



## ST ANDREW'S GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

### B9260A Pauline Literature and Theology

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**Semester Two, 2022**

**Online (synchronous) and Distance (non-synchronous) Mode**

*Teaching Staff:*

**Senior Lecturer:**

Sr (Assoc Prof) Margaret Beirne

## **B9260A Pauline Literature and Theology**

### **Semester Two, 2022**

<b>Unit weighting:</b>	9 credit points
<b>Mode of study:</b>	Distance mode
<b>Pre-requisite units:</b>	9 credit points of level B8100 units
<b>Exclusion:</b>	B7260A Pauline Literature
<b>Teaching Staff:</b>	Senior Lecturer: Sr (Assoc Prof) Dr Margaret Beirne Phone: 0418 682 133 Email: <a href="mailto:margaret.beirne@rscoffice.com">margaret.beirne@rscoffice.com</a>
<b>Workload:</b>	Weeks in Teaching Session: 12 weeks Total Workload/week: 12 hours

### **Curriculum Objectives**

This course unit aims to build on the basic knowledge and skills of the foundational Biblical Studies unit, focusing on New Testament literature associated with Paul, with special attention to their literary forms, theological content and historical, cultural and religious setting.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course unit, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a cohesive knowledge of the various social, cultural and pastoral contexts of each of Paul's letters.
2. Provide a cogent understanding of the key Pauline theological concepts
3. Evaluate critically a range of recent secondary literature resources related to the study of Pauline literature.
4. Produce a scholarly exercise in the exegesis of selected passages from the Pauline letters
5. Apply a critical appreciation of Pauline literature to a range of life and ministry situations.

### **Content**

1. The life of Paul
2. Historical, geographical, social and religious context to Pauline letters
3. Rhetoric, structure, style and aim of Paul's letters
4. Central theological concepts in the Pauline literature
5. Exegesis of selected pericopes from the Pauline literature
6. Recent developments in Pauline scholarship including the 'new perspective' debate.

### **Learning activities**

The usual pattern for each online session will include:

- Lecture, presenting the week's topic, delivered face-to-face and on Zoom
- Audio-visual supplements
- Class discussion - student contributions from lecture / set readings
- Short written and/or exegetical exercises

## Content

**Week 1**  
**25 July** Introduction to course unit; Review of Paul's life, conversion, missionary journeys; structure of letters; example: The Letter to Philemon.

**Week 2**  
**1 August** Acts and Paul's letters; 1 Thessalonians: literary outline; relationship with Paul; theological concerns.

**Week 3**  
**8 August** Philippians: Acts 16:11-40; Letter: literary outline; relationship with Paul; theological concerns.

**Week 4**  
**15 August** Corinth and the Corinthians; Acts 18:1-18; structure, overview of 1 Corinthians.

**22 – 26 August**

**Non-teaching week**

**Week 5**  
**29 August** 1 Corinthians, reading of letter; exegetical approach to the letters of Paul

**Week 6**  
**5 September** 2 Corinthians: context; link 1 Corinthians; literary and theological aspects

**Week 7**  
**12 September** Letter to "the churches of Galatia"; the problem Paul is addressing; Galatians: tone, structure; close study of key passages.

**Week 8**  
**19 September** Romans: the historical context, structure of the letter; close study of key passages

**26 September – 9 October**

**Mid-semester break**

**Week 9**  
**10 October** Romans: key theological concerns; the 'new perspective'; DVD: Paul and the Law.

**Week 10**  
**17 October** Deutero-Pauline letters: 2 Thessalonians; Colossians; Colossae: archeological case study.

**Week 11**  
**24 October** Ephesians: background; purpose; outline; literary links with Colossians; theology

**Week 12**  
**31 October** Pastoral letters: Titus, 1 and 2 Timothy; application to preaching; Patristics on Pauline literature

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## Recommended Bibliographical Works

Bolt, Peter G. and James R. Harrison, eds. *Romans and the Legacy of St Paul: Historical, Theological, and Social Perspectives*. Macquarie Park: SCD Press, 2020.

Byrne, Brendan. *Galatians and Romans*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2010.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *The Acts of the Apostles: a new translation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

- Gray, Patrick. *Opening Paul's Letters: a reader's guide to genre and interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Marchal, Joseph A. (ed.). *Studying Paul's Letters; Contemporary Perspectives and Methods*. Fortress, 2012.
- Martyn, J. Louis. *Theological Issues in the Letters of Paul*. London: Continuum, 2005.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *Keys to First Corinthians: revisiting the major issues*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Phillips, Thomas E. *Paul, his letters, and Acts*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2009.
- Porter, Stanley E. *The apostle Paul: his life, thought, and letters*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans, 2018.
- Puskas, Charles B. & Mark Reasoner. *Letters of Paul: An Introduction*. Collegeville, Miss: Liturgical Press, 2013.
- Roetzel, Calvin J. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015.
- Spitaler, Peter (ed.). *Celebrating Paul: Festschrift in honour of Jerome Murphy-O'Connor & Joseph A. Fitzmyer*. Washington DC: Catholic Biblical Association of America. 2011.
- Wright, Nicholas T. *Paul and his Recent Interpreters, Some Contemporary Debates*. London: SPCK, 2015.

