Snapshot of Course Requirements

NT504 requires timely completion of the following five course requirements:

1. Required Reading (20% of your grade)
2. Final Exam (55% of your grade)
3. Research Paper (25% of your grade)
4. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
5. Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above)

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 Reading

You are required to complete the following readings before listening to the appropriate lecture. See the course outline at the end of this syllabus for specific assignments. You must submit the Course Checkout/Reading Report to the Semlink office by the course due date.

Required Texts

- Scripture reading: The Letters of Paul.
The following book is recommended for the course, but is not required reading:


**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 these sample maps for review) and to fill in the blanks on a chronology of Paul's ministry (click here to access this material). 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 a six to ten 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.

**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 Semlink office 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.
- Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.
Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

Interactivity
As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum**: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.

2. **Email-based conversation** with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

**If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**

Grading
Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Interactivity</td>
<td>Completion Required</td>
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Course Outline

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<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading, Assignments</th>
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| 1       | • Introduction to the course    | • Polhill, Chapters 1-2  
|         | • Introduction to Paul          | • "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It"                                        |
|         | • The Pre-Christian Paul        | • 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             | • Polhill, chapters 3-6  
<p>|         | • Paul’s Earliest Ministry      | • Schreiner, chapters 3-4                                                              |
|         | • Pauline Chronology            | • Articles from <em>DPL</em>: Conversion and Call of Paul; Pastor, Paul as; Apostle; Prophet, Paul as; Restoration of Israel; Center of Paul’s theology; Jesus and Paul |
|         | • Understanding Ancient Letters | |</p>
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<td>3</td>
<td>• Paul's First Missionary Journey&lt;br&gt;• Galatians&lt;br&gt;• Perspectives on the “New Perspective on Paul”</td>
<td>• N. T. Wright, <em>What Saint Paul Really Said</em>&lt;br&gt;• Polhill, chapters 7-8&lt;br&gt;• Schreiner, chapters 5-6&lt;br&gt;• 4QMMT&lt;br&gt;• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: 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</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>• Perspectives on the “New Perspective on Paul” &lt;br&gt; (continued) &lt;br&gt;• The Jerusalem Council Paul's Second Missionary Journey &lt;br&gt;• 1 Thessalonians &lt;br&gt;• 2 Thessalonians</td>
<td>• Polhill, chapters 9-11&lt;br&gt;• Schreiner, chapters 7-8&lt;br&gt;• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: Thessalonians, Letter to the; Eschatology; Man of Lawlessness; Restraining Power</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>• 1 Corinthians (continued) &lt;br&gt;• 2 Corinthians</td>
<td>• Polhill, chapter 13&lt;br&gt;• Schreiner, chapters 11-12&lt;br&gt;• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: Cross, theology of the; Itineraries, travel plans; Moses; Peace, reconciliation; Intermediate state; Afflictions, trials, hardships; Suffering; Weakness; Collection for the Saints; Visions, ecstatic experience&lt;br&gt;• Also suggested:&lt;br&gt;  ○ Roy E. Ciampa and Brian S. Rosner, “1 Corinthians” in the <em>Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament</em>, edited by G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007); pages 695-752.&lt;br&gt;  ○ Roy E. Ciampa, “Revisiting the Euphemism in 1 Corinthians 7:1,” <em>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</em> 31.3 (2009); pages 325-338 (cf. <a href="http://jnt.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/31/3/325">http://jnt.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/31/3/325</a>).</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>• Romans &lt;br&gt;• Paul's arrest in Jerusalem</td>
<td>• Polhill, chapters 14-15&lt;br&gt;• Schreiner, chapters 13-14&lt;br&gt;• Westerholm, <em>Understanding Paul: The Early Christian Worldview of the Letter to the Romans</em>&lt;br&gt;• Articles from <em>DPL</em>: 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</td>
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| 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, heavenlies,  
           paradise; In Christ; Election and predestination;  
           Foreknowledge; First fruits, down payment; Enmity,  
           hatred; Mystery; Prayer, Principalities and powers |
| 9       | - Philemon  
          - Philippians | - Polhill, chapter 18 (review chapter 9)  
         - Articles from *DPL*: 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 |
| 10      | - Pastoral Epistles  
          - Review of the Course | - Polhill, chapters 19-20  
         - Articles from *DPL*: Pastoral letters; Social setting of  
           mission churches; Church order and government;  
           Early Catholicism |