

Romans

NT 3XR3 / TH 3XR3

McMaster Divinity College
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Summer 2014
June 2–7
11:30am–4:00pm (Mon)
9:00am–4:00pm (Tues–Thurs)
9:00am–12:00pm (Fri)
Bingham Colloquium (Sat)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans is often regarded as the most theologically significant book of the New Testament. When it was written, however, Paul was a highly controversial figure and his ideas and practices were provoking opposition even from fellow Christians. In this course, we will examine the text of Romans and discuss the various historical, theological and social issues that it raises. We will also ask how the message of Romans is relevant today.

SPECIALIZATIONS

Biblical Studies (BS)

Students taking Romans as a Biblical Studies course will be encouraged to explore the historical and cultural settings of Romans, as well as recent discussions surrounding Pauline theology.

Pastoral Studies (PS)

Students taking Romans as a Pastoral Studies (PS) course will be encouraged to explore how the message of Romans is relevant for Christian faith and practice in the 21st century.

Christian Worldview (CW)

Students taking Romans as a Christian Worldview (CW) course will be encouraged to explore how Paul's worldview relates to others both in the ancient world and in the 21st century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be encouraged to:

Knowing

- Remember the basic outline of Romans
- Become familiar with introductory issues and scholarly debates concerning Romans
- Understand the major theological teachings found in Romans

Being

- Appreciate the importance of participating in critical and respectful discussions concerning biblical texts
- Become sensitive to the historical and cultural environment in which the early church first communicated the gospel
- Become competent interpreters of Paul
- Embody the passion that is so evident throughout Paul's letter to the Romans

Doing

- Read books that engage with Romans in a careful and critical manner
- Take time to reflect on the meaning of Romans
- Talk intelligently about Romans
- Discuss how Romans is relevant to contemporary Christianity

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *All assignments must be emailed to the professor in PDF format. Assignments cannot be submitted after July 4 without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (thomn@mcmaster.ca).*

1. Reading and Class Participation. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions. In addition, students should read the relevant portions of Romans prior to each class session (see the schedule below).
2. Small Group Discussions (10%). During each class session, students will gather in small groups in order to reflect upon Romans and discuss its contemporary relevance. Then, at the end of the class week, each student will complete a brief evaluation form, evaluating the level of interest and insight demonstrated by the other students in his or her discussion group. On the basis of these evaluations, each student will be assigned a small group participation grade.
3. Bingham Colloquium Attendance and Review (20%). Students are expected to attend the Bingham Colloquium on June 7. Following the Colloquium, each student will write a brief review that assesses whether the *format* and *content* of the Colloquium made it relevant and accessible to non-academics. In particular, the review should discuss whether the Colloquium was effective in addressing people within the student's area of specialization, citing specific organizational aspects of the Colloquium as well as the presentations themselves (i.e. the review should demonstrate that the student took notes during the Colloquium). The review should be approximately 1,500 words and should follow the "McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses." It is due at **11:59pm on July 4.**

4. Reading Response (30%). Each student will read a book corresponding to their specialization (see below) and will submit a written response that answers each of the questions listed below. Although the questions can be answered independently using a new heading for each, the thoughts included in each answer must be well organized and clearly presented in full paragraphs (i.e. these are to be formal responses). The entire reading response must be at least 1,500 words and must follow the “McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.” It is due at **11:59pm on July 4**.

5. Final Written Assignment (40% total). As a final assignment, each student must turn in a written piece of work that is approximately 3,000 words in length and that follows the “McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.” The nature of the final assignment, however, will be partly determined by the student. Available options include an exegetical or thematic paper, a sermon, a series of blog posts—or any written assignment suggested by the student and approved *in advance* by the professor. Irrespective of the format chosen, the final assignment must demonstrate thorough research by means of proper citations and a suitable bibliography. It must also make an obvious contribution to the goals of the student’s chosen specialization. Topics and formats are to be discussed with the professor before **June 6**, and a final proposal for the assignment must be submitted via email before **June 14**. The final assignment is due at **11:59pm on July 4**.

GRADING SUMMARY

Reading & Class Participation	----
Small Group Discussions	10%
Bingham Review	20%
Reading Response	30%
Final Written Assignment	40%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to possess the following:

An English translation of the New Testament.

Moo, Douglas. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Students must also possess one of the following, corresponding to their specialization:

Biblical Studies (BS): Sumney, Jerry L. *Reading Paul’s Letter to the Romans*. Atlanta: SBL, 2012.

