Course Description:

This course is designed to build upon the tools and methods for exegesis learned in NT 502, using Paul’s letter to the Romans as a case study. The purpose of the course is threefold. First, we aim to learn the content of Romans as well as issues and skills related to its interpretation. We give special attention to its literary and historical context. Our primary approach is literary and exegetical. The essential question for the course is: To what extent is a literary reading of the letter to the Romans helpful in determining Paul’s theological intention? Through the course of the semester, we analyze the letter with a focus on its compositional unity and rhetorical devices in order to understand Paul’s unfolding argument. Furthermore, we seek to build an understanding of the theological significance of Romans upon the foundation of our exegetical work.

Second, we address hermeneutical issues and consider how Romans is a Word to live by for the Church today. Third, we aim to cultivate exegetical thinking. Although the application of exegetical steps or methods to a text is foundational, students have not actually interpreted a text until they connect the parts of their research to illuminate the whole text in a meaningful way. A reader begins with an investigation of the parts of a text, by researching its form and function, grammar and vocabulary, and social and historical background. Displaying this research without connecting those parts, however, is not an interpretation but a data report. Interpretation requires a creative act of the imagination. The musician is not virtuosic until she combines tempo, rhythm, dynamics and intonation with a personal engagement of the piece she plays. Thus, in this course, we give attention to engaging Romans and synthesizing the results of exegetical methods in order to produce a sound and meaningful interpretation.

Course Objectives:

In this course students will do the following:

• translate and analyze the Greek text of Paul’s letter to the Romans (articles 1-2 of the GCTS mission statement).
• synthesize the results of their exegetical work on Romans into a sound and meaningful interpretation (articles 1-2 of the GCTS mission statement).
• articulate the theological message of Romans (articles 1-2 of the GCTS mission statement).
• articulate ways that their lives, theologies and ministries are informed by the message of Romans (articles 5-6 of the GCTS mission statement).
• resolve significant hermeneutical issues involved in reading an ancient text in a modern world, and explain the ways Romans is a Word to live by for the Church today (articles 1-3, 6 of the GCTS mission statement).
Required Textbooks:


Required Readings (on CAMS):


_____, “Justification as Forensic Status and Covenant Membership.” Pages 113-54 in *The Saving Righteousness of God: Studies on Paul, Justification, and the New Perspective*


Mark A. Seifrid, “The conversion of Paul as the justification of the ungodly.” Pages 13-33 in *Christ, our Righteousness: Paul’s Theology of Justification*.

_____, “The faith of Christ,” pp. 139-46 in *Christ, our Righteousness: Paul’s Theology of Justification*

James W. Thompson, “Preaching as Remembering.” Pages 127-41 in *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*.

Recommended Reading:


Course Requirements:

1. Each student is required to take the Greek competency quiz on the first day of class and obtain a passing grade. Remedial work is possible if a student fails the quiz, and a second quiz must be taken and passed before Sep 25 in order for that student to continue the course. In addition, each student must demonstrate competence in Greek in all relevant parts of the course (i.e., translations and analyses, exegesis paper, and final exam) in order to receive a passing grade.

2. Each student is required to complete all reading, translations, syntactical analyses and study questions as indicated on the syllabus. The instructor will assume knowledge of this material and will draw on it during class.

3. Each student is expected to be present in class. Unexcused tardiness or absence from class will be reflected in the final grade for the course.

4. All written assignments must be turned in at the end of the class for which they are due.

5. All work must be submitted on time. Late assignments will receive a 10% drop in grade. All work for the course must be submitted in order to receive a passing grade.

Course Evaluation:

1. Translations and syntactical analysis — 10% of final grade
   Students will prepare a translation and syntactical analysis of the text indicated in the syllabus for each class meeting according to guidelines provided by the instructor.
2. Readings and study questions — 15% of final grade
   Students will prepare written responses to questions based on the assigned readings and key texts for each class. Each set of study questions should be answered in 1 typed, single-spaced page. Each assignment will be posted on CAMS two weeks before it is due.

3. Exegesis Paper — 50% of final grade
   Students will prepare a 10-12 page, double-spaced paper on a text from Romans of their own choosing. Guidelines for researching and writing the exegesis paper will be discussed in class and posted on CAMS. Students must submit their choices of texts for approval by September 29. The paper is due by 5pm on November 20. Email submissions or submissions through CAMS are accepted.

