

#216 Life and Epistles of Paul
Western Reformed Seminary
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Spring 2016

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

Special introduction to the Acts of the Apostles and to the Pauline epistles; survey of the history of the critical study of Paul; outline and chronology of Paul's life and ministry; historical and theological relation of Acts to various passages of the Pauline epistles.

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to be able to summarize the life of Paul, to explain its chronology, and to be able to identify the important events of his life, along with the primary scholarly interpretations of those events and the reasons for them. You also will be able to explain the background, purpose, and basic content of each of the Pauline epistles. By intensely studying Paul's life and epistles, you will obtain the necessary background for a lifetime of study and teaching from Paul's life and epistles. Also, we trust, you will grow spiritually to a greater love and appreciation for Paul and for Paul's Lord.

Course outcomes

By successfully completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Present a detailed outline of Paul's life, including his missionary journeys and the writing of his epistles.
2. Teach the life of Paul, using a map to show the places he lived in and visited.
3. Understand and be able to teach the main points of each of Paul's epistles, including the circumstances of their writing and their relevance to Paul's day and to ours.
4. Defend the Pauline authorship of all of his epistles, particularly those that have been attacked.
5. Explain the significance of Paul for the history of the early church and the significance of the Gentile mission.

Reading

The following works are required reading for the course:

Assignment #1

- New Testament: Acts, Pauline epistles (Romans - Philemon)
- James Stalker, *The Life of St. Paul*
- Appropriate chapters of a standard New Testament introduction (choose one):
 - Everett F. Harrison, *Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 10-17
 - D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2nd ed.), ch. 7-18
- J. Gresham Machen, *The Origin of Paul's Religion*, ch. 3: "The Triumph of Gentile Freedom" (pp. 71-113) (available online at <http://books.google.com>)

Assignment #2

- Frank J. Goodwin, *A Harmony of the Life of St. Paul*
- F. F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*

Approximately half of the required reading is due the week before the midterm exam, and the other half is due the week before the final exam, according to the schedule given below.

Geography of Paul's life

In addition to the required reading texts, you will need to obtain the *Holman Quick Source Bible Atlas*. Bring this atlas to class, as we will be referring to it frequently during class lectures and discussions. Each student will be expected to be able to locate on a map of the Mediterranean world the important cities Paul lived in and visited, and the various routes he took on his journeys.

Grading

The final grade for this class will be determined as follows:

Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	30%
Reading assignments	30%
Attendance & participation	10%

Course schedule

Jan.	26	Introduction to course
Feb.	2	
	9	
	16	Reading Assignment #1 due
	23	
Mar.	1	(Spring Vacation – no class)
	8	
	15	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
	22	
	29	
Apr.	5	
	12	
	19	(G. W. Presbytery – no class)
	26	Reading Assignment #2 due
May	3	
	10	FINAL EXAMINATION