MEETING TIME
Tues, Thurs 9:35-11:00 a.m

TEXT BOOKS
Required:
- Stephen Westerholm, Understanding Paul
- Thomas Schreiner, Paul: Apostle of God’s Glory in Christ
- N.T. Wright, Paul and the Faithfulness of God (400 pages to be read, student’s choice)

Recommended:
- James Dunn, The Theology of Paul the Apostle
- Gerald Hawthorne, et al., eds., Dictionary of Paul and his Letters

ASSESSMENT
- Mid-Term Exam 40 %
- Final Exam 60 %

WEEK 1
Introduction: Paul the Pharisee, Paul the Roman Citizen, Paul the Apostle of Christ

- Paul the Pharisee (Galatians)
  The Pharisees: The "Good Guys" of Early Judaism?
  History
  Belief and Practice in Paul's Day
  Pharisaism and the Shaping of Paul

WEEK 2
- Paul the Pharisee, contd.

- Paul the Roman Citizen
  A Brief History of Paul's World
  Life in the Diaspora
  The Impact on Paul

WEEK 3
- Paul the Apostle of Christ
  Call/Commissioning
  Paul and Jesus (Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon

**Week 4**
Paul and Jesus (continued)
Paul and the Law (Romans, Galatians)
  - Paul's positive assessment of the Law
  - Paul's negative assessment of the Law
  Making a way forward

**Week 5**
Paul and the Law (continued)

**Week 6**
Paul's Missionary Activity (1, 2Thessalonians)
  - Mission to the Gentiles
  - Geography of journeys
  - Eschatological urgency -- of what sort?
  - The gospel he proclaimed -- and how he proclaimed it
  - Relationships with colleagues
  - The centrality of the Spirit

**Week 7**
Paul's Missionary Activity (continued)

**Weeks 8-11 – Nov. 13, 20, 27**
The Pastoral Paul: (1,2 Timothy, Titus, 1 and 2 Corinthians)
  - Brief synopsis of Corinthian setting (reminds us of real life aspect to letters)
  - Attempted Reconstruction of Corinthian correspondence
  - Pastoral concerns at Corinth…and Paul's response

Summary: The man of the cross, the man of the Spirit

**About the Course**
In this course, we will focus on the dynamic interplay between Paul’s life and his theology. Paul was neither an armchair theologian spinning out theories from the comfort of his study, nor a workaholic apostle too intent on church business to give much thought to the theological motives for his activities.
For this reason, we begin with a brief investigation into the social and cultural forces that shaped Paul: the Hellenism that dominated the political and cultural agenda of the Mediterranean, and the Pharisaic Judaism that dominated his personal experience. Following this, we will explore in much more detail the career of Paul the Christian Apostle, intertwining as best we can his life and his letters. Where did he go? What did he do? And why? None of these questions can be answered without wrestling with the theological concerns which drove him forward.

Nor, of course, can we separate our lives from Paul’s message. Throughout the course, we will encourage one another to hear what the Spirit says through Paul to our churches. I am confident that we will find that Paul’s example of sacrificial love and his penetrating insights into Christian living will provide streams of living water for our own ministry.

**Reading**

The required reading is designed to reinforce the themes explored in class, with some room for delving into areas of special interest to you. There is a balance of “Old” and “New” perspectives on tap, with the (optional) IVP book available as a resource on a variety of Pauline topics.

**Assignments**

Besides class attendance and participation, there will be two exams. The exams will focus on the content of Paul’s letters, the class lectures, and selected topics from the reading.