 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galatians | Scholz, Chapter 5 |
| Feb. 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans: Part I | Scholz, Chapter 8 & Romans 1-8 |
| Mar. 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans: Part II | Romans 9-16 Stephen Westerholm, "Is Nothing Sacred? Holiness in the Writings of Paul" pp. 87-99 (On reserve in the library) |
| Paul and Early Christology | | |
| Mar. 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippians | Scholz, Chapter 7 Bloomquist, "Subverted by Joy: Suffering and Joy in Paul's Letter to the Philippians." (OWL) |
| Mar. 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colossians & Philemon | Scholz, Chapters 8 and 9, pp. 225-234 |
| Paul and Early Ecclesiology | | |
| Mar. 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephesians • 2 Thessalonians | Scholz, Chapter 9 |
| Apr. 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus | Scholz, Chapter 10 |
| Apr. 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul's Enduring Legacy • Paul in the Life of the Church | Scholz, Chapter 11 |

*NB: Beginning January 23, the expectation is that in addition to the assigned chapters from the textbook students will read the entire Pauline letter(s) under discussion.

F. University Regulations

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: All written work must be uploaded to OWL for verification through TurnItIn. It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of **10%** will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission. Students who have a legitimate reason (e.g. significant illness, family emergency) for not submitting work on time must fill in a request for an extension, which will be approved by the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Bibliography***General Introductions and Collections***

James D. G. Dunn, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to St. Paul*. Cambridge Companions to Religion. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Leander E. Keck and Victor Paul Furnish, *The Pauline Letters*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1984.

Jerome Murphy-O'Connor. *Paul His Story*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Charles B. Puskas and Mark Reasoner. *The Letters of Paul: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2013.

Marion Soards. *The Apostle Paul: An Introduction to his Writings and Teaching*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1987.

Paul and Judaism

Daniel Boyarin, *A Radical Jew: Paul and the Ethics of Identity*. Contraversions 1. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997, esp. Ch. 6, "Was Paul an Anti-Semite?"

William Reuben Farmer, ed. *Anti-Judaism and the Gospels*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999, especially the relevant portions of E. P. Sanders' "Reflections on Anti-Judaism in the New Testament and in Christianity," pp. 265ff

Jörg Frey, "Paul's Jewish Identity," in Jörg Frey and Daniel R. Schwartz, eds., *Jewish Identity in the Greco-Roman World*. Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity, vol. 71. Leiden: Brill, 2007, pp 285-321.

Richard B. Hays, *The Conversion of the Imagination: Paul as Interpreter of Israel's Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005.

E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

Alan F. Segal, *Paul the Convert: The Apostolate and Apostasy of Saul the Pharisee*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.

Alan F. Segal, "Paul's Jewish Presuppositions," in James D. G. Dunn, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to St. Paul*. Cambridge Companions to Religion. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 159-172.

Socio-Historical Approaches to Paul

Helmut Koester, *Paul and His World: Interpreting the New Testament in Its Context*. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2007

Bruce J. Malina and Jerome H. Neyrey, *Portraits of Paul: An Archaeology of Ancient Personality*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996.

Bruce J. Malina and John J. Pilch. *Social Science Commentary on the Letters of Paul*. Minneapolis, Augsburg Fortress, 2006

Wayne A. Meeks, *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1983.

Jerome H. Neyrey, *Paul, In Other Words: A Cultural Reading of His Letters*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.