

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:20 a.m., Schlegel 121

NT 206-3Advanced Exegesis of Romans Fall 2012

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study and interpretation of the English text of Paul's letter to the Romans. Specific topics to be addressed include the righteousness of God, the sinfulness of humanity, the significance of Christ's death and the community's participation in its effects, Paul's attitude toward the Jewish Law, life in the Spirit, the fate of Israel, and the communal practice of welcoming one another in the church despite differences. The format for class sessions will be seminar discussion; the instructor will from time to time provide overview and summary.

Intended Major Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Discuss major interpretive theories for the occasion and purpose of the letter;
2. Summarize the content of Romans and its theological significance;
3. Identify passages of the letter that have stimulated significant controversy among historic and contemporary interpreters, and explain the exegetical crux involved in each;
4. Offer detailed exegetical analysis of a passage from Romans; and

Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Perfect or near-perfect class attendance and active and informed participation (*please note attendance and makeup policy in appendix below*). For each class session I expect the following: careful reading and study of the assigned verses of the text, reading (*prior* to the session) of corresponding sections in commentaries and any other materials designated for that day, and a one paragraph summary of text and commentary reading with relevant questions to be used for class discussion. I will check summaries at beginning of each class session. *Worth @25% of final grade.*
2. Critical book review (five to seven pages double-spaced) of Mark Reasoner, *Romans in Full Circle: A History of Interpretation*. See guide to writing a critical book review at end of syllabus. **Due October 23** *Worth 25% of final grade*. Late reviews will not be accepted (no exceptions, so do them early).
3. One exegesis paper, @10 pp in length (*passage to be decided in consultation with the professor*) **due December 4**. *Worth @ 25% of final grade. Please note carefully the policy on plagiarism in the appendix below.*
4. An essay-type final examination, **due December 14** (*take-home and open-book, with extended period for completion; may be done cooperatively with one other student*). *Worth @25% of final grade.*

Textbooks**Required:**

1. A study version of the Bible (e.g., *The Catholic Study Bible*, *The HarperCollins Study Bible*) in any one of the following translations: New revised Standard Version, New American Standard, Revised English Bible, New International Version. Multiple versions may be consulted.
2. Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Smyth and Helwys, 2008.
3. Matera, Frank J. *Paddeia Commentaries on the New Testament, Romans*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
4. Reasoner, Mark. *Romans in Full Circle: A History of Interpretation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Secondary texts (to refer to as needed):

1. *The Anchor Bible Commentary: Romans* (Volume 33). Doubleday, 1993.
2. *The New Interpreter's Bible: Acts – First Corinthians* (Volume 10). Abingdon, 2002.

Course Schedule**Thursday, September 6.** Orientation to class. Romans in the History of the Church

- *Readings:* John D. Godsey, "The Interpretation of Romans in the History of the Christian Church" *Interpretation*. (January 1980): vol. 34 no. 1, 3-16;

Tuesday, September 11. Issues in the study of Romans. Romans: An Introductory Overview

- *Readings:* Romans 1-16 (no summary due)

Thursday, September 13. Romans: An Introductory Overview (continued)

- *Readings:* Matera, 3-23; Johnson, 1-18;

Tuesday, September 18. No Class**Thursday, September 20.** Theology in Romans

- *Readings:* Fitzmyer, 103-43; Fee, *Pauline Christology*, 237-88;

Tuesday, September 25. Romans 1:1-32

- *Readings:* Matera, 24-56; Johnson, 19-36;

Thursday, September 27. Romans 2:1–3:8

- *Readings:* Matera, 57-83; Johnson, 37-45

Tuesday, October 2. Romans 3:9-20

- *Readings:* Matera, 83-88; Johnson, 45-50;

Thursday, October 4. Romans 3:21-31

- *Readings:* Matera, 89-104; Johnson, 51-65;

Tuesday, October 9. Romans 4:1-25

- *Readings:* Matera, 105-20; Johnson, 67-81;

Thursday, October 11. Romans 5:1-11

- *Readings:* Matera, 121-36; Johnson, 83-92;

October 16 and 18: *Research and study week: NO CLASS***Tuesday, October 23.** Romans 5:12-21

- *Readings:* Matera, 136-44; Johnson, 92-99;

Thursday, October 25. Romans 6:1-23

- *Readings:* Matera, 145-63; Johnson, 101-12; Luther, 99-106

Tuesday, October 30. Romans 7:1-25

- *Readings:* Matera, 164-84; Johnson, 112-23; Luther, 107-16

Thursday, November 1. Romans 8:1-17

- *Readings:* Matera, 185-98; Johnson, 125-35; Luther, 117-22;
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Tuesday, November 6. Romans 8:18-39

- *Readings:* Matera, 199-210; Johnson, 135-48; Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, 472-76, 503-91

Thursday, November 8. Romans 9:1-29

- *Readings:* Matera, 211-34; Johnson, 149-166; *recommended:*

Tuesday, November 13. Romans 9:30–11:6

- *Readings:* Matera, 235-63; Johnson, 166-177; *recommended:*

Thursday, November 15. Romans 11:7-36.

