



# Greek Exegesis of Romans

McMaster Divinity College  
NT 2XR2 Greek Exegesis

Cynthia Long Westfall, Ph.D.  
Email: westfal@mcmaster.ca

Fall 2020

2 Hour Introductory WebEx Session: first week of class (TBA)

On-Line Videos

Weekly 1 Hour Sessions/Tutorials on Greek Grammar and Translation (by arrangement)

In-Class Sessions: Friday, Oct 30, 1:30–5:30 p.m./Saturday, Oct 31, 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Closing WebEx Session: last week of class (TBA)

---

## Course Description

The New Testament Book of Romans has had a major impact on Christian theology and Church History; it is arguably among the most influential books in the Bible. It is effective for spiritual formation and at the same time challenging and doctrinal. This class combines aspects of two courses. The Greek Exegesis course is dedicated to the interpretative study of the Greek text of the Epistle to the Romans, and the study of Greek grammar and translation which takes place in weekly tutorials. The English exegesis course focuses on the content, interpretation, message, and application of the Epistle to the Romans. Together, the two courses address matters of literary environment & genre, historical social and occasional context, structure, and interpretive problems.

## Course Objectives

Specific Objectives – Through reading, videos/lectures, discussion and the completion of assignments the student will:

### *Knowing*

- Understand the Romans in its social, historical, literary and religious contexts.
- Increase one's knowledge of the Greek of the New Testament through interaction with Romans, its vocabulary, grammars and modern tools.
- Consider the message and structure of the text as a whole and in terms of its component parts.

### *Doing*

- Analyze Romans interpretively and discuss issues of grammar, syntax, discourse and lexicography.
- Translate for the articulation and communication of Scripture to a target group.
- Apply an exegetical method for studying the New Testament.
- Apply Romans to concrete ministry contexts.

## ***Being***

- Build skills in Greek in order to benefit from advanced commentaries and articles.
- Integrate the scholarship of exegesis and translation with the devotional commitment, obedience to Scripture and spiritual formation.

## **Course Prerequisite**

Equivalent of a one-year course in elementary Greek

## **Course Requirements**

### ***Class Participation***

#### ***View Online Videos*** (attendance)

Students are required to view the scheduled weekly videos online.

### ***Class Participation*** (15%)

There will be a couple of venues in which you will be expected to participate in weekly activities and contribute to the course discussion online: (1) you will share content or initiate topics of discussion on the A2L discussion forums or on Padlet (which has a number of ways that you can share) and (2) you will respond or interact with the contribution/content/topics of others. Contribute content once a week and interact with a minimum interaction or response to five others each week (on the average).

### ***Reading*** (10%)

See the Daily Schedule at the end for the precise dates and pages.

- Students are required to read the portion of Romans covered in video in Porter, *Romans* prior to viewing the video (see Schedule at the end). Be prepared to interact with the main issues in online discussions.
- Read Romans once in the Greek, using helps if necessary.
- Read *Idioms* or (if already studied) choose an alternative Greek grammar, and discuss grammar and translations (below) *in weekly online tutoring sessions with Westfall (day and time to be determined together)*
- On **December 11**, the student will submit a reading report on A2L indicating the percentage of the reading that has been completed.

### ***Written Assignments***

*In order to pass the course, all assignments must be completed*

### **3 Translations (30%, 10% each) due 11:59 p.m. September 25, October 16, and November 13.**

Using translation helps such as Logos, Accordance, interlinears, and commentaries, the student will translate 3 passages from Romans (1:8–17; 5:1–11; 12:1–13), using the format provided by the instructor. **Late papers will lose 2% a day for a week, then 5% a day to a maximum of 30%.**

Each translation will include:

- The Greek text (feel free to cut and paste this line by line)
- A formal equivalent translation in interlinear format
- Parsing of all verbs and the identification of other significant grammatical features
- Comments on the meaning of the significant grammatical features, syntax and structure as well as select lexical observations
- A final dynamic translation that incorporates the insights gleaned from the process

Specific instructions for formatting the translation and observations will be supplied by the instructor.

**Exegetical Paper (35%) due 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 4.**

The student will write an exegetical paper on one of the translated passages that exercises the traditional evangelical exegetical skills that are used in preparation for Bible studies and sermons (Steps to Exegesis), utilizing the insights from translation, due by 11:59 p.m. April 3. Instructions for writing an exegetical paper will be posted on A2L. For all matters of style, consult the MDC Style Guide:

<http://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

**Late papers will lose 2% a day for a week, then 5% a day to a maximum of 30%.**

**Vocabulary Test (10%) due by December 11 (accessed on A2L)**

Based on the most common words in Romans and words in Romans that occur 50x or more in the NT (see Sakae Kubo's *Greek-English Lexicon*).

