Course Description
In this course, we will examine Paul’s pastoral and missionary understanding of the Christian faith by assessing the distinctive settings and themes of his letters in the context of the missionary journeys described in the book of Acts.

Course Objectives
After completing this course the student should be capable of:
1. Reproducing a basic chronology of Paul’s ministry.
2. Reproducing the itineraries of Paul’s missionary travels on a map (or series of maps).
3. Describing the historical and social background to each of Paul’s letters.
4. Explaining the basic message and theological and ethical emphases of each of Paul’s letters.
5. Explaining key issues in the contemporary understanding of Paul’s letters and theology.

Required Texts
- Scripture reading: The Letters of Paul.

The following books are HIGHLY recommended for the course, but are not required reading:
- N. T. Wright. What Saint Paul Really Said: Was Paul of Tarsus the Real Founder of Christianity? Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1997. (Note: If a student has already read this book, he or she may substitute Wright’s book, Paul: In Fresh Perspective [Minneapolis:
Final Examination
The final exam is an objective exam. It will consist of questions covering key points of the lectures and readings.

You will also be asked to draw the path of one of Paul's missionary journeys on a map (the map will be provided with the exam; see sample maps on Sakai for review) and to fill in the blanks on a chronology of Paul's ministry (available on Sakai). Finally, you will be asked to summarize in a sentence or two the contents of each section of an outline for one of Paul's letters.

Research Paper
Students are required to write an eight to twelve page research paper on some contemporary issue in the scholarly interpretation of Paul and his letters. After choosing a topic, the student should verify that there is sufficient material written on the subject to fulfill the bibliography requirement described below. Alternatively, the student may choose to write a paper on "The New Perspective on Paul: Exposition and Evaluation."

The research paper should also:
1. Include a bibliography of at least 10 works cited in the footnotes, including theological dictionaries, scholarly commentaries, articles from theological journals, and scholarly monographs. (Note: dictionary articles should be listed under the name of the author of the article, not under the name of the editor of the dictionary.)
2. Be typed, double-spaced (except for extended quotes and footnotes), in twelve-point, Times New Roman, with pagination, footnotes, a bibliography, and proper recognition given to all sources of words or ideas found in the body of the paper.
4. All students must clear sources not listed on the required texts or recommended texts with the Teaching Assistant before using them on your paper.

Submitting Assignments
Assignments can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click “Add” and upload from there.

Some guidelines for this process:
- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Teaching Assistant and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.

Please let the Teaching Assistant know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. srogers@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4303.
Grading
Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading, Assignments</th>
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</table>
| 1       | • Introduction to the course  
         • Introduction to Paul  
         • The Pre-Christian Paul | • Polhill, Chapters 1-2  
         • "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It"  
         • Schreiner, preface and chapters 1-2  
         • Articles from Dictionary of Paul and His Letters (DPL): Paul and His Interpreters; Hermeneutics, Interpreting Paul; Letters, Letter forms; Rhetoric; Social Scientific Approaches to Paul; Jew, Paul the; Apocalypticism; Qumran and Paul; Old Testament in Paul |
| 2       | • Paul’s Conversion  
         • Paul’s Earliest Ministry  
         • Pauline Chronology  
         • Understanding Ancient Letters | • Polhill, chapters 3-6  
         • Schreiner, chapters 3-4  
         • Articles from DPL: Conversion and call of Paul; Pastor, Paul as; Apostle; Prophet, Paul as; Restoration of Israel; Center of Paul’s theology; Jesus and Paul |
| 3       | • Paul’s First Missionary Journey  
         • Galatians  
         • Perspectives on the “New Perspective on Paul” | • N. T. Wright, What Saint Paul Really Said  
         • Polhill, chapters 7-8  
         • Schreiner, chapters 5-6  
         • 4QMMT (on Sakai)  
         • Articles from DPL: Galatians, letter to the; Apostasy, falling away; Curse, accursed, anathema; Gospel; Jealousy, zeal; Authority; Jerusalem; Gentiles; Judaizers; Works of the Law; Law; Circumcision; Flesh; Faith; Abraham; Justification; Adoption, Sonship; Freedom, Liberty; Fruit of the Spirit; Virtues and Vices; New Nature and Old Nature; Law of Christ |
| 4       | • Perspectives on the “New Perspective on Paul” (continued)  
         • The Jerusalem Council Paul’s Second Missionary | • Polhill, chapters 9-11  
         • Schreiner, chapters 7-8  
         • Articles from DPL: Thessalonians, Letter to the; Eschatology; Man of Lawlessness; Restraining Power |
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| (4 cont’d) | Journey | Gordon Fee, *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*  
Paul’s Third Missionary Journey  
1 Corinthians |
| 5 | Paul’s Third Missionary Journey  
1 Corinthians | Polhill, chapter 12  
Schreiner, chapters 9-10  
| 6 | 1 Corinthians (continued)  
2 Corinthians | Polhill, chapter 13  
Schreiner, chapters 11-12  
Articles from *DPL*: Cross, theology of the; Itineraries, travel plans; Moses; Peace, reconciliation; Intermediate state; Afflictions, trials, hardships; Suffering; Weakness; Collection for the Saints; Visions, ecstatic experience  
Also suggested:  
| 7 | Romans  
Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem | Polhill, chapters 14-15  
Schreiner, chapters 13-14  
Westerholm, *Understanding Paul: The Early Christian Worldview of the Letter to the Romans*  
Articles from *DPL*: Romans, Letter to the; Lord; Son of God; Diatribe; God; Righteousness, Righteousness of God; Wrath, Destruction; Homosexuality; Adam and Christ; Expiation, propitiation, mercy seat; Baptism; Dying and rising with Christ; Israel; Olive tree; Civil authority; Rome and Roman Christianity |
| 8 | Romans (continued)  
Colossians  
Ephesians | Polhill, chapters 16-17  
Schreiner, chapters 15-16 and epilogue  
Articles from *DPL* related to Colossians: Colossians; Hymns, hymn fragment songs; Universalism; Angels, archangels; Philosophy; Gnosis, gnosticism; Elements, elemental spirits; Holy days; Household and household codes  
Articles from *DPL* related to Ephesians: Ephesians, letter to the; Ephesus; Heaven, heavens, paradise; In Christ; Election and predestination; Foreknowledge; First fruits, down payment; Enmity, hatred; Mystery; Prayer, Principalities and powers |
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>• Philemon</td>
<td>• Polhill, chapter 18 (review chapter 9)</td>
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<td>• Philippians</td>
<td>• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: Philemon, letter to; Philippians, Letter to the; Prison, Prisoner; Joy; Caesar’s household; Pre-existence; Exaltation and enthronement; Citizenship; Fellowship, communion, sharing; Financial support; Riches and poverty</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>• Pastoral Epistles</td>
<td>• Polhill, chapters 19-20</td>
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<td>• Review of the Course</td>
<td>• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: Pastoral letters; Social setting of mission churches; Church order and government; Early Catholicism</td>
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