

NT504 Paul and His Letters | Fall 2020

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Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 15 Weeks from Tuesday, September 8, through Monday, December 21, 2020. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

Course Information

Office Hours

Your instructor is available by appointment. Please email your professor for scheduling.

Technical Support

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email tech@gordonconwell.edu.

Course Description

Paul's pastoral and missionary understanding of the Christian faith is examined by assessing the distinctive settings and themes of his letters in the context of the missionary journeys in Acts.

Gordon-Conwell Mission

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- **Article 1: To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world.** Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in its students a love for Scripture. The seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.
- **Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.** Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. **Reproduce** a basic chronology of Paul's life and travels.
2. **Reproduce** on a map the major cities of Paul's ministry.
3. **Identify** the major contours of the first-century Greco-Roman world (including Second Temple Judaism) as they pertain to the study of Paul and his letters.
4. **Identify** and **explain** the basic theological message and main subjects of each of Paul's letters.
5. **Explain** and assess the arguments regarding dating and authorship of the "disputed Pauline" letters.
6. **Summarize** the major themes of Pauline theology, especially his views on justification and the Law.
7. **Synthesize** and **explain** Paul's thought as it pertains to a single area of study in Pauline thought.
8. **Differentiate** between the different schools of interpretation regarding Paul's theology, including the arguments for and against the "New Perspective."

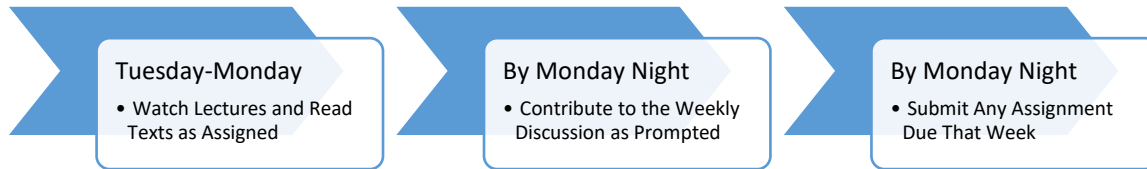
Weekly Lessons

Over 15 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- **Lesson 1: Introduction**
 - Week 1: Who Was Paul? Why Study Paul?
- **Lesson 2: Paul and His Time**
 - Week 2: The "Recent Past" of Paul's World
 - Week 3: Jewish and Greco-Roman Influences
- **Lesson 3: Paul and His Travels**
 - Week 4: On the Road to Damascus, "Missionary Journeys"
- **Lesson 4: Paul and His Letters**
 - Week 5: Introduction to Paul the Letter Writer; 1-2 Thessalonians, Galatians
 - Week 6: 1-2 Corinthians
 - Week 7: Romans
 - Week 8: Philippians, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians
 - Week 9: The Pastorals
 - Week 10: Exam Week
- **Lesson 5: Paul and His Theology**
 - Weeks 11-15: Pauline Theology

Weekly Work Flow

This course runs for 15 weeks with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. You can expect to follow this weekly workflow as you complete each lesson:



Required Materials

Reading

A Bible. Read Acts 9:1-31 and 13:1-28:31 and the Pauline Epistles (Romans – Philemon)

****If using an English Bible, either the English Standard Version or the New Revised Standard Versions are recommended. Not recommended are the King James or New King James versions. Paraphrases are not allowed (such as The Message or The Living Bible). Either the ESV Study Bible (ISBN# 978-1433530838) or the *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture* edited by Keener and Walton (ISBN# 978-0310431589) are worth having for the notes.****

Bruce W. Longenecker and Todd D. Still. [*Thinking Through Paul: A Survey of His Life, Letters, and Theology*](#). (Zondervan, 2014). ISBN-13: 9780310330868

Warren Carter, [*Seven Events that Shaped the New Testament World*](#). (Baker Academic, 2013). ISBN-13: 9780801039164

Thomas Schreiner. [*Paul, Apostle of God's Glory in Christ: A Pauline Theology*](#). (Inter-Varsity Press, 2006). ISBN-13: 9780830828258

Other readings available through the Modules section of your course site.

Technology

Computer and Internet Connection

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

Software

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

Recommended Materials

[*Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*](#). Edited by Gerald F. Hawthorne and Ralph P. Martin. (Inter-Varsity Press, 1993). ISBN-13: 9780830817788

Stephen Westerholm. [*Perspectives Old and New on Paul: The "Lutheran" Paul and His Critics*](#). (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003) ISBN-13: 9780802848093

Required Activities

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The time spent in the course may vary considerably, depending on how well one is already prepared with a knowledge of the New Testament. See the **Assignment Instructions** in your course site for further details.