### **Articles in Journals**

- Akerlund, Truls. "'To Live Lives Worthy of God: Leadership and Spiritual Formation in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12'". *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* (2016), 18-35.
- Harriman, Ross. "Ecclesiology Under Pressure: The Importance of Theological Solidarity Language in 1 Thessalonians." *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 2017, 339-352.
- Johnson, Lee A. "Paul's Letters Re-Heard, A Performance-Critical Examination of the Preparation, Transportation, and Delivery of Paul's Correspondence", *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, (3) 2017, 60-76.
- Ryuskyte, Licita. "God's Mercy. The Key Thematic Undercurrent of Paul's Letter to the Romans", *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. 1(2019), 85-105.
- Sibley, Jim R. "Israel and the Gospel of Peter, Paul and Abraham", *Bibliotheca sacra* 1(2016) 18-31
- Thompson, James W. "Preaching to Philippians", *Interpretation* July 2007, 298-309.
- Tilley, M. "Social Equality and Christian Life in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians." *Acta Theologica* 23, 2016, 225-237.
- Wright, Nicholas T. "Paul and the Patriarch; the role of Abraham in Romans 4", *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 1(2013) 207-241

## Assessment

All students must complete all assessment requirements and conform with SCD Policy.

### Assessment Schedule

Type of Assessment Task	Value (%)	Date due	Unit Learning Outcome(s) assessed
Critical book review	20%	Thursday 25 August 2022	# 1, 2, 5
Exegetical Essay	40%	Thursday 22 September 2022	# 1, 2, 3, 4
Thematic essay	40%	Monday 24 October 2022	# 1, 2, 3, 4

### Detailed information on assessment tasks and assessment standards

#### Assessment Task 1 Critical Review (1,200 words)

Write a critical review of two articles:

Akerlund, Truls, “‘To Live Lives worthy of God’: leadership and spiritual formation in 1 Thessalonians.” *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* (2016), 18-35.

Harriman, Ross. “Ecclesiology under Pressure: The Importance of Theological Solidarity Language in 1 Thessalonians”, *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 2017, 339-352.

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#### Assessment task 2. Exegetical essay (2,400 words)

Write an exegetical essay of approximately 2,400 words on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

The exegetical method to be used for the letters of Paul is similar to that you have learned to use for the Gospels. However, because they are a quite different genre (as genuine letters), there are some variations in our suggested methodology. These will be explained and practised in class.

In addition to the biblical text and background materials recommended in class, you will be expected to draw upon at least seven bibliographical works, especially major commentaries on 1 Corinthians.

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#### 3. Thematic essay (2,400 words)

In Romans 1:16-17, Paul states his central theme that righteousness before God is available to all since it is based on faith not adherence to works of the Law. Explain what is meant by this statement and how Paul develops it in Romans 1:18-4:25.

A minimum requirement for the essay is seven bibliographical titles, especially commentaries and articles on the Letter to the Romans.

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## **Course Unit Standards**

The Grading System for assessment tasks in all coursework units was revised in July 2019 and is outlined in the SCD Handbook, pp.82-85.

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## **Course Unit Revision**

The learning activities, learning resources, and assessment details were thoroughly revised as at 21 July 2022.

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## **Extension Policy**

Students must submit all assignments by the due dates set by the lecturer and published in the course unit profiles.

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## **Late Penalty**

Late assignments without an approved extension will attract an automatic penalty deduction of 5% of the marks available for the item of assessment for every day (including weekends and holidays), or part thereof, beyond the date and time of submission (or any extension granted).

Assignments submitted without an approved extension beyond 10 days after the due date will receive a zero mark and NOT be annotated by the lecturer.

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## **Grounds for Extension**

An extension of an assignment's due date may be granted on the following grounds: medical illness (certified by Medical Certificate); extreme hardship; and compassionate grounds

In such cases an extension of up to 28 days may be granted without penalty but only if requested before the assignment due date. The student should submit an "Application for Extension" including supporting documentation to the Member Institution for authorising and signing by the Lecturer / Registrar /Academic Secretary prior to the due date. The student will then be informed of the result of the request.

In extreme cases, extensions beyond 28 days may be granted. Such extensions must be applied for in writing, including supporting documentation, to the Member Institution setting out the extreme circumstances. The appropriate Member Institution's committee will consider such an unusual extension and notify the student of the outcome in writing.

If the unit assessment includes an examination and an extension is granted arrangements will be made for an alternative examination to be given to the student within the extension period.

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## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use or paraphrasing of another person's work, and the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. For more information on plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct refer to the [SCD Handbook](#).

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## **Intellectual Property**

The Course Unit Outline from which this Course Unit Booklet is derived is the property of the Sydney College of Divinity. The particular interpretation, amplification, and extension of the Course Unit Outline that expresses the theological values of the MI and meets the needs of its stakeholder are the property of the Member Institution.

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