



Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2021
NT 608 CL	Prison Letters	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

2 WEEKEND FORMAT CLASS

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Dates: - Wknd 1	April 9-11	Instructor:	Sam Tsang (PhD University of Sheffield)	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	End of second evening
Wknd 2	April 23-25	Email:	samtsang@hkpts.edu.hk	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri 9 AM, 2 nd wknd
Days/Time:	Week day – 6:30-9:30 pm	Phone:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 29
Days/Time	Saturday – 9 am to 4 pm	Office:			
Room:		Office Hours:			

Course Description

An exploration of Paul’s theology as it comes to expression in Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon. Attention is given to the historical, argumentative, and literary contexts of each letter. Particular attention is given to Paul’s theology of Christ, his theology of ministry and the church, as well as pastoral and hermeneutical concerns that arise in applying these books today.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Exposure to various critical methods, thus developing a personal exegetical strategy with clearly delineated presuppositions.
2. Appreciation for various interpretive traditions, thus gaining their insights and avoiding their pitfalls.
3. Learning Paul's use of worship material to fortify his arguments.
4. Application of principles that follow the legacy of the Pauline message in our community.
5. Intellectually, students should be able to think in the theological, historical, social, rhetorical, and literary context of Paul's world.
6. Students will gain a critical mind with which to discuss interpretations from academic traditions different from our own.
7. Students will learn to appreciate the introductory issues and to solve the "problems" in Pauline Epistles.

Students will learn to be comfortable in the exposition and application of a Pauline text.

Textbooks

Fung, R. Y. K., *Philippians* (Cupertino: Tian Dao, 1995).

Kwok, Ezra, *Ephesians* (Hong Kong: Logos, 2014).

Pao, David, *Colossians-Philemon* (Cupertino: Tien Dao, 2016).

Tsang, Sam, *Paul and Politics 2* (Hong Kong: Logos 2021).

Recommended

Arnold, Clinton, *The Colossian Syncretism* (Grand Rapids: Wipf, 2014).

___ *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010).

___ *Power and Magic* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2001).

Barth, Marcus, *Ephesians* (Garden City: Double Day, 1974).

Best, Ernest, *Paul and His Converts* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).

Brannon, M. J., *The Heavens in Ephesians* (London: T & T Clark, 2011).

Burtchell, J. T., *Philemon's Problem* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998).

Campbell, Constantine R., *Paul and Union with Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

Carr, Wesley, *Angels and Principalities* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983).

Clark, Bruce C., *Completing Christ's Afflictions* (Tubingen: Mohr, 2015).

Cohick, Lynn, *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020).

Cole, H. Ross, "The Christian and Tim-Keeping in Colossians 2:16 and Galatians 4:10," *AUSS* 39 (2001): 273-282.

Comfort, Philip Wesley, *The Poems and Hymns of the New Testament* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2010).

Croy, N. Clayton, "To Die is Gain," *JBL* 122 (2003): 517-531.

DeSilva, David A., *A Day in the Life of Ephesus* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2020).

Fee, Gordon, *Philippians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995).

- Fowl, Stephen, *The Story of Christ in the Ethics of Paul* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1990).
- Garland, David E., *Colossians and Philemon* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998).
- Grabe, Petrus J., "Salvation in Colossians and Ephesians," in Jan G. van der Watt (ed.), *Salvation in the New Testament* (Leiden: Brill, 2005).
- Harris, Murray, *Slave of Christ* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1999).
- Hohner, Herold, *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002).
- Holloway, Paul A., "Alius Paulus," *NTS* 54 (2008): 542-565.
- Jeal, Roy R., *Integrating Theology and Ethics of Ephesians* (Lewiston: Mellen, 2000).
- Lincoln, Andrew, *Ephesians* (Dallas: Word, 1990).
- _____, *Paradise Now and Not Yet* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981).
- Maier, Harry O., "A Sly Civility," *JSNT* 27 (2005): 323-349.
- _____, *Picturing Paul in Empire* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013).
- Martin, Dale, *Slavery as Salvation* (New Haven: Yale, 1990).
- Martin, Ralph, *Carmen Christi* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983).
- McKnight, Scott, *Colossians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018).
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome, *St. Paul's Ephesus* (Collegeville: Liturgical, 2008).
- Oakes, Peter, *Philippians* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- Pate, Marvin C., *The Reverse of the Curse* (Tubingen: Mohr, 2000).
- Payne, P. B., *Man and Woman, One in Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009).
- Peterman, G. W., *Paul's Gift from Philippi* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).
- Rapske, B. M., *The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).
- Richardson, Neil, *Paul's Language about God* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994).
- Sampley, J. Paul, *Paul in the Greco-Roman World* (London: T & T Clark, 2016).

Sumney, Jerry, *Colossians* (Louisville: WJKP, 2008).

Talbert, Charles H., *Ephesians and Colossians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007).

Thielman, Frank S., *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010).

Walsh, Brian, Sylvia Keesmaat, *Colossians Remixed* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2004).

White, Joel R., "Paul Completes the Servant's Suffering," *Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters* 6 (2018): 181-198.

Wilson, R. McL., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Colossians and Philemon* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2005).

Wink, Walter, *Naming the Powers* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987).

Witherington, Ben, *The Letters to Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

Zetterholm, Magnus, *Approaches to Paul* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009).

Course Schedule

See the top.

Requirements:

Reading: Read the Epistles twice in the first three weeks. One more detailed reading must follow the progression of lectures. Read 500 pages of journal or dictionary (e.g. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*) articles relating to the Epistles in addition to required texts. At the end of the semester, each student will turn in a pledge that s/he has read all of the assignments. If not, whatever percentage read must be given.

Papers: 1) The student will write a 15 page argument paper of Ephesians. 2) From a wide range of reading, the student will write a 15 page paper with full footnotes on one of the following topics: the function of the imperial theme in the Epistles; the different interpretations on the Christ hymn in Phil. 2; the rhetorical function of hymnic materials in Prison Epistles. Turn in papers on June 4. There will be no grace period.

For research paper, the student can feel free to consult the recommended reading above. Academia.edu contains a lot of really helpful academic articles as well. Research papers will require students to do such readings. Make sure the research paper isn't a devotional sharing. There's a place for devotional sharing. The research paper isn't such a place. Interaction with research material should be diverse and critical. Students shouldn't only read sources that agree with their theories but also must converse with scholars to take different views.

Attendance:

This is an intensive. Attendance is required.

Grade Summary:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Comprehensive understanding of subject matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-developed understanding of subject matter.	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing understanding of subject matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited understanding of subject matter	1.30
D		1.00
F	Failure: Failure to meet course requirements	0.00

Other:

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student

to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crisissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.