

NT620 Exegesis of Romans

Course Instructor: Dr. Gerry Wheaton

Fall 2027

Digital Live, Charlotte and Online

Contact

Dr. Gerry Wheaton

gwheaton@gordonconwell.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the content and theology of Paul's epistle to the Romans in its historical and cultural settings. The approach taken will emphasize the refinement of the skills associated with the study of a New Testament text for teaching and preaching purposes. Special attention will be given to analysis of the Greek text, to allusions and citations from the Old Testament, to pertinent aspects of the contemporary cultural setting, and to the theological shape of Paul's message in each section of the epistle.

This course is structured around "**Early Christian Life in Rome**" trip (Reading Week: Oct 9-15, 2027). We will explore Rome's archaeology, neighborhoods, religious sites, and material culture to help students imagine the social world of Paul and the earliest Christians who read Romans. Particular emphasis will be given to first-century urban life, Jewish and Christian communities, imperial ideology, social status, pagan religion, commerce, and everyday life. These are all aspects of the thought of Paul's greatest epistle that come to life when experienced in-person. This trip is not required for the course.

Course Modality (Format)

This monthly Digital Live course will be conducted online and from the Charlotte campus with a schedule aligned with Gordon-Conwell's academic calendar. Students may choose to attend class meetings online or on campus. Students should plan to interact weekly with the material, each other, and the instructor through online and class session discussions, reading, and other assignments that promote active learning.

Course Schedule and Class Meetings

Coursework will begin on the first day of the term with lessons in Canvas. Due dates will occur throughout the term, with major assignments due before class meetings.

Class meetings are on three Saturdays: Oct. 2, Oct. 30, Dec. 4, 2027 | 9am - 3.30pm ET, online via Zoom and on the Charlotte campus.

Preparation for Monthly Meetings

Weekend class meetings will be split between exegetical analysis of portions of the epistle and workshop exercises that build students' skills in various aspects of interpretation. In the weeks leading up to each Saturday meeting, students will work through the assigned Greek passages of Romans in detail as well as the assigned reading and pre-recorded lectures. Tests and papers must be submitted no later than the night before class meetings. Tests will be available on Canvas and will include translation and syntax analysis as well as multiple choice and/or short essay questions covering reading material. Students will also write a series of short papers across the 4-week cycles.

Relationship to Gordon-Conwell's Mission

This course serves the following institutional learning objectives:

- To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation, and application in the contemporary world. [Article 1]
- To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical, theological, counseling, and pastoral disciplines. [Article 2]
- To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry including preaching, evangelism, teaching, discipleship, counseling, leadership, and spiritual formation. [Article 3]
- To provide leadership and educational resources for shaping an effective evangelical presence in Church and society. [Article 5]

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the syntactical and discourse features of a Greek passage
2. Identify and analyze the import of allusions to the Old Testament
3. Research relevant cultural backgrounds in a passage of Scripture
4. Reflect upon the theological message of a passage in Paul's letters

Technology

Canvas

Most of your coursework will take place online in Canvas, Gordon-Conwell's online Learning Management System (LMS). Course lessons, materials, assignments, online activities, and grades will be in Canvas. You will also find the links to the course Zoom sessions in Canvas.

If this is your first course in Canvas, please take the time to become familiar with it before the class starts. There are tutorials in the course site in the Getting Started lesson.

Zoom Videoconferencing

The Zoom videoconferencing platform allows live, remote attendance to class sessions and other meetings. Detailed information about Zoom is available in Canvas.

Equipment

You will need regular access to a computer with a webcam and high-speed internet that is capable of navigating the LMS, downloading files, streaming multimedia presentations, and connecting to videoconferencing sessions.

Software

You will need Microsoft Word (provided by Gordon-Conwell) for your written work.

Technical Support

If you need assistance with any of Gordon-Conwell's technology, go to support.gordonconwell.edu to submit a ticket.

Course Requirements and Assessment

The successful completion of the course will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to the course, including class time and coursework in Canvas. Achievement of the course learning outcomes will be measured through these assignments.

45% Tests (three). [Related to Outcomes 1 & 2]

35% Exegesis Paper (one). [Related to Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4]

10% Theology Paper (one). [Related to Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4]

10% Reflection Paper (one). [Related to Outcomes 3 & 4]

For all coursework, follow the detailed instructions in Canvas. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the criteria in the instructions and quality of work. Submit all assignments by their due dates.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Top commentaries: Jewett, Cranfield, Fitzmyer, Gaventa

Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. *When in Romans : An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul*. Baker Academic, 2016.

Anthony C. Thiselton, *The Living Paul: An Introduction to the Apostle's Life and Thought*, IVP, 2009.

Joshua W. Jipp, *Pauline Theology as a Way of Life: A Vision of Human Flourishing in Christ* (Baker, 2023).

Nijay K. Gupta, *Paul and the Language of Faith*, Eerdmans, 2020.

Steven Runge, *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction for Teaching and Exegesis* (Hendrickson, 2010).

Grading Scale

The grading scale is:

A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-76, D- 60-63, F below 60

Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins, using 12-point font in Times New Roman or another standard font. Do not exceed page limits. Follow any instructions given in the assignments for citations. Written assignments are to be submitted in Canvas as a Word or PDF file.

Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He will grade assignments within two weeks of submission.