NT 620: Syllabus:
Exegesis of Romans

Spring, 2016
Instructor: Dr. Rollin G. Grams, Associate Professor of New Testament
Prerequisites: Greek 501 and 502; NT 502 (Interpreting the NT)
Work for Course: Begins—January 19th; Ends—May 7th
Meeting Dates: Feb. 5-6; Mar. 4-5; Apr. 8-9
Meeting Times: Friday night: 7:00 – 9:30 pm; Saturday: 8:30 – 4:30 pm
(Chapels: Friday nights, 6:30-7:00 pm)

Overview:

This is an exegesis course on Paul’s epistle to the Romans. Exegetical issues in particular passages and several theological topics in Pauline studies will be explored through lectures, reading, discussion, and assignments, including translation.

Prerequisites:

- 1 year of basic Greek (GL 501, 502).
- Any student who has not used Greek in a course in the semester before this course needs to take a Greek competency quiz (lasting up to 30 minutes). This must be completed before the Integrative Seminar on 25th of January. If a student does not pass this course, he or she will need to register for a different course in the spring. These quizzes are administered by the Registration Office.

Relation to Seminary’s Mission:

Exegesis courses are designed to train students in the proper interpretation of God’s authoritative revelation. This course serves the purpose of training students in the interpretation of New Testament epistles. Given the content of Romans, the course is also significant for the study of Christian theology, ethics, and mission.

Objectives:

* To hone students’ translation and exegetical skills. See the Greek translation requirement.

* To gain experience in exegesis of a New Testament epistle. This will primarily be reached through the lectures, reading of assigned textbooks, and the exegesis paper assignment.

* To acquaint students with resources for Pauline studies and hone skills in research and writing. This will be reached through reading the textbooks, listening to the lectures, and writing the exegesis paper for the course.
*To gain a detailed knowledge of Romans through familiarity with the text of the epistle and contemporary scholarship. This will be accomplished through lectures, group discussion, reading, and assignments.

*To gain a critical understanding of several topics (listed in the course outline) in Pauline theology/ethics relevant for Romans studies. This will be accomplished through lectures, reading, and assignments.

*To apply Romans to Christian life and ministry, primarily through class discussion.

**Course Delivery:**

_Pre-First Class Preparation:_ Students need to prepare for a weekend of class through translation preparation and reading/writing prior to the class sessions (see Course Outline). A few lectures will be online and therefore need to be heard prior to a weekend of class.

_Classes:_ Classes are held on weekends and will consist of lectures, group translation work, and discussion. The lectures and reading are designed to orient students to exegetical issues in Romans and Pauline theology. Not all of Romans can be covered in-depth, but the course is designed to introduce students to exegesis in Romans and prepare them for ongoing study of both Romans and Paul.

**Online Resources:** Students will find resources for this course on Sakai.

**Contact:**

Students should e-mail any questions to rgrams@gordonconwell.edu. Students may discuss material further with the professor either through e-mail, Skype, or in person (set up an appointment).

**Textbooks:**


Students will read 165 pages:

A Survey of Paul’s Life and Ministry, 19-56; Galatians, 87-106; Romans, 163-192 (3 chs. on Paul’s Theology), 297-377.


Students will read 340 pages:


**Recommended:**


**Course Requirements:**

1. **Greek Translation Preparation for Work in Class:**

   *Note: Students in exegesis courses at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary must pass the Greek component of the course in order to pass the course itself.*

   *Each class weekend,* a copy of translation needs to be turned in electronically by Friday, 6:30 pm. E-mail the file to: rgrams@gordonconwell.edu. The timing of these submissions is important. The notes for each of the three weekends will be worth 10% of the final grade (30% all together). See Grading Rubrics and also note there the suggested format and content for the translation notes.

   The textbook by Daniel Wallace will be used for translation purposes. Attention in Wallace should be given to: (1) every comment he makes on the verses translated (check his index to see if he has a comment on some grammatical item in your passage) and (2) and Adverbial Particples and Genitives (that is, focus on these in your translations to get a good handle on them).