Pastoral Studies (PS): Reasoner, Mark. *Romans in Full Circle: A History of Interpretation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Christian Worldview (CW): Westerholm, Stephen. *Understanding Paul: The Early Christian Worldview of the Letter to the Romans*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Class Topics
June 2	Romans in the Life of the Church
	Paul's Gospel in Romans
June 3	1:1–17 // 15:14–16:27
	1:18–3:20
June 4	3:21–4:25
	5:1–6:23
June 5	7:1–8:39
	9:1–11:36
June 6	12:1–13:14
	14:1–15:13
June 7	Bingham Colloquium
July 4	All Written Assignments Due

QUESTIONS FOR THE BOOK RESPONSE

1. Present five quotations from the book that made you stop and think, briefly explaining each choice.
2. How has this book deepened your understanding of the world within which the Apostle Paul lived and ministered? Give specific examples.
3. How has this book deepened your understanding of Romans as both a letter from Paul and a part of the New Testament? Give specific examples.
4. How has this book deepened your understanding of Paul's theology? Give specific examples.
5. How has this book affected your thinking about what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century? Give specific examples.

SOME COMMENTARIES ON ROMANS

Barrett, C.K., *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (BNTC; London: A. & C. Black, 1957).

Barth, K., *The Epistle to the Romans* (trans. E.C. Hoskyns; London: Oxford University Press, 1933).

Beet, J.A., *Commentary on St Paul's Epistle to the Romans* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1890).

Black, M., *Romans* (NCB; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973).

Bruce, F.F., *Romans* (TNTC; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, rev. edn, 1985).

Bryan, C., *A Preface to Romans* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Cranfield, C.E.B., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (ICC; 2 vols.; Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1975, 1979).

Dodd, C.H., *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans* (MNTC; London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1932).

Dunn, J.D.G., *Romans* (WBC 38AB; Waco, TX: Word, 1988).

Fitzmyer, J.A., *Romans* (AB 33; New York: Doubleday, 1993).

Godet, F.L., *Commentary on Romans* (1883; repr. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1977).

Hodge, C., *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (Edinburgh: Elliot, 1864).

Hultgren, A.J. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011).

Jewett, R. *Romans* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007).

Johnson, L.T., *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (New York: Crossroad, 1997).

Käsemann, E., *Commentary on Romans* (trans. G.W. Bromiley; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980); *An die Römer* (HNT, 8a; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1974).

Keck, L.E., *Romans* (ANTC; Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005).

Keener, C.S., *Romans: A New Covenant Commentary* (NCCS; Eugene: Cascade, 2009).

Kruse, C.G. *Paul's Letter to the Romans* (PNTC; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).

Kuss, O., *Die Briefe an die Römer, Korinther und Galater* (RNT; Regensburg: Pustet, 1940).

Lagrange, M.-J., *Saint Paul épître aux Romains* (Paris: Gabalda, 1915).

- Leenhardt, F.J., *The Epistle to the Romans: A Commentary* (trans. H. Knight; London: SCM Press, 1961).
- Lenski, R.C.H., *The Interpretation of St Paul's Epistle to the Romans* (Columbus: Wartburg, 1945).
- Lietzmann, H., *An die Römer* (HNT, 8; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 4th edn, 1933).
- Luther, M., *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (trans. J.T. Mueller; London: Oliphants, 1954).
- Matera, F.J., *Romans* (Paideia; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010).
- Moo, D., *The Epistle to the Romans* (NICNT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).
- Moo, D.J. *Romans* (NIVAC; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).
- Morris, L., *The Epistle to the Romans* (Pillar; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).
- Nygren, A., *Commentary on Romans* (trans. C.C. Rasmussen; London: SCM Press, 1952).
- O'Neill, J.C., *Paul's Letter to the Romans* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1975).
- Osborne, G.R. *Romans* (NTC; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004).
- Robinson, J.A.T., *Wrestling with Romans* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979).
- Sanday, W., and A.C. Headlam, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (ICC; Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1895).
- Schlatter, A., *Romans: The Righteousness of God* (trans. S.S. Schatzmann; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995); Gottes Gerechtigkeit: Ein Kommentar zum Römerbrief (Stuttgart: Calwer, 1952).
- Schlier, H., *Der Römerbrief* (HTKNT; Freiburg: Herder, 1977).
- Schreiner, T.R., *Romans* (BECNT; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998).
- Stott, J.R.W. *The Message of Romans* (BST; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994).
- Stuhlmacher, P., *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Commentary* (trans. S.J. Hafemann; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994).
- Talbert, C. H. *Romans* (SHBC; Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2002).
- Vaughan, C.J., *St Paul's Epistle to the Romans* (London: Macmillan, 1880).
- Witherington, B., and D. Hyatt, *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

Ziesler, J., *Paul's Letter to the Romans* (London: SCM Press; Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1989).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Statement on Academic Honesty at www.mcmasterdivinity.info/programs/rules-regulations.

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for grading and plagiarism detection, and the student's continuation in the course represents his or her consent to the use of this service.

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuideMarch0413.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.