

Syllabus for
GBIB 517—Paul: Mission and Message
3 Credit hours
Fall 2003

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the life, missionary journeys and major theological themes of the Apostle Paul evidenced in his letters and Acts. Includes application to the contemporary church.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Comprehend the nature of Paul's world and then assess the impact of his environment and background upon his ministry and theology.
- B. Learn to sense the significance of Paul's relationship to Jesus Christ for his mission and motives, and to see Paul as a model of one "in Christ."
- C. Trace the missionary journeys of Paul and learn to understand the problems and achievements of each mission.
- D. Comprehend the major issues addressed in Paul's letters and the central points or counsel given by the apostle.
- E. Understand the primary theological tenets of the Apostle Paul, including the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.
- F. Become familiar with diverse scholarly assessments of the chronology, historicity, and theology of Paul.
- G. Relate the model of ministry and theology of Paul to ministry in the modern world and church.
- H. Ascertain from Paul's letters and theology effective ways to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural contexts.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of a successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Describe the Hellenistic World in which Paul conducted his ministry and state the impact of his background upon specific theological themes and convictions.
- B. Discuss the central theological concepts of Paul's letters, relate diverse interpretations given by scholars, and defend personal understanding.
- C. List the major historical issues and topics addressed in each of Paul's letters and narrate the chronological development of his life and ministry.
- D. Interpret and relate the nature and characteristics of Paul's relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

- E. Construct and discuss a model of ministry derived from an understanding of Paul and his message for communication of the Gospel in the contemporary world in multicultural contexts.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required Textbooks
Holy Bible (any translation).

Mansfield, Robert M. *GBIB 517: Paul—Mission and Message: Class Study Guide*. Tulsa: ORU, 2002.

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

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Paul, Apostle of God's Glory in Christ*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

- B. Recommended Textbooks
Bruce, Frederick F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

Fitzmyer, John A. *Paul and His Theology*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1989.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
 2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
 3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
 4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
 5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
 6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

- B. School of Theology Policies and Procedures
 1. **Completion of assignments**
Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
 2. **Incompletes**
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete

are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes.

The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$10 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty).
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.
- b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures
 - Theological Research Paper 30%
 - Midterm Examination 25%
 - Take-Home Reading Report 10%
 - Final Examination 35%
- Grading Scale
 - A=100-90%
 - B=89-80%

C=79-70%

D=69-60%

F=59-0%

2. Course Requirements

a. Take-home questions on assigned reading (2-3 pages); application to contemporary church or culture.

b. Theological Research Paper.

(1) Submit a 10-12 page research paper (excluding notes and bibliography), based on a Pauline theological theme treated in Schreiner's *Paul*. Include exegesis or central passages in Paul's letters pertaining to the theme.

(2) Apply the theological theme to a contemporary issue or concern in the church or society; present the application in class.

(3) Provide notes and bibliography (12 entries minimum, including at least one journal article).

c. Midterm Examination.

d. Final Examination.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic/Assignment
1	Introduction to the course The Hellenistic World of Paul Polhill, Introduction
2	Paul's Background: Jewish and Greek Polhill, ch. 1, 2 Christian Beginnings: Jerusalem and Antioch Polhill, ch. 4
3	Paul's Conversion Polhill, ch. 3 Acts 9 Paul's Gospel and Christian Tradition; Sources and Letters Polhill, ch. 7
4	Paul's Concept of God and Salvation-History Mansfield, Class Study Guide (CSG) Paul's Christology Mansfield, CSG
5	The Hellenistic Mission and First Missionary Journey Polhill, ch. 5, 8 Acts 13:1-14; 28
6	Jerusalem Conference and the Gentile Problem Polhill, ch. 6 Acts 15; Galatians 2
7	Law, Sin, Sarx, and the Spirit Mansfield, CSG
8	Midterm Exam (Friday, October 10, 2003) Second Missionary Journey: Macedonia Polhill, ch. 9, 10 Acts 16:36-17:15; I Thess. 4, II Thess. 2
9	Second Missionary Journey: Athens Polhill, ch. 11 Acts 18:1-22 Second Missionary Journey: Corinth Polhill, ch. 12, 13

Week	Topic/Assignment
	Acts 18:1-22
10	Paul's Soteriology: The Cross Mansfield, CSG
	Paul's Soteriology: The Resurrection
11	The Holy Spirit & Charismata; Ethics and Sanctification The Church and the Sacraments
12	Third Missionary Journey: Ephesus and Colosse Polhill, ch. 16, 17 Acts 18:23-21:16
13	Romans: The Gospel According to Paul Polhill, ch. 14
	Theological Paper Due
14	Arrest, Imprisonment, Journey to Rome Polhill, ch. 15, 18 (pp. 378-89) Acts 21:17-28:14
15	The Roman Imprisonment Polhill, ch. 18 (pp. 389-96) Acts 28:15-31 Acquittal, Second Imprisonment, Martyrdom The Pastoral Epistles Polhill, ch. 19, 20
	Review
	Final Exam (University Schedule)

VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

GBIB 517
Course #

Paul: Mission and Message
Title of Course

Dr. R. Mansfield
Instructor

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word “Wholeness.” ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Development | 6. Valuing in Decision-making |
| 2. Physical Development | 7. Social Interaction |
| 3. Communication | 8. Global Perspectives |
| 4. Analysis | 9. Effective Citizenship |
| 5. Problem | 10. Aesthetic Responsiveness |

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Spiritual formation/leadership:

Demonstrates Spirit-filled, biblically-theologically competent and historically informed church leadership.

Critical thinking/analysis/problem solving:

Understands and applies biblical/theological principles in the practice of ministry.

Communication/social interaction/global perspective:

Demonstrates the ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural texts.

Value/ethics/decision-making:

Integrates Judeo-Christian values and ethics in personal life and ministry.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Comprehend the central theological themes of Paul’s letters; describe the nature and work of the Holy Spirit in Paul’s ministry and journeys; understand the practical problems and issues of Paul’s churches and his resolutions; apply theological principles to practical issues; demonstrate awareness of Paul’s social/cultural contexts and the influence upon his communication of the Gospel; assess the relationship between culture and **kerygma** in contemporary ministry, understand the tenets of Paul’s ethics, and integrate them into personal life and ministry.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OUTCOMES

Stimuli:

Theological Research Paper
Midterm Examination
Take-Home Reading Report
Final Examination

Criteria:

Theological Research Paper	30%
Midterm Examination	25%
Take-Home Reading Report	10%
Final Examination	35%