

Austin Graduate School of Theology
Fall 2016, M 7–9:40 PM
(C)
Email: peterson@austingrad.edu

Jeff Peterson, Instructor
512.476.2772 (O); 512.576.7426

Office Rm. 207, Hours by Appointment

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE GALATIANS AND ROMANS (NT 4350)

MATS Educational Goals Supported by the Course

1. The student will identify and offer informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of representative books of the New Testament (Gospels and Acts, Pauline letters, General Letters, Apocalypse).
2. The student will prepare papers, sermons, classes, and other assignments demonstrating familiarity with methods and principles of biblical exegesis in Old and New Testaments.

Aims of the Course

1. Students will acquire mastery and appreciation of the content of Paul's letter to Christians in Galatia and Rome in the context of Paul's missionary activity, his relations with his converts, and the historic faith of the Christian church.
2. Students will increase their understanding of helpful methods of literary, historical, and theological exegesis of Scripture in application to these letters.
3. Students will explore the application of the central emphases of Galatians and Romans and of Paul's particular arguments to concerns in the life of the contemporary church, with particular attention to possibilities for preaching these letters.

Required Texts

1. Peter Oakes, *Galatians*
2. Luke Timothy Johnson, *Reading Romans*
3. Frank J. Matera, *God's Saving Grace: A Pauline Theology*
4. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., ESV, RSV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, NAB, NJB, REB). Two excellent tools for study are the Harper Collins Study Bible and the NIV Study Bible, which give the reader quick access to current academic (i.e., mainline Protestant) and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
5. Strongly recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28th ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the letters and the full marginal references to parallel passages. An edition of the Nestle-Aland bound with the Revised Standard Version is available through the American Bible Society; for more information, see Ms. Beyer in the Austin Graduate School bookstore.

Course Requirements

1. Prompt attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class, completion of the assigned reading, and informed participation in class discussion. The student should note that the reading assignment properly includes *consultation of the Scripture references* in the secondary discussion as relevant. In addition to the assigned commentaries, each student will select one of the following commentaries on Romans and read through it as we cover the book [10% of final grade]
Eligible commentaries available for checkout from the Worley Library include:

J. D. G. Dunn
C. E. B. Cranfield
C. K. Barrett
J. A. Fitzmyer

P. Stuhlmacher
D. Moo (NICNT)
P. J. Achtemeier
C. H. Talbert

B. Byrne
F. Matera
K. Barth
T. R. Schreiner

2. Each week, *no later than midnight the night before each class meeting*, as part of preparation for class, each student will email to the instructor at least *two (2) quotations per biblical chapter from the secondary reading assignment* (i.e., Matera, Oakes, Johnson, and the additional Romans commentary), each quotation conveying a *point significant for the interpretation of the week's primary reading assignment in Galatians or Romans*. The student may also include comments or questions raised by the week's preparation. [25% of final grade]

3. A critical review, approximately five (5) pages in length, of Frank J. Matera's book *God's Saving Grace: A Pauline Theology*, due by the beginning of class on **Monday, October 3**. A rewarding introduction to the sort of reading required for such a review is found in Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*. Models for writing the review can be found in issues of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *New Testament Studies*, *Touchstone*, *Pro Ecclesia*, *First Things*, and other periodicals accessible through the Worley Library. [30% of final grade]

4. An exegetical paper, six (6) to eight (8) pages in length, treating a pericope selected from Galatians or Romans in consultation with the instructor, who will also supply a guide to the writing of an exegesis paper. A good discussion of exegetical method Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*; and works that will aid in the preparation of an exegesis are thoroughly discussed in Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. The paper is due **by 5 PM on Friday, December 9**. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. The student is encouraged to base the paper on a passage for which (s)he serves the class as discussion leader in assignment 2. [35% of final grade]

SCHEDULE

Monday, August 29

Introduction: Galatians and Romans, Pauline Theology, and "Reformational Catholicism"
Matera (begin reading, complete for review of book due on October 3)

Monday, September 5: NO CLASS MEETING (LABOR DAY)

Monday, September 12

Attend AGST/First Things Lecture, "Reformational Catholicism," by Peter J. Leithart
University Avenue Church of Christ, 1903 University Avenue, 7 PM

Monday, September 19

Galatians, chaps. 1–2
Oakes, ad loc.

Monday, September 26: NO CLASS MEETING

Monday, October 3

Galatians, chaps. 3–4
Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, October 10

Galatians, chaps. 5–6
Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, October 17

Romans 1:1–17; chaps. 15–16

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, October 24

Romans 1:18–3:31

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, October 31

Romans, chaps. 4–5

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, November 7

Romans, chaps. 6–8

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, November 14

Romans, chaps. 9–11

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, November 21: NO CLASS MEETING

Monday, November 28

Romans, chap. 12–14

Johnson, ad loc.

Monday, December 5

Romans Recap

Friday, December 9

Paper and Sermon Series Due