4. Final Exam — 25% of final grade
   Students will sit for a final exam during which they will write a response to the essential question for the course, giving substantial textual evidence and arguments in support of their answer: *To what extent is a literary reading of the letter to the Romans helpful in determining Paul’s theological intention?* Guidelines for the final exam will be given in class and posted on CAMS.

Final semester letter grades will be assigned as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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All work for the course will be graded according to the policies outlining performance expectations in the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Catalog. In this class, grades are based on the student's actual performance in a course judged against the criteria for grading stated in the course syllabus. The following letter grades and the accompanying description are used:

- **A**: Reserved for outstanding work of exceptionally high quality that reflects a creative appropriation of course material and practices.
- **B**: Work that meets all of the stated course requirements and reflects a firm grasp of course material and practices.
- **C**: Work that shows a basic grasp of the course materials and practices.
- **D**: Work that shows serious deficiencies but meets the minimal requirements of the course.
- **F**: Work that fails to meet the minimal requirements of the course. No credit is given.

A “minus” or “plus” indicates work that falls just short of the stated descriptions.
Course Outline

Introduction to the course
History of Interpretation: How should we read Romans and why does it Matter?

9/15 Greek competency quiz
   no assignment due

9/17
   - Study questions

9/22 Key Text — Romans 7:7-25
   Due: - Reading: Grieb, xvii-xxiv; Moo, 1-35; Haacker, 1-44 (incl. p. 44)
   - Study questions

Understanding Paul

9/24
   Due: - Reading: Haacker, 97-134; Seifrid, Christ, our Righteousness, 13-33;
   - Study questions

9/29 NO CLASS (get ahead on translation and reading!)

Romans 1:1-17

10/1 Key Text — 1:1-17
   Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 1:1-17
   - Reading: commentaries
   - Study questions

Romans 1:18-3:31

10/6 Key text — 1:18-32
   Due - Translation and syntactical analysis: 1:18-32
   - Study questions
10/8  Key text — 2:1-3:8
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 2:1-16
         - Reading: commentaries; Bird, “Justification to the Doers
           of the Law,” pages 155-78 in The Saving Righteousness of God;
           Haacker, 53-69
         - Study questions

READING WEEK
   10/13 & 10/15 – no class

10/20  Key text — 3:9-31
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 3:21-31
         - Reading: commentaries; Seifrid on “The faith of Christ,” pp. 139-
           46 in Christ, our Righteousness
         - Study questions

Romans 4:1-25

10/22  Key text — 4:1-25
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 4:13-22
         - Reading: commentaries
         - Study questions

Romans 5:1-8:39

10/27  Key text — 5:1-21
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 5:1-11
         - Reading: commentaries

10/29  Key text — 6:1-23
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 6:1-14
         - Reading: commentaries; Re-read Haacker, 64-7
         - Study questions

11/3   Key text — 7:1-25
   
   Due:  - Translation syntactical analysis: 7:14-25
         - Reading: commentaries
         - Study questions

11/5   Key text — 8:1-39
   
   Due:  - Translation and syntactical analysis: 8:1-11
         - Reading: commentaries; Haacker, 69-77
         - Study questions
READING WEEK
11/10 & 11/12 – no class

Romans 9:1-11:36

11/17 Key text — 9:1-29
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 9:14-23
- Reading: commentaries; Haacker, 77-84
- Study questions

11/19 Key text — 9:30-10:21
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 9:30-10:13
- Reading: commentaries; Haacker, 84-88
- Study questions

11/24 Key text — 11:1-36
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 11:1-12
- Reading: commentaries; Haacker, 88-96
- Study questions

THANKSGIVING DAY
11/26 – no class

Romans 12:1-15:13

12/1 Key text — 12:1-21
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 12:1-8
- Reading: commentaries; Bird, “Justification as Forensic Status and Covenant Membership,” pages 113-54 in The Saving Righteousness of God
- Study questions

12/3 Key text — 13:1-14
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 13:1-14
- Reading: commentaries
- Study questions

12/8 Key text — 14:1-15:13
Due: - Translation and syntactical analysis: 14:13-23
- Reading: commentaries; Haacker, 45-53
- Study questions
Romans 15:14-16:27

12/10

Due:  
- Translation and syntactical analysis: 15:14-21
- Reading: commentaries; James W. Thompson, “Preaching as Remembering,” pages 127-41 in Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today
- Study questions

Final Exam during exam week, Dec. 16-19 - TBA