Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte

GCTS NT 504: Paul and His Letters
2014 Summer Session

I. Course Instructor: Paul Bowers

II. Email contact: bowersgcts@bellsouth.net

III. Class Schedule: May 19-23, 2014, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

IV. Course Description. Paul’s pastoral and missionary understanding of the Christian faith is examined by assessing the distinctive settings and themes of his letters in the context of his life and missionary labors.

V. Course Relationship to the Curriculum. NT 504 satisfies English Bible requirements for the MACC, MAR, and MACL programs, and is a general elective for all other degree programs.

VI. Course Objectives. On completing the course, the student should be able:

- to demonstrate a general familiarity with Paul’s first-century background and setting, and the chief issues in modern critical discussion of Paul
- to demonstrate a more detailed acquaintance with the principal contours of Paul’s life, his letters, and his theology
- including the basics of Pauline geography and chronology, and the particular occasion, structure, and themes of Paul’s individual letters
- to demonstrate a growing awareness of the significance of Paul and his letters, and their relevance for life and ministry today

VII. Course Requirements. Achievement of the course objectives will be facilitated through a variety of engagements and assignments. The successful completion of these will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are estimated across the various course assignments. More specific description of the assignments are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
<th>Student’s Actual Time Spent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class sessions</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research papers</td>
<td>45 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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VIII. Course Texts

IX. Course Assignments. Course assignments have been designed to maximize the benefit of the course for the student. The total span of assignments takes into account the GCTS expectation that for such post-graduate courses the student should anticipate investing before, during, and after the week of class sessions approximately 105 hours of personal effort outside of class time.

| Important: Before the beginning of the first class session, the student is required to have read Capes et al., pages 13-140. We have only a single week together for this intensive course. Essential to the usefulness of the week for all of us is therefore that this modest assignment should be fulfilled by everyone. Students will report at the beginning of the first class session whether the assignment has been completed as directed, and this report will be calculated into the final course grade.

The student is also encouraged, before the first class session, to work ahead: (1) by reading Acts 13-28, and Romans—Philemon (this reading must be done in a version other than the one the student normally uses); and/or (2) by reading the book by Bird. |

A. Reading. Given the nature of this course, the reading assignments are essential for its effectiveness, and are therefore mandatory. The grade for required reading will be based on timely completion of the assignments. A reading report sheet will be provided, and is to be submitted with the final exam, at latest by July 21, 2014. Confirmation of completion of all assigned reading is mandatory for receiving a final grade. The following is required reading:

- Capes et al., pages 13-140, due by May 19, before the first class session begins; pages 141-308, due by June 2
- New Testament: Acts 9, 13-28, and Romans—Philemon [in a version other than that normally used], due by May 26
- Dictionary of Paul and His Letters: 200 columns, from articles in the listing given below; first 100 columns due by June 9; second 100 columns due by June 23
- Bird, pages 11-171, due by July 7

B. Research papers. The student is to submit three written papers, 1200-1500 words each, on:

1. a critical issue in the modern study of Paul (due by June 16)
2. a major theological theme of Paul (due by June 30)
3. a modern book about Paul (due by July 14)

In each case the student will select, with the instructor’s concurrence, from a list of options provided below. The papers must be both descriptive and evaluative/reflective. They should be computer-generated, in proper academic format, and must list the word-count. Grading will take into consideration: neatness of presentation, effort, reliability, completeness, and quality of personal interaction. The following specifications per paper should also be followed meticulously, point by point, in order to maximize the engagement as well as the grade.

1. The paper on a selected critical issue should: (a) describe the principal elements of the problem; (b) identify the principal positions held; (c) summarize some of the leading
evidence; and (d) indicate the direction of the student’s own critical reflection towards a solution.

2. The paper on a selected theological theme should: (a) offer overall orientation to the theme; (b) describe several principal elements of the theme; (c) reference several key Pauline texts illustrating the theme; (d) briefly indicate any major modern debate; and (e) suggest how the theme fits into Paul’s larger theological framework.

3. The paper on a selected modern book should: (a) offer basic information about the author; (b) explain the intention of the book; (c) describe the book’s content (but do not outline or summarize its content); (d) suggest the book’s particular significance within modern Pauline studies; (e) offer some personal impressions about the book. (If the student can also reference one or more scholarly reviews of the book, it will enhance impressions when grading.)

For the first two papers, the student should expect to use material from Bird, Capes, the Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, and the course bibliography. For the third paper, the student may also want to explore possible resources on the internet, especially for data on the book’s author and for any scholarly reviews of the book (see, for example, www.bookreviews.org/).

C. Final exam. The final exam will cover everything presented in class sessions. It will consist of objective questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. The student will be allowed two hours for the exam. The final exam must be submitted on or before July 21, together with the reading report.

X. Course Submissions. The research papers and reading report may either (a) be posted or handed in to: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, attention Trish King for Paul Bowers, 14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte NC 28273; or (b) sent by email attachment to the instructor at: <bowersgcts@bellsouth.net>. The final exam by its nature cannot be submitted by email attachment; it must be posted or handed in to the Seminary at the address listed above.

XI. Course Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>required reading</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>research papers</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>final exam</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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A passing grade for the final examination is required for passing the course.

Grading scheme for required reading: A—all readings completed on time. B—all readings completed, at least 80% on time. C—all readings completed, at least 50% on time (but not 80%). D—all readings completed, but less than 50% on time. F—all readings not completed by July 21, 2014. Confirmation of completion of all assigned reading is mandatory for receiving a final grade.