   Students should use their copy of translation notes when translating in groups, but they must not read their translations to one another—translation in groups needs to be done fresh from the Greek. Groups will then discuss the translation preparation work among themselves in order to:
*practice Greek translation (including syntax from Wallace)
*learn from each other
*consider lexical and grammatical issues relevant for exegeting the text

Each group will be led by one student with strengths in Greek translation. Groups may ask for assistance from the professor. The group leader is to:

*keep the group on task
*make sure that everyone understands the grammar before moving on
*give feedback to the professor on how the group is doing and how individuals are doing

2. Reading:

Students will read all of the reading listed for this course. Each student will be able to demonstrate the depth of his/her reading and interaction with the material in the papers for this course. Completion of the reading for the course will be marked Pass/Fail on the basis of the student’s statement that the reading was completed. Incomplete reading for the course will result in a final grade reduction (typically 10%, depending on how significant the incomplete is).

3. Papers:

All papers should be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments, without additional content in the e-mail itself and as follows: NT620Greek 1; NT620Greek 2; NT620Greek 3; NT620Paper 1; NT620Paper 2; NT620 Paper 3. Papers should be in pdf format.

The following papers (other than translation notes) are required:

1. Romans Overview paper.
   
   **Purpose:** The purpose of this paper is for students to begin study of Romans with a brief, overall commentary on Romans (Keener).

   **Description:** Write 3 pages (single spaced, 12 point font) that very briefly (but with details, especially regarding specific passages and key arguments) present and interact with the following topics in Keener’s commentary: (1) the human plight (Rom. 1.18-3.20); righteousness and justification (Rom. 3.20-5.21); (3) Paul’s argument in Rom. 6-8; (4) Paul’s argument in Rom. 9-11; (5) Ethics in Romans.

   **Due:** Saturday morning, first weekend.

   **Marking:** The paper is worth 10% of the final grade for the course. See Grading Rubrics.

2. New Perspective paper.
   
   **Description:** Write 10 pages (single spaced, 12 point font) on Westerholm’s, Dunn’s, Moo’s, and Keener’s agreements and disagreements on the issues of the New Perspective on Paul in Romans. Dunn is a proponent of this perspective, whereas the others disagree. Identify the
issues and arguments as they relate to Paul’s letter to the Romans. Engage the arguments from your own study of Romans. (Keep the discussion on Romans and keep your research to the reading on this course—no further research is required.)

**Due:** Saturday morning, second weekend.

**Marking:** This paper is worth 30% of the final grade. See Grading Rubrics.

3. The **Exegesis paper** is worth 30% of the final grade. Students are to write a 3,500 word exegetical paper on one of the following passages:

*Rom. 1.18-28  
*Rom. 3.21-31  
*Rom. 5.12-21  
*Rom. 7.7-25  
*Rom. 9.30-10.4  
*Rom. 13.8-14

**Grading:**

**Assignments count as follows:**

Each weekend’s translation notes: 10% each, for a total of 30% of the final grade  
Romans Overview (Keener): 10% of the final grade  
New Perspective paper: 30% of the final grade  
Exegesis paper: 30% of the final grade

See grading rubrics for further description of the marking.

**Attendance and engagement in all classes:**

This course involves lectures, translation work, and discussion during lectures and within groups, and so attendance is important for everyone. The Bible Division of Gordon-Conwell does not permit exegesis courses to be delivered as distance education, and therefore students are expected to be present each weekend.

In addition to being in the class, and as a matter of etiquette, students should avoid:

**being late or leaving early (do not role into class 5 minutes after it begins)**  
**planning other events during class time and expecting to be excused**  
**taking phone calls or texting during class**  
**stepping out of the class during lectures (the whole class will take a break if you need to do so)**  
**getting on the internet during class (apart from being instructed to do so)**  
**dominating class time by asking too many questions or controlling the class discussion**
sitting passively throughout the course without raising questions and offering opinions or arguments
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 [they will for this course]. 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
Since the papers are submitted electronically, only comments and not the paper will be sent to the student once everything is graded.
Virtual Writing Center

Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:

- CTS00 (Introduction to Theological Research)
- COS01 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
- IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three pre-requisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status. Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.