

#2316 Romans
Western Reformed Seminary (<http://wrs.edu>)
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

You will be familiar with the background and setting of Paul's letter to the Romans, its overall purpose and outline, and its major themes and teachings. You will understand Paul's theological structure as presented in Romans, especially as it concerns the great doctrines of salvation, including original sin, justification, sanctification, predestination, Israel and the church, civil authority, and Christian liberty. Besides required readings and examinations, you will complete a specialized translation, research, or writing assignment, and will make a presentation applying the book of Romans to a particular counseling situation.

Attendance and participation

Since this course emphasizes class lectures and discussion, your attendance is expected, as is your active preparation and participation. This will affect your final grade.

Reading assignment

Read both articles from the *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*:

- "Rome," by E. M. Blaiklock
- "Rome, Church at," by H. A. Whaley

Read one of these commentaries on Romans:

- Charles Hodge, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*
- John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans* (old NIC)
- Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*
- Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*
- Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans* (new NIC)

Your commentary reading should parallel the class topics.

Bible memory

Select and memorize one or more portions of Romans, totaling at least 600 words. You may use whichever translation you prefer. You will recite the portion(s) orally by memory during the semester.

Quizzes

During the semester there will be two quizzes: Romans introduction and Romans outline.

Special assignment

Choose one of the following:

- *Translation.*—Translate one of these major sections from Romans, using the format described in class—chapters 1-4, 5-8, 9-11, or 12-16.
- *Research paper.*—Prepare a 3,000 word paper discussing some controversial passage in the book of Romans. Discuss the text itself, the context, the primary viewpoints and their reasons, and defend your own interpretation.
- *Sermon or Bible study outlines.*—Plan a series of six sermons or Bible studies related to the book of Romans; prepare a detailed outline (1-2 pages) for each sermon or Bible study.

Class presentation

Lead the class in a discussion of how you would use the book of Romans to talk to someone who has a serious question or holds to an unorthodox teaching or engages in an unbiblical practice. First explain to the class what this person's problem is, then show how you would counsel this person, using only the book of Romans. Show how you think the conversation might progress, and how you would respond to various possible objections. Your presentation should take about 30 minutes, and your topic should be selected at least three weeks before your presentation.

Grading

- Attendance and participation 15%
- Romans introduction quiz 5%
- Romans outline quiz 5%
- Reading assignment 20%
- Bible memory 15%
- Special assignment 20%

- Class presentation 20%

Class schedule

Class	Lecture/Discussion Topic	Passage	Assignment
Sept. 6			
13	Paul and the Church at Rome	1:1-17	
20	The Gentiles, Natural Theology, and Natural Law	1:18-32	<i>ZPEB</i> reading due
27	The Advantage and the Disadvantage of Being a Jew	2:1 – 3:20	Romans introduction quiz
Oct. 4	Justified by Faith! Jesus' Atonement, the Only Way Ever	3:21 – Ch. 4	Bible memory portion(s) selected
11	Christ, Our Deliverer and Federal Head	Ch. 5	Romans outline quiz
18	The Christian's New Master	6:1 – 7:6	Topic for class presentation due
25	The Ongoing Struggle with Sin	7:7-25	
Nov. 1	Victory through the Spirit	Ch. 8	Bible memory recitation due
8	God's Sovereignty and the Fall of Israel	Ch. 9	
15	Israel's Failure to Receive the Gospel	Ch. 10	Class presentation due
22	How Israel Will Be Saved	Ch. 11	
29	Being a Christian in the World	Ch. 12-13	Special assignment due
Dec. 6	Strong Christians and Weak Christians	14:1 – 15:13	
13	Romans, the Church, and You	15:14 – Ch. 16	Romans commentary reading due