



NT 606 *Romans and Galatians* (3 credit hours)
Fall 2005

Instructor: Kenneth A. Fox

Contacting the Instructor

Office: Room 713
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Class Times: Tuesdays, 13:00 – 15:45
Class Location: TBA
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Course Description

In this intermediate course in New Testament, we build on *New Testament Foundations* (NT 501), by exploring the life, ministry, and theology of Paul, based on an exposition of Paul's letters to the Romans and Galatians in their literary, argumentative, and historical contexts.

Particular attention is given to Paul's theology of God, the cross, the law-free Gospel, and ethics. We also explore practical and hermeneutical concerns that arise in applying Romans and Galatians today.

Prerequisite: NT 501 New Testament Foundations (or equivalent)

Course Objectives

At the successful completion of this course, each student is expected to have achieved competence in the following areas:

- 1 ability to exegete passages from Romans and Galatians according to a clearly articulated hermeneutic
- 2 understanding of:
 - Paul's Gospel as it comes to expression in Romans and Galatians
 - the major theological ideas found in Romans and Galatians
 - the argumentative structure of each book
 - the historical background of Romans and Galatians

- 3 capacity to reflect theologically upon the message of Romans and Galatians and critique theological systems (e.g., Calvinism, Armenianism) used to interpret them
- 4 employ principles of Pauline Theology in the solving of problems faced in the Christian life and world today

Required texts

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Second edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

McKnight, Scot. *Galatians*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Romans*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.

Course Requirements

Discussion Groups (20%)

There will be ten in-class, discussion times of approximately forty-five minutes each. Students will read all of Scot McKnight's *Galatians* and a portion of John R. W. Stott's *The Message of Romans*. These discussions have four purposes:

- 1 to challenge students to develop their critical, thinking skills as they reflect, in a group-context on the content of the Pauline letters and the textbook
- 2 to enable students to improve their skills in developing theological arguments and express their views verbally in group discussion
- 3 to empower students to foster their ability in leading fellow students in group discussion
- 4 to encourage students to listen respectfully and tolerantly to views not their own

In the second class, students will be divided into groups of five or six. In groups, students will discuss together what makes for an excellent discussion. They will also establish a way to contact each other outside of class (exchanging email addresses is easiest). They will also assign themselves the weeks for which they will be responsible for leading the discussion.

Responsibilities of the group leader. Once or twice during the course each student will lead the group discussion. The group leader has two responsibilities:

- 1 During the group discussion, the group leader's responsibility is to guide the discussion and keep things on track. The group leader should not prepare a mini-lecture. The leader may choose to use some of the questions prepared in advance by the teacher
- 2 After the discussion, the leader will assign a participation grade for each student and submit the grade to the teacher (grade from one to four, with four being highest). Base the grade on the following criteria:
 - If a student's comments during the discussion reflected an informed reading of assigned material, allocate a higher grade
 - If the student has contributed their fair share (not too much, not too little), allocate a higher grade
 - If a student has dominated discussion in inappropriate ways, reduce their grade
 - If a student has not contributed or contributed only minimally, assign a low grade
 - If a student has contributed but their contributions were not informed by a careful reading of the material, assign a low grade
 - *Most importantly, has the discussion led to a better understanding of the textbook and to a critical interaction with it?*
 - All grades are confidential (leaders may give fraction grades: e.g., 2.7)

Responsibilities of the student as group participant. Students should come each week having read the assigned materials carefully and reflectively. Since the group leader may use some of the questions distributed in advance, it may be wise to think about those questions. In addition, students should come with their own questions and comments based on the readings.

Final examination (30%)

The examination will be based on class lectures and reading of the textbooks. *The professor will tell students all the questions that will appear on the final exam.* The examination will probably consist of short-answer questions.

DATE: Final examination week

Written work (50%)

Students should submit a maximum of fifteen (15) pages (double-spaced) of written work for the course. They may write one large paper or two smaller papers. Students are free to prepare exegetical papers and/or thematic papers.

A few pages of the total amount should consider ways by which you might apply your exegetical research today. You may have general comments of application, or Bible study and sermon outlines. Guidelines will be provided in class for researching and writing. These, together with *The Craft of Research*, must be followed closely in order to achieve a grade higher than a B.

Students will present their findings to the class *only* on the date the assignment is due. Condense your paper into a five-minute, oral presentation with a one-page handout for the class. Design the one-page handout in such a way that it may be useful to the other students in future. Please submit the one-page handout together with the paper to the professor.

Students wishing to write a thematic paper might consider one of the following topics:

Paul's Gospel in Romans or Galatians
Homosexuality in the context of Romans 1.18-32
Role of the Law in Christian moral practice according to Romans or Galatians
The Christian and the State with reference to Romans 13.1-7
Christian social relations with reference to Romans 14.1-15.6
The place of Gal 3.28 in the argument of Galatians

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| DUE DATES: | One paper | December 6 |
| | Two papers | October 18 December 6 |

Course Grade

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| Group discussions | 20% |
| Final Examination | 30% |
| Written work | 50% |

Full attendance is expected. Absenteeism will be calculated into the final grade.

Important Notes

Romans Galatians 4
Syllabus
Canadian Theological Seminary

- *Craft of Research Seminar.* This seminar, though not required, will be useful for researching, writing, and revising the exegetical paper for this course. Bring your copy of the book and a hi-liter to the seminar
- Submit all written work with your mailbox number in large font at the top center of the title page. *Papers will returned only to student mailboxes*
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: September 16
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: November 16
- *Policy on extensions.* Requests for a course extension must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by December 14. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control." All written assignments turned in after December 14 must be submitted to the switchboard on the sixth floor. The professor will not accept any written work after December 14 unless permission has been granted from the registrar's office
- *Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy.* The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean

Course Schedule

Week

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| 1 | September 13 | Introduction to Romans; Romans 1.1-15 |
| 2 | September 20 | Romans 1.16-2.16 |
| | September 27 | NO CLASS – DAY OF PRAYER |
| 3 | October 4 | Romans 2.17-3.20; Intro to Galatians; Gal 1.1-12 Group discussion #1: McKnight, 19-70 |
| 4 | October 11 | Romans 3.21-4.25; Gal 1.13-2.14 Group discussion #2: McKnight, 71-114 |
| 5 | October 18 | Romans 5; Gal 2.15-3.14 Group discussion #3: McKnight, 115-164 Papers due |
| 6 | October 25 | Romans 6.1-7.6; Gal 3.15-4.7 Group discussion #4: McKnight, 165-214 |
| 7 | November 1 | Romans 7.7-25; Gal 4.8-5.12 Group discussion #5: McKnight, 215-261 |
| 8 | November 8 | Romans 8; Gal 5.13-6.18 Group discussion #6: McKnight, 262-311 |
| 9 | November 15 | Romans 9-11 |
| 10 | November 22 | Class at professor's house (Nov 1-28) Group discussion #7: Stott, 263-290 Group discussion #8: Stott, 291-337 |
| 11 | November 29 | Romans 9-11 Group discussion #9: Stott, 338-375 |
| 12 | December 6 | Romans 12-13 Group discussion #10: Stott, 377-406 Papers due |
| 13 | December 13 | Romans 14-16 |