**Grading Summary**

Participation	15%
Reading	10%
Translations	30%
Vocabulary Test	10%
Exegetical paper	35%

All assignments must be completed by December 11.

**Textbooks and Materials**

**Textbooks**

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament

- Nestle-Aland (26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> edn)
- UBS (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edn)
- Westcott-Hort

A "formal equivalent" translation of the Bible (literalistic) such as the NASB

Porter, Stanley E. *The Letter to the Romans: A Linguistic and Literary Commentary*. New Testament Monographs 37. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix, 2015.

Porter, Stanley E., *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Biblical Languages: Greek 2. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

*Or*

**For those who have already read *Idioms*:** A selection from the Greek grammars below (inform the professor of your selection)

**Textbook Purchase**

See MDC instructions on the website.

***Classroom Behavior***

**Attendance**

Students are required to be present for the face to face sessions on May 7 & 8. Students are expected to stay for the entire class sessions, unless arranged in advance.

**Participation**

Please respect the opinions of others without disrespect or ridicule, even if you do not agree with them. However, feel free to respond logically and critically in an orderly manner. Similarly content

in all papers should be irenic while it may critique alternate positions.

Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.

Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class in person, the phone or on the internet.

We will eat and drink in class—please help with set up and clean up.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines will be dismissed from the class with consequences.

### ***MDC Policies***

#### **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 Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

#### **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.

#### **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

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

#### **Appointments & office hours**

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via Avenue or e-mail: [westfal@mcmaster.ca](mailto:westfal@mcmaster.ca)  
There are no set office hours, but I am available by Skype appointment at [cynthia.westfall](https://www.skype.com/join/cynthia.westfall)

#### **Disclaimer**

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

## Romans Schedule, 2020

DATE	Chapters in Romans
Opening Week Sept 14–18	<b>Webex session (TBA)</b> Video: Introduction to Romans
Sept 21–25	Video: Romans 1 <b>Translation #1 due 11:59 p.m. Sept 25</b>
Sept 28–Oct 2	Video: Romans 2
Oct 5–9	Video: Romans 3
Oct 12–16	Video: Romans 4 <b>Translation #2 due 11:59 p.m. Oct 16</b>
Oct 19–24	MDC Hybrid in-class sessions
Oct 30 1:30–5:30 Oct 31 9–5:30	Romans in-class sessions Romans 5, 6, 7, 8, 9–11
Nov 2–7	MDC Hybrid in-class sessions
Nov 9–13	Video: Romans 12–13 <b>Translation #3 due 11:59 p.m. Nov 13</b>
Nov 16–20	ETS/SBL
Nov 23–27	Video: Romans 14–15
Nov 30–Dec 4	Video: Romans 16 <b>Exegetical Paper due Dec 4</b>
Closing Week Dec 7–11	<b>WebEx Session (TBA)</b> <b>Reading reports due Dec 11</b> <b>Vocabulary Quiz taken by Dec 11</b>

## *Bibliography for Study of the Greek New Testament*

The following is a select bibliography to give the student initial guidance in the subject of exegesis in the context of Greek study. There are many more specialized studies on a range of topics.

### *Greek Grammars*

#### *Intermediate*

- Brooks, J.A., and C.O. Winbery. *Syntax of New Testament Greek*. Washington, CD: University Press of America, 1979
- Chamberlain, W.D. *An Exegetical Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. Reprint. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1979.
- Dana, H.E., and J.R. Mantey. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. New York: Macmillan, 1957.
- Mathewson, David and Elodie Ballantine Emig. *Intermediate Greek Grammar: Syntax for Students of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016.
- Nunn, H.P.V. *A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1938.
- Runge, Steven E. *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction for Teaching and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Hendrikson, 2010.
- Wallace, D.B. *Greek Grammar beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.
- Zerwick, M. *Biblical Greek*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1963.

#### *Advanced*

- Blass, F., and A. Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Translated by R.W. Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.
- Moule, C.F.D. *An Idiom Book of New Testament Greek*. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.
- Moulton, J.H., *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*. I. *Prolegomena*. 3rd edition. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1908.
- Robertson, A.T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*. 4th edition. Nashville: Broadman, 4th edn, 1934.
- Turner, N. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*. III. *Syntax*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1963.
- Winer, G.B. *A Treatise on the Grammar of New Testament Greek*. Translated by W.F. Moulton. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1882.

#### *Specialized*

- Burton, E.D.W. *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1898.

- Decker, R.J. *Temporal Deixis of the Greek Verb in the Gospel of Mark with Reference to Verbal Aspect*. Studies in Biblