



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

NT 650 Romans

Winter 2008

Class Times: Tuesdays 6:30–9:15 pm

Instructor: Dr Paul Spilsbury

Contact Information

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Online Classroom: <http://online.ambrose.edu> **Session #: 1648**

Course Description

In a world riven by mutual antagonism and communal strife Paul preached a message of peace: peace with God, and peace with fellow human beings. In his letter to the Romans the apostle Paul lays bare the roots of the human dilemma and reveals the path to peace with God and communal reconciliation. In this course we will attempt to plumb the depths of the apostle's complex thought in its historical and theological context, and to grapple with the profound relevance of this letter for the people of God today.

Course Objectives

This course aims to give students:

1. An introduction to the historical background of the letter, including its place in the life and work of the apostle Paul.
2. A thorough grounding in Pauline theology as it is expressed in the letter to the Romans.
3. An orientation to the most important scholarly debates concerning the meaning of the letter.
4. An appreciation for the contemporary relevance of the letter for Christians today.

Required Text

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

On Reserve

Numerous important commentaries on Romans are on Reserve in the Library.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

#	Date	Subject	Due Dates
1	8 January	Introduction	
		Historical Setting	
2	15	1:1–17	
		1:18–32	
3	22	2:1–29	
		3:1–20	
4	29	3:21–31	
		4:1–25	Romans Reading
5	5 February	5:1–11	
		5:12–21	
6	12	6:1–14	
		6:15–7:6	
—	19	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	
7	26	7:7–25	Comparative Review
		8:1–8	
8	4 March	8:9–17	
		8:18–39	
9	11	9:1–29	
		9:30–11:10	
10	18	9:30–11:10	
		11:11–36	
—	25	<i>No Class</i>	
11	1 April	12:1–2	
		12:3–21	
12	8	13:1–14	Exegesis Paper
		14:1–23	
13	15	15:1–33	
		16:1–27	

Course Requirements

1. Read Paul's letter to the Romans in its entirety in three different translations. Submit a statement by email indicating that you have completed this reading.

Due: 29th January

2. Complete the comparative review assignment.

a) Read the required text's treatment of the following key passages in Romans:

1:16–17

3:21–26

5:12–21

7:13–25

10:5–13

12:1–2.

b) Compare each of these treatments with that of at least two other commentaries on Romans (on reserve in the library). These reviews should be an average of 500 words per passage. They should include critical interaction with both commentaries and the biblical texts.

Due: 26th February

3. Write an exegetical research paper on any one of the following key texts in Romans:

a) 4:13–25

b) 8:1–17

c) 11:25–36

The goal of this assignment is to dig deeper at a specific point in the letter. You should include a detailed discussion of the passage itself, along with a discussion of previous scholarship on the critical issues it raises. Pay attention to the inner logic of the passage and how it fits into the argument of Romans as a whole.

This research paper should be 2000 words long (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font). It should include an introduction and conclusion in addition to the main body of the paper. The conclusion should include reflection on the practical application of your findings. The bibliography, comprising at least 20 items, should include various different types of entries, including commentaries, monographs and journal articles.

A Style Guide is available in the online classroom.

Due: 8th April

Course Grade

1. Reading	5%
2. Comparative Review	40%
3. Exegetical Research Paper	55%

Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
A+	90 and higher	
A	85-89	Excellent
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	
B	73-76	Good
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	
C	63-66	Satisfactory
C-	60-62	
D+	55-59	Poor
D	50-54	Minimal Pass
F	49 and lower	Failure

Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to all academic policies as they are stated in the Academic Calendar.
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: **18th January**.
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: **14th March**.
- All written assignments for this class are to be submitted as Word attachments to the instructor's e-mail address.
- Assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date specified.
- Extensions beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.
- If you feel you qualify for an extension, you must make a request to the instructor **in writing** via e-mail.
- Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.
- Students are encouraged to have their term paper read by a second reader before submitting it to the instructor. This person's name should be included on the title-page.
- Ambrose 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. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar 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.
- Personal information, that is, information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected 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.