XII. Course Administration

Attendance Policy: With only a single week available for the course, faithful attendance is an essential part of this course. Students should take care to organize their schedules beforehand to avoid any absences. Emergencies will be handled according to the set seminary policies.
**Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements**: All written assignments should be prepared in MS-Word format (no pdf files, .dat documents, or Word Perfect documents). Assignments should be presented in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable.

**Grade Penalty for Late Submissions.** Students are required to complete all required submissions by the stated due dates. If a student fails to submit his/her work by the due date, the professor has the right either to refuse the work or to accept it with applicable penalties. The penalty for late submission is one full letter grade at time of lateness, and a further full letter grade per week thereafter. Penalties do not apply to course work with approved extensions. Work turned in later than July 21, 2014, will normally require an extension approved by the Seminary.

**Final Exam Process.** The final exam will be handed out in class sealed, and will have space for a proctor’s validating signature. The proctor (who must be neither a family member nor a GCTS student) will sign the exam in verification that it was opened, taken, and closed in the proctor’s presence, completed at one sitting within the specified time frame, and that no study aids were used. The exam must either be handed in at the GCTS office by the stated due date, or be post-marked to the GCTS office by that date.

**Internet Use During Class Sessions.** Students are to refrain from accessing the internet at any time during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Surfing the web, checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to the conduct of class sessions, and prevent the student from participating to best personal advantage.

**Contact:** The instructor may be reached most conveniently by email at: <bowersgcts@bellsouth.net> Otherwise leave a message for the instructor with Trish King at the GCTS office (1-800-600-1212). In cases of special need, brief personal contact time prior to or following class sessions may be arranged on request.

**XIII. Course Outline**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Course orientation; Paul’s background; Paul the man; Paul’s early life; conversion; modern Pauline studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Literary issues: authenticity, integrity, provenance; destination/date; occasion; textual criticism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Paul’s missionary career, letters; early letters, major letters, prison letters, final letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Paul’s theology: core and frame; Christology; soteriology; ecclesiology; ethics; eschatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Paul’s final years; Paul’s significance and relevance; direction for further study</td>
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**XIV. Selected issues, themes, books, and articles** for course assignments

**Selected critical issues:**

- Paul's Damascus Experience
- Destination of Galatians
- The Ending of Romans
- Provenance of the Prison Epistles
- Integrity of 2 Corinthians
- Authenticity of Ephesians
- The Colossian Heresy
Selected theological themes:
  Anthropology; Christology; The Church; Eschatology; Ethics; In Christ; The Law;
  Righteousness, Justification; Salvation; The Spirit

Selected books:
  Barnett, Paul. Paul: Missionary of Jesus
  Barrett, C. K. Paul: An Introduction to His Thought
  Bruce, F. F. Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free
  Das, Andrew. Paul and the Jews
  Dodd, B J. The Problem with Paul
  Donfried, Karl P. Paul, Thessalonica, and Early Christianity
  Donfried, Karl P. The Romans Debate. 2nd ed.
  Fee, Gordon. Pauline Christology: an Exegetical-Theological Study
  Gorman, Michael J. Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross
  Hengel, Martin. The Pre-Christian Paul
  Horrell, David G. An Introduction to the Study of Paul
  Longenecker, Bruce W. Remember the Poor: Paul, Poverty, and the Greco-Roman World
  McRay, John. Paul: His Life and Teaching
  Meeks, W A. The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul
  Moyise, Steve. Paul and Scripture
  Murphy-O'Connor, J. Paul: A Critical Life
  Polhill, John B., Paul and His Letters
  Rosner, Brian S. Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of God
  Schnabel, Eckhard J. Paul the Missionary
  Schreiner, Thomas R. Paul, Apostle of God's Glory in Christ
  Stierwalt, M. L. Paul, the Letter Writer
  Thiselton, Anthony C. The Living Paul
  Wenham, David. Paul and Jesus: The True Story
  Winter, Bruce W. After Paul Left Corinth
  Witherington, Ben. The Paul Quest.
  Wright, N. T. Paul in Fresh Perspective

Selected articles:
  [articles in the Dictionary of Paul and His Letters suitable for the reading assignment]

  Adam and Christ; Adoption; Apocalypticism; Apostasy; Apostle; Authority; Baptism; Body;
  Body of Christ; Canon; Center of Paul’s Theology; Christ; Church; Church Order;
  Conversion; Covenant; Cross; Death of Christ; Dying and Rising with Christ; Election;
  Elements; Ethics; Expiation; Faith; Flesh; Freedom; Fruit of the Spirit; Gentiles; Gifts of the
  Spirit; Gospel; Hellenism; Hermeneutics; Holiness; Holy Spirit; Hymns; Imitation; In Christ;
  Israel; Itineraries; Jew/Paul the; Justification; Kingdom of God; Law; Letters; Lord; Lord’s
  Supper; Man and Woman; Mission; Mystery; Opponents; OT in Paul; Paul and His
  Interpreters; Paul in Acts; Paul in Early Church Tradition; Prayer; Principalities; Prophecy;
  Psychology; Qumran; Religions; Greco-Roman; Resurrection; Righteousness; Sacrifice;
  Salvation; Satan; Sexuality; Signs; Wonders; Sin; Slave; Social Setting; Social-Scientific
  Approaches; Son of God; Spirituality; Suffering; Textual Criticism; Tongues; Travel;
  Triumph; Universalism; Virtues; Wisdom; Works of Law; World; Worship; Wrath.
XV. Assignment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>due dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
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<td>June 2</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
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<td>July 21</td>
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GCTS Syllabus Addendum

**Academic Standards**

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

**ADA Policy**

The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

**Cancellation of Class**

In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.
Extension Policy

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades

Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals, who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

Returned Work

Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.

PB 04/2014