Course Outline: Winter 2019

Major Letters of Paul
RS 3090G/BS5205B
Location: W104
Days & Time: Fridays 11:30-2:20

Instructor: Dr. N. Meyer
Contact info: nmeyer5@uwo.ca
Office: A225 ext c/o 289; hours: Fri 10:20-11:20

The composition and theology of Paul’s letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians in their historical setting.

Course Prerequisite
RS 2124F/G or permission of instructor

Course Description
This course engages in a close reading of the seven undisputed letters of Paul (those which are universally agreed to have been authored by the apostle), with an emphasis on the “major” letters of Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. Our concerns will be simultaneously historical and theological. They are historical insofar as we are concerned with what can be known about Paul, his environment, and his mission from the standpoint of critical, historical inquiry; theological insofar as we are concerned to think with Paul, to understand the substance of his convictions, both with respect to their historical contingencies and their possible enduring impact. Students will be introduced to the major scholarly debates and perspectives surrounding Paul and his letters, with a particular emphasis on the question of Paul’s relationship to his ancestral Judaism, the law, and Israel. Overall, students will be encouraged to form an historically sensitive understanding of the apostle and to develop an appreciation for and critical appraisal of the social and theological aspects his thought.

Course Objectives
Students will gain close familiarity with the content and historical setting of the major Pauline letters.

Students will be able to identify the major topics of debate in the interpretation of the Pauline letters and to articulate some of the chief alternatives in the scholarly discussion.

Students will be able to recognize and, ideally, develop historically and textually sound interpretation of the Pauline letters, even as they gain an appreciation for the complexity and difficulties that characterize this task.

Course Requirements
Attendance & Participation: 20%  Attendance and active participation in class is critical. Since we meet only once a week, for three hours, a single absence is worth, in effect, two. Therefore, each class missed will count for a deduction of 3% and if more than three are missed 10% will be the maximum you may receive here.

Class Presentation: 10%  Students will guide the class in a discussion of at least one of the readings (depending on class size), selected in consultation with the professor. A synopsis of the argument will be presented, followed by a brief critical evaluation, and an attempt to engage the class
in back-and-forth discussion; a hard copy will be provided to the professor (no more than 2 pages in
length).

Book Review: 15% Students will write a 6-7 page (double-spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins)
book review of Paula Fredriksen's, Paul: The Pagan's Apostle, in which they devote roughly equal
amount of space to (1) summarizing and (2) probing both the strengths and weaknesses of her
argument as well as its implications. (Note: the review need not fall into two halves.) Due: March 1st

Major Essay: 25% Students will write a 11-12 page argumentative essay on a text of their
choosing from the major letters of Paul. The essay should be an historically based and academically
engaged investigation into the meaning of a Pauline text. An annotated bibliography (see below) will
be submitted ahead of the essay itself, and students should clear their choice of text and topic with
the professor prior to setting to work on the bibliography. Due: April 5th

Include bibliography

Reference style: Chicago, Notes/Bibliography Method

Annotated Bibliography: 5% In preparation for their major essay, students will submit an annotated
bibliography, prefaced by a summary statement of their topic and research question and perhaps a
tentative thesis. The bibliography will include at least 6 sources of various types, including peer-
reviewed journal articles, biblical commentaries (no more than two for this assignment),
monographs, and essays in edited volumes. (Course material is not permitted for this assignment,
although—and of course—it may be used in the essay itself, where it will have to appear also in the
final bibliography.) Each entry will be annotated with a brief 2-3 sentence statement of the argument
or perspective of that source. (Reference style, as above.) Due: March 15th

Final Exam: 25% The final exam will be essay style, take-home, and electronically submitted.
Due: April 11th

Books for Purchase
Gorman, Michael J. Apostle of the Crucified Lord. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans,
2016.

Fredriksen, Paula. Paul: The Pagan’s Apostle. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press,
2017.

Books Recommended
An Academic Study Bible. Preferably, one of the following:
Attridge, Harold, et al. eds. The Harper Collins Study Bible. NRSV translation. Revised
Course Schedule

January 11th: Introductions

Read (before the first class): Gorman, “Approaching Paul”; “Paul’s World(s)”; “Paul’s Resúmé,” pp. 1-91

January 18th: 1 Thessalonians, Awaiting the End

Read: 1 Thessalonians


January 25th: Galatians, Apocalypsis & Peritome

Read: Galatians 1-6

Gorman, “Galatians,” 227-250

February 1st: Galatians, Apocalypsis & Peritome

Read: Galatians 1-6

Gorman, “Galatians,” 250-272

February 8th: 1st Corinthians, The Trouble with Corinth

Read: 1 Corinthians

Gorman, “1 Corinthians,” 273-304

February 15th: 1st Corinthians, The Trouble with Corinth

Read: 1 Corinthians

Gorman, “1 Corinthians,” 305-341

February 22nd: Reading Week

March 1st: 2 Corinthians: Paul’s Apologia

Read: 2 Corinthians

Gorman, “2 Corinthians,” 342-394

Book Review Due

March 8th: Romans: Jews, Greeks, and Paul’s Gospel

Read: Romans

Gorman, “Romans,” 395-425

March 15th: Romans: Jews, Greeks, and Paul’s Gospel

Read: Romans 1-8

Gorman, “Romans,” 425-445
**Annotated Bibliography Due**

**March 22nd: Romans: Jews, Greeks, and Paul's Gospel**

Read: Romans 9-16

Gorman, “Romans,” 445-481
Eastman, “Israel and the Mercy of God” (Focus on Romans material)
Fredriksen, *Pagan’s*, 159-166

**March 29th: Philippians & Philemon: Citizens of Heaven**

Read: Philippians & Philemon

Gorman, “Philippians,” “Philemon,” 482-543

**April 5th: Wrap Up**

Essays Due

**April 11th**

Final Exam Due

**Additional Statements**

1. **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams:** It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html).

3. **Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the
reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

4. Support Services:
   - UWO Registrar's Office: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
   - Huron’s Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
     http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
   - Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
   - Bachelor’s Academic Advising at Huron:
     http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices
   - Huron’s Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
   - UWO’s Mental Health website: http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to this website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
   - UWO Student Support and Development Services:
     http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm
   - Services provided by Western University Student Council: http://westernusc.ca/services/

5. Accommodation for absences:
   If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to your Faculty’s Dean’s office (or academic counselor), and not to the instructor. For the Faculty of Theology, all such documentation must be submitted to room A227. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

   a) Non-medical absences:
      Non-medical absences which result in missing a quiz or a chance to turn in a summary will not be accommodated. These absences will also result in a deduction from your participation mark.

   b) Medical absences: See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness —Undergraduate Students, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf

      For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation must be submitted as soon as possible to your Faculty Dean’s office (Huron Arts & Social Science students should take their documentation to the Academic Counsellor, through the Academic Services Centre at Huron), together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean’s office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

      The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) and Request for Relief are available at the Student Centre website (https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm), Huron University College Academic Counselling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean’s Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

      For work representing less than 10% of the overall grade for the course: Students will be accommodated for one missed quiz due to a non-documented medical absence.