- *Readings:* Matera, 263-80; Johnson, 177-86; *recommended:*

Tuesday, November 20. Romans 12:1-21

- *Readings:* Matera 281-293; Johnson, 187-197;

Thursday, November 22. THANKSGIVING DAY NO CLASS**Tuesday, November 27.** Romans 13:1-14.

- *Readings:* Matera, 293-304; Johnson, 197-207;

Thursday, November 29: Romans 14:1–15:13.

- *Readings:* Matera, 305-326; Johnson, 209-21;

Tuesday, December 4. Romans 15:14–16:27.

- *Readings:* Matera, 327-48; Johnson, 223-39

Thursday, December 6. Preaching from the Book of Romans

- *Readings:* Brad Braxton *Preaching Paul*, 123-55; Rutledge, *Not Ashamed of the Gospel*, 164-71, 353-59;

Critical Book Review Format

The critical book review provides an assessment of a text and an interaction of the ideas of that text with the ideas of others in the field and with your own analysis. The review should be five to six pages, typed (10-12 point text) and double-spaced. Divide the review into the following sections:

1. Finding the golden thread: Summarize the argument in about two pages. Focus on the main thesis of the book and how the author proceeds to argue for that thesis as the book progresses. Lengthy summaries are unnecessary. Look for the links between ideas and how those ideas move the argument along and result in a conclusion. In the case of an edited book, discover the rationale for grouping these articles together and show how, taken together, they provide a perspective or contrasting perspective on a particular topic. While you may compare points of view in your account, do not summarize each article individually.
2. Internal critique: Show how the book holds together. Is it well-organized? Is the argument sound? Is it well-researched and documented? Are the conclusions warranted? Does the writing style fit the content? Internal analysis of the text should be done in one to two pages.
3. External critique: What are others in the field saying about this topic? Bring into dialogue the argument of the book with other voices. A book review off the web might be helpful. This section should take about one page.
4. Your critique: On the basis of your knowledge and experience, what is your opinion of this work? How will the understanding this text has given you aid in your own thinking and action? Use about one page for this analysis.
5. Questions for discussion. Compose five questions that will stimulate discussion on the issues raised in the readings.

Frances S. Adeney

Appendix: Course Policies

Policy on Inclusive Language:

In speech and in written assignments, please avoid divisive terms that reinforce stereotypes or are pejorative. Do not use language that leaves out part of the population, perpetuates stereotyping, or diminishes importance. Do not use male pronouns (such as “men”) to refer to a

group that includes females as well. Consult the Academic Support Center for additional guidance if necessary.

Policy on Plagiarism:

Prohibition of plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Ideas and words (even short phrases, if distinctive) drawn from print, Internet, or other sources should be fully documented. Any student work in which plagiarism is discovered will receive an automatic F with no possibility of redoing the assignment. Use great care!!!

Policy on Attendance and Makeup for Missed sessions:

Perfect or near-perfect attendance is expected, and roll will be taken. If you must miss class for any reason, you should turn in a page of typed notes on the readings for the class you missed. These will be due to the professor in electronic form by the start of the second class session after the one that was missed. Thus, if you miss class on September 25, notes should be submitted electronically by the start of class on September 27 at the latest. In case of scheduled days off, the deadline is one calendar week from the missed class. It is the students' responsibility to keep track of any classes missed and make-up notes due; the professor will not send notices or follow-ups, nor will late notes be accepted. Too many missed classes will adversely affect class participation grade even if make-up notes are turned in.

Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in Class

All cell phones should be turned off during class unless waiting for an important call, in which case you should let the professor know ahead of time. When using computers in class do not access the Internet unless specifically for purposes relevant to the course. Checking of email or Facebook will be grounds for dismissal from the session and will adversely affect one's class participation grade.

Course Bibliography

- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Smyth and Helwys, 2008.
- Matera, Frank J. *Paddeia Commentaries on the New Testament, Romans*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- Reasoner, Mark. *Romans in Full Circle: A History of Interpretation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005.
- Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *The Anchor Bible Commentary: Romans* (Volume 33). Doubleday, 1993.
- The New Interpreter's Bible: Acts – First Corinthians* (Volume 10). Abingdon, 2002.
- Braxton, Brad. *Preaching Paul*. Abingdon, 2004.
- Rutledge, Fleming. *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Sermons from Paul's Letter to the Romans*, Eerdmans, 2007.
- Luther, Martin. *Commentary on Romans*. Kregel, 1954.
- Godsey, John D. "The Interpretation of Romans in the History of the Christian Church." *Interpretation* (Jan 1980): vol 34, no. 1, 3-16.
- Fee, Gordon. *Pauline Christology: An Exegetical-Theological Study*. Hendrickson, 2007.
- Fee, Gordon. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Hendrickson, 1994.