Read Required Texts

You are expected to complete the relevant reading in preparation for each lecture, online forum, and conference. See the Modules section of the course site for details about what reading is due each week. You will submit three Reading and Lecture Viewing Reports through this course:

- Reading and Lecture Viewing Report 1: Due at the end of week 4
- Reading and Lecture Viewing Report 2: Due at the end of week 10
- Reading and Lecture Viewing Report 3: Due at the end of week 15

Watch Lectures

Each week you will listen to the appropriate Lecture(s) for that week. The Lectures assume the reading, and will frequently introduce something not discussed in the reading, as well as spotlight, or give prominence to, a topic addressed in the reading.

For Weeks 11-15, there are four lectures. These can be listened to at any time during this period.

Conferences

At two points during the course, you will participate in an online, live conference with Professor Jennings. The meeting will last for one hour. Professor Jennings will respond to pre-submitted questions from students. The questions will be submitted one week prior to the meeting through the Discussions tool. Priority will be given to the following topics / questions: difficult statements, puzzling passages, interpretational challenges, discipleship challenges, preaching and teaching, and so on.

The purpose of these conferences is to explore "Paul," especially as it pertains to ministry and faith. Professor Jennings will not answer questions he considers to be "exam" related questions.

Students who did not get to ask a question in the first conference will have priority in the second.

- By the end of Week 9, submit questions for Conference 1.

- As scheduled in Week 10, participate in Conference 1.
- By the end of Week 14, submit questions for Conference 2.
- As scheduled in Week 15, participate in Conference 2.

Exam

There will be one exam, covering the readings and lectures for Lessons 2–4 (Weeks 2–9). You will be allowed 3 hours to complete it. The exam will be comprised of a variety of question types (multiple choice, true-false, short-answer, long-answer, map identification, etc.). There will also be several short essay questions which ask you to discuss the unique themes, features, of contribution of specific Pauline epistles. This exam will take place in Week 10.

Small Group Discussion

Class participation is an important component in this course. Students will find that articulating what they are learning to others in the course is itself a learning exercise. They will also hear what others are finding interesting or struggling over, and they will be able to interact with each other about these matters. Beginning in Week 2, each student will be assigned to a small group for the duration of the class and participate in weekly discussion with that group. Participation includes responding to weekly prompts that Professor Jennings will post as well as to the comments of your fellow group members. Discussions should be conversational.

Long Essay on “Paul and the Modern World”

Imagine the following: you are asked to present a paper at a conference being hosted by a local non-Christian college. The theme of the conference is the following: The Apostle Paul and the Modern World. You have been given a great deal of leeway regarding the topic of your paper, but it must be directly (as opposed tangentially) related to the conference theme. Papers such as “Paul and the Old Testament,” “Paul and Sin” or “Paul and the Law” are not considered “directly related.” “Sin” may factor significantly in your paper’s discussion, but “Paul and Sin” itself would not be an acceptable paper for this “conference topic.”

- By the end of Week 11, submit your Long Essay topic.
- By the end of Week 13, submit your initial bibliography of resources for your Long Essay.
- By the end of Week 14, submit a detailed outline for your Long Essay.
- By the end of Week 15, submit your completed Long Essay.

Grading

Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Course Assignment	% of total grade
Reading and Lecture Viewing Reports	20%

Small Group Discussions (Group Evaluation)	10%
Small Group Discussions (Individual Participation)	10%
Conference Question Submission and Participation (2)	10%
Exam: Lessons 2-4	25%
Long Essay: "Paul and the Modern World"	25%
Total	100%

You must follow the criteria detailed in the **Assignment Instructions** posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Late work will not be accepted, but partial work will be.

The grading scale will be as follows:

99-100: A+	93-98: A	90-92: A-
87-89: B+	83-86: B	80-82: B-
77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	63-66: D	60-62: D-
	0-59: F	

Course Policies

Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the course gradebook within two weeks of submission.

Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that it should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word or PDF file.

ADA accommodations

Gordon-Conwell is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a special need or disability, please refer to the ADA Accommodations section of your home campus's Student Handbook for information about the

accommodation process. Students who have a special need are asked to discuss the provisions of their accommodation with the appropriate office at their home campus as soon as possible.

Violations of Academic Integrity

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source (taken from the *Hamilton Student Handbook 2018-2019*– please be sure you understand your campus's most current Academic Integrity Policies).

Discussion Posts

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

Netiquette

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

Seminary Policies

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work, and Accessibility, among others.