

New Testament Studies: The Pauline Epistles RL 3263 A

Instructor

Robert Lee Foster, PhD

Contact Points

rfoster@wbcoll.edu

Office: 870-759-4149

Home: 870-886-9021

WBC Box 3652

Course Website

<http://tinyurl.com/rfoster>

Office Hours

I am generally in my office (MC 106) from 7:15 AM to 4:00 PM.

Communication

Students will provide an email address to the professor. This address will be used to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their email accounts for this information between each class. If you need to contact me, please do so personally or use one of the contact points mentioned above. Students should also update their Moodle profiles with a current email address.

Course Overview

A historical and theological study of the life, ministry, and letters of Paul, including a detailed exegesis of selected passages.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary of the content of the course. The learning activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the "Institutional Academic Goals" of Williams Baptist College (Catalog).

1. The student will become familiar with the events of the life of Paul of Tarsus and his basic teachings as recorded in the Pauline Corpus and the Acts of the Apostles. Furthermore, the student will be able to compare and contrast these events and teachings.
2. The student will be able to present the issues related to the authorship of the books of the Pauline Corpus as it pertains to the ministry of Paul of Tarsus.
3. The student will understand the significant issues and ideologies of the first century Greco-Roman world.
4. The student will become familiar with the significant issues related to Pauline theology.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the college's "Academic Honesty Policy" (catalog). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the Bible such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, NRSV, etc.

Polhill, John B., *Paul and His Letters*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1999.

Hawthorne, Gerald F. Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.

Learning Activities

Note Bene

Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point value.

Class Attendance (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes may result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, Cast, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (e-mail is acceptable) to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. These notes should be submitted within one week of the absence, preferably prior to the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points for each absence beginning with their second absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures beginning with their second late arrival or early departure. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points in the class.

Biblical Reading (25 points)

Each Student will be required to read the Pauline Corpus during the course of the semester. Students will be asked to affirm they have completed this reading on the penultimate day of class. A Reading Log for this project has been placed on the course website. Students are required to maintain a contemporaneous log of their readings and submit it on the due date.

If your reading log becomes damaged during the course of the semester, please bring it to the professor and ask for instructions.

Seminar (100 points)

Each student will participate in a one day research seminar. This seminar will take place February 26, 2016 from 3:00 to 10:30 PM. Attendance is mandatory. Additional details will be discussed in class.

Research Paper (200 points)

Each student will write a 15 page research paper on a passage from the Pauline Corpus, for example, *Paul's View of the Law in Rom 7:1-13*, or *Paul's Discussion of Idol Meat in 1 Cor 8:1-13 as a Model for Christian Ethics*. Students will not receive a passing grade for the course if they do not submit a paper.

The research project will be completed in four stages. Each stage will be evaluated to assign a final grade for the paper.

Stage One: Students should submit three one page proposals. The proposals should include a clear definition of both the issue and passage which they would like to research. The professor will evaluate each proposal and suggest a course of study.

Stage Two: Students will select one of their proposals and expand the proposal by writing a thesis paragraph for their paper, constructing an outline of the passage, and presenting a proposed bibliography of at least five resources.

Stage Three: Students should submit a rough draft which will be marked for grammar, style and format so that corrections can be made in the final paper. Students should also submit a completed "A Checklist for Step by Step Biblical Exegesis."

Stage Four: Students will submit a final project.

Stages one through three will account for 20% for the grade on the project. The remaining 80% will evaluate the final product including format and style. All four stages of the papers must follow Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Students will submit two copies of Stages 3 and 4: a printed copy and an electronic copy submitted to Turnitin.com. Papers will not be considered submitted until both copies have been received. The checklist does not need to be submitted to Turnitin.com.

NOTE BENE: *NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!* They are due in class on April 5, 2016. See course calendar for due dates of each stage.

Exams (Mid Term Exam 100 points, Final Exam 200 points)

Exams will cover both the lecture and reading material. Two exams will be given: a mid term and a final. *The final exam will be comprehensive.* Students are required to use a plain black or blue ink pen on all exams.

Late Assignments

Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late.

Extra Credit

Students may write a book review for extra credit potentially earning an additional 25 points. *Extra credit book reviews must be pre-approved by the professor by March 18, 2016.* The deadline for this book review is the last day of class.

Final Course Grade

Accuracy of Grades

All grades for the class are kept in the Moodle grade book. Students should routinely check their grades. Any questions about the grades should be directed to the professor by the last day of class. All grades for the course (except the final exam) will be considered final the last day of class. The final exam grade will be considered final if the student does not contact the professor within one week of the posting of the grade. This procedure is intended to involve the student in the accuracy of their grade in a timely manner.

Grading Scale

Class Attendance	25	A	93-100%
Biblical Reading	25	B	83-92.9%
Seminar	100	C	73-82.9%
Research Paper	200	D	63-72.9%
Exams	<u>300</u>	F	0-62.9%
TOTAL POINTS:	650		

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations in advance of their need. Documentation will be required.

Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
January 12	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus 2 Tm 2:14-26	
14	A Citizen of Two Cities	Polhill 1-23 DPL "Hellenism" 383-388	
19	Hebrew of Hebrews	Acts 7:54-8:3 Phil 3;1-11 Polhill 24-43 DPL "Conversion and Call" 156-183	
21	Speaking to Greeks Also	Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-4 Polhill 66-83 DPL "Antioch on the Orontes" 23-25 DPL "Barnabas" 66-67	
26	ABSC Evangelism Conference	No Class	
28	The First Mission	Acts 13:4-14:28 Polhill 84-104 DPL "Mission" 608-619	STAGE 1 DUE
February 2	Paul Defends His Gentile Mission	Acts 15:1-35 Polhill 105-119 DPL "Gentiles" 335-339 DPL "Jerusalem" 468-471 ¶4	
4	Continued		
9	Paul the Letter Writer	Polhill 120-133 DPL "Canon" 85-92 DPL "Letters..." 550-553 DPL "Opponents of Paul" 644-653	
11	Philippians: Partnership in the Gospel	Phil 1-4 Polhill 158-179 DPL "Philippians" 707-713 DPL "Joy" 511-512	
16	Thessalonica: Hope in the Lord	1 Thes 1-5 2 Thes 1-3 Polhill 180-205	

DPL "Thessalonians" 932-939

18	Paul's Urban Ministry	Acts 17:16–21:16 Polhill 206-229 DPL "Athens..." 51-54 DPL "Social Setting..." 883-892 DPL "Ephesus" 249-253	STAGE 2 DUE
23	1 Corinthians: A Church Divided	1 Cor 1–9 Polhill 230-256 DPL "Corinthians" 164-179 DPL "Wisdom" 969-970 ¶3.1 DPL "Strong and Weak" 916-918	
25	Continued	1 Cor 10–16 DPL "Body of Christ" 76-82 DPL "Gifts of the Spirit" 339-347	<i>Pauline Seminar Tomorrow Feb 26 3:00-10:30</i>
March 1	Continued		
3			MID TERM EXAM
8	2 Corinthians: Treasures in Jars of Clay	2 Cor 1–13 Polhill 257-277 DPL "Affliction..." 18-20 DPL "Weakness" 966-967	
10	Continued		
15	Romans: The Jew First and Also the Greek	Rom 1–5 Polhill 278-305 DPL "Romans" 838-850 DPL "Wrath, Destruction" 991-993	STAGE 3 DUE
17	Continued		
22	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS	
24	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS	
29	Paul's Collection for Jerusalem	Gal 2:10 1 Cor 16:1-4 2 Cor 8–9 Rom 15:25-33 DPL "Collection for..." 143-147	

		DPL "Financial Support" 295-300 DPL "Jerusalem" 472-473 ¶16	
31	Colosse: A Big Savior for a Small Church	Col 1-4 Polhill 329-353 DPL "Colossians..." 147-153	
April 5	Continued		STAGE 4 DUE
7	Philemon	Phlm 1-25 DPL "Households..." 417-419 DPL "Philemon" 703-707	
12	EXEGESIS: The Problem in Galatia	Gal 1:1-9 Polhill 134-157 DPL "Galatians" 323-334 DPL "Judaizers" 512-516	
14	EXEGESIS: Paul's Apostleship	Gal 1:10-2:21 DPL "Apostle" 45-51	
19	EXEGESIS: Paul and the Law	Gal 3:1-4:31 DPL "Abraham" 1-6 ¶1-2 DPL "Law" 529-542	
21	EXEGESIS: Continued	DPL "Works of the Law" 975-979	READING LOG DUE
26	EXEGESIS: Freedom in Christ	Gal 5:1-6:10 DPL "Freedom/Liberty" 313-316 DPL "Fruit of the Spirit" 316-319 DPL "Virtues and Vices" 962-963	
28	EXEGESIS: <i>Go Away or I will Taunt You a Second Time!</i>	Gal 6:11-18	
			FINAL EXAM