



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Te Kura Toirangi**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

## **RELI 350 The First Christians: Texts and Contests**

**20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2016**

### **Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 11 July to 13 November 2016

**Teaching dates:** 11 July to 16 October 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 22 August to 4 September 2016

**Study period:** 17–20 October 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### **Class times and locations**

Lectures: Friday 12:00 – 12:50 HM 103

Tutorials: tba.

### **Names and contact details**

Course coordinator: Dr Philip Fountain KP14/106 4635491 [philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz)

Lecturer: Dr Matthew Scott KP14/203 463 5299 [mathew.scott@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mathew.scott@vuw.ac.nz)

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos KP 14/203 463 5299 [aliki.kalliabetsois@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:aliki.kalliabetsois@vuw.ac.nz)

### **Communication of additional information**

Religious Studies is located at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room 203 (463 5299), [aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz). Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

**Office Hours:** The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with Philip Fountain by appointment. Both Matthew Scott and Philip Fountain will seek to answer emails promptly.

## Prescription

The character and concerns of earliest Christianity, focusing particularly on the contribution of the apostle Paul, including a survey of key themes, concepts and debates in and about the Pauline literature in the New Testament.

## Course content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner about early Christianity. The course uses a mixture of lectures and small-group discussions to make connections between theory, theology and lived religious experience. The course also aims to improve students' skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and communication.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass RELI 350 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, and in particular his theology of the unconditioned gift
3. comprehend the distinctive emphases of four major Pauline letters
4. appreciate the special complexities entailed in reading and interpreting Pauline literature
5. understand major currents in current Pauline research
6. reflect critically on the relevance of Paul's life and thought for religious and political life today

## Teaching format

The course uses a mixture of lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate both content and ideas, that is, historical and ethnographic materials, as well as relevant theories. The tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures. It is essential that students attend lectures and tutorials, as the lecturer and tutor use these to introduce material that is not contained in the readings.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course. This fosters for students the intended linkages between the lectures, tutorials and assigned readings, and allows students to learn cooperatively. Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## Workload

For 20-point courses a student should, on average, spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time, should be approximately 200 hours.

## Assessment

All essays should be written in clear language and should contain a coherent, structured and organised argument. Essays should conform to referencing practices as laid out in the Chicago Style for the Humanities, including a correctly formatted bibliography. A document providing guidance on referencing will be uploaded to Blackboard. All essays will be submitted to the plagiarism-detection software Turnitin.

RELI 350 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due dates
1	Essay 1 (2,000 words) (recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours)	35%	1, 2, 3,4,5,6	19 August 2016
2	Essay 2 (2,500 words) (recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hours)	40%	1, 2, 3,4,5,6	30 September 2016
4	End of Class test (recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3,4,5,6	14 October 2016

## Submission and return of work

All essays should be submitted in electronic format on Blackboard. Marked essays shall be returned within two weeks from the date of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office (KP 14 / 203). Students should keep a copy of all their essays until it is returned.

## Extensions and penalties

All assignments should be submitted by 5:00pm on the due date. Late assignments may be subject to a penalty of 2% per day late. Students who require an extension for legitimate reasons should apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question. Essays submitted late due to medical reasons may be required to provide a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

## Set texts

There is no set textbook. All readings shall be available on Blackboard via the Talis system.

Please see the Lecture Programme in the Appendix to this Outline (to be distributed during the first lecture, and available on BlackBoard) for a full reading list for this course.

## 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.

## Student feedback

The past evaluations for the course very good, and confirmed that the current shape of the course is working well. 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](http://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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)