

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**RELI 350 STUDIES IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY: PAUL, THE FIRST
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIAN**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lecture: When and where:

Tuesday 12:00 – 01:50pm. HM LT 001

Tutorials

Tutorial enrolment is administered through S Cubed

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator

Assoc. Professor Chris Marshall HU 115,

Telephone: 463 7421 chris.marshall@vuw.ac.nz

Tutor

John Dennison john.dennison@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Alikali Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318 (ph: 463 5299). Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Tutorial enrolment is administered through S Cubed, and tutorial times shall be posted on the notice board in the first week of the trimester.

Office hours

The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30am – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Dr Marshall by appointment.

Prescription

An examination of the contribution of the apostle Paul to the character, content and concerns of Christian theology, including a survey of the main themes and concepts in the Pauline literature in the New Testament.

Course description

An introduction to the life, thought and writings of Paul, early Christianity's most formative theological thinker. We examine Paul's conversion and its impact on his Jewish world view, the hermeneutical challenges associated with making sense of Paul's writings, and key themes in Paul's theological thought. The course will include case studies on Paul's interactions with the church at Rome and, to a lesser extent, the church at Corinth. The course will engage throughout with key debates in contemporary Pauline studies.

Course content

The course consists of six units, which will be covered in lectures, tutorials, assignments, and in your own background reading:

1. *Paul: Convert and Apostle*
 - Paul's pre-Christian background and career
 - Paul's encounter with Christ
 - Paul's missionary career
 - Paul's legacy in Christian theology
2. *Reading Paul: The Hermeneutical Challenge*
 - Letter-writing and morality in antiquity
 - Guidelines for reading Paul's letters
 - The sources, shape and character of Paul's theology
 - The centre of Paul's theology
 - Paul's use of scripture
3. *Case Study: Paul's Interactions with the Roman Church*
 - The towering importance of Romans for Christian theology
 - Difficulties in reading Romans
 - Old and new perspectives on Paul
 - Paul and the human condition
4. *Paul's Message of Salvation in Christ*
 - The Saving Event: Christ-crucified and risen
 - Justice, justification and faith
 - New life in the Spirit, and "the Corinthian problem"
 - The shape of Pauline spirituality
5. *Paul in Practice*
 - Paul: Patron saint of women?
 - Eschatological ethics
 - The task of Christian moral discernment
 - Paul, social radical or social conservative?
6. *Paul and the Future*
 - Paul and Israel
 - The resurrection of the dead
 - New creation
 - Universalism in Paul?

Course learning objectives

“Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. explain the nature of Paul's relationship to contemporary Jewish, Hellenistic and Christian contexts
2. identify the characteristic features of Paul's theology
3. appreciate the special complexities entailed in reading and interpreting Pauline literature
4. understand major currents in current Pauline research
5. reflect critically on the relevance of Paul's life and thought for religious life and interfaith engagement today.

Teaching format

This course shall be taught by means of one two hour lecture per week and 9 tutorial sessions scheduled throughout the trimester.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Attend a minimum of 7 tutorials,
2. Submit: two written essays; 7 tutorial assignments,
3. Sit the class test.

Workload

Work-load (Recommendation of the Assessment Handbook)

For 20 point one trimester courses, 13 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 10 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

Assessment

The course is internally assessed by means of two written essays, seven tutorial exercises and a class test, weighted as follows:

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 2000 word essay	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	August 9 2013
2	One 2800 word essay	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Sept 13 2013
3	7 Tutorial assignments (about 300 words each)	10%	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Final class test held in class time (1 hour and 40 minutes duration)	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	October 15 2013

Rationale for assessment

The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives.

- **The tutorial assignments** will take the form of class exercises, based on the prescribed reading for the session and on key themes explored in lectures. The aim is to encourage students to complete the set reading and to identify the key issues and facts covered in the material. Tutorial discussions will focus on the material in the Reader and on biblical texts that illustrate the themes discussed in lectures. It is a requirement of this course that students attend at least 7 of the 9 tutorials.

- **The essays** allow students to research a topic of particular interest to them. Essays should demonstrate the students' level of proficiency with regard to finding, understanding, and using sources. In so doing students will develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for continued study. Students who do not understand the grades they have been assigned or are concerned about their progress are encouraged to meet with their tutors for a discussion.
- **The class test** allows students to demonstrate their grasp of the material covered in the course and their understanding of the themes addressed, and creates an opportunity to review and reflect on what they have learned in the course as a whole.

Essays

Due dates:

- Essay 1: due August **9 2013** (20% of total grade)
- Essay 2: due Sept **13 2013** (30% of total grade)

Submission and return of work

Essays and assignments must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the programme administrator's office (HU 318) and students must date and sign the essay register to indicate submission. No responsibility will be taken for assignments left in the box or pushed under doors for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. It is a Programme policy that marked work is returned within 3 weeks.

Penalties

Penalties for late essays / assignments

- 1 percent point per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
- To avoid these deductions, an extension may be sought with an explanation in writing. The reason for the extension does not need to be medical; in the event that it is, a medical certificate must be submitted.
- Requests for extensions may be made to the tutor or the course co-ordinator
- An essay which is handed in more than 2 weeks late will not be given any feedback.

Set texts

Required texts

Tutorial discussions will be based on material supplied in the course reader and either of the following two short books:

N.T. Wright, *Paul: In Fresh Perspective* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005)

N.T. Wright, *What Saint Paul Really Said* (Oxford: Lion, 1997)

The first book above is available at Manna Books, 185 Willis Street. The second should be available at the university bookshop. Another recent book by the same author that covers similar ground is:

N.T. Wright, *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2009)

Course Reader

This should be obtained from vicbooks at a cost of approximately \$40.00. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Students should have access to a copy of the New Testament, preferably the NRSV translation (available online at [www. http://bible.oremus.org/](http://bible.oremus.org/))

Recommended reading

Additional references for assignments and background reading are attached at the end of the course guide. One extremely useful reference work is:

G.F. Hawthorne, R.P. Martin and D.C. Reid (eds), *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters* (Leicester: IVP, 1993).

There are many fine theologies of Paul available. Especially recommended is:

James D.G. Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998). Also useful is James D.G. Dunn, *Beginning from Jerusalem* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009), 497-1057.

A very much shorter and clear summary of Paul's thought is:

J. Ziesler, *Pauline Christianity* (Oxford; OUP, 1990).

For a feminist reading of Paul, see:

S. Hack Polaski, *A Feminist Introduction to Paul* (St Louis, Mis: Chalice Press, 2005).

For an excellent survey of Christian theology in general, see:

Alister E. McGrath, *Christian Theology – An Introduction* (London: Blackwell, 2007).

Students should check out the Trinity Newman Collection in the Religious Studies library, HU 320, and the library in Ramsey House, 8 Kelburn Parade.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Taping of Lectures

All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form which advises of copy right and other relevant issues.

Student Learning Support Services

A range of workshops, drop-ins and other assistance is provided by SLSS, covering such things as study techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and note taking skills. They are at Level 0, Kirk wing, Hunter courtyard, tel: 463 5999

Guidance in essay writing and presentation of bibliographies

Please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays in the Appendix to this document.

Student feedback

This course will be evaluated by **CAD**.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz