

Syllabus for
BIB 364—The Pauline Epistles
3.0 Credit Hours
Summer 2009

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the ministry and teachings of the Apostle Paul as recorded in the Pauline Epistles. The life setting of each letter is related to Paul's journeys described in the book of Acts. Special attention is given to the major theological themes of the epistles.

Prerequisites: BIB 261, BIB 306, THE 217

II. COURSE GOALS

To enable the student to gain a specialized knowledge of Paul's life, missionary journeys, and writings through writing papers and completing map exercises.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. Describe the political, religious, and social conditions in the eastern Roman Empire in the first century A.D.
- B. Show on a map the churches started and influenced by Paul.
- C. Discuss matters of introduction related to each of Paul's letters such as date, provenance, destination, and life setting.
- D. Outline the major theological themes, such as salvation, justification, grace, sanctification, and eschatology, found in each of Paul's letters.
- E. Assess scholarly concerns regarding the historicity, composition, and theology of the Pauline epistles.
- F. Evaluate orally or in writing, as specified by instructor, the various literary approaches to understanding Paul's epistles such as rhetorical criticism, discourse analysis, and reader response criticism
- G. Utilize the theological and hortatorical elements in Paul's letters both for personal spiritual growth and for ministry in the church today.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
 - 1. Textbooks

McRay, John. *Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Wright, N. T. *Paul*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005.

The New Testament, any modern English version or Greek text (NRSV used by professor). The book of Acts and Paul's letters are to be read in the context of

- course assignments.
- 2. Other
None

- B. Optional Materials
 - 1. Textbooks
None
 - 2. Other
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
 - 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
 - 2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures
 - 1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **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 instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her 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 will be 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 at least 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 appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **ALL** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
4. Attendance
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for the three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, for example, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
 - c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedure
 - a. Online Assignment/Component: Examination—60%; Take-home essay questions covering the 13 Pauline epistles.

- b. Online Assignment/Component: Book Review—25%; Review of the Wright text.
 - c. Online Assignment/Component: Reading affidavits—15%; McRay text, the biblical books for the course, and the apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla from an internet website.
 - d. All online assignments must be submitted via Desire2Learn.
 - e. Grading Scale: **A** = 90+; **B** = 80+; **C** = 70+; **D** = 60+; **F** = 59-
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirement—None

COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Course readings (Bible, McRay)	
2	Paul in his context	
3	Contents of the biblical books	All online assignments due (Fri.)

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 364—The Pauline Epistles
Summer 2009

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		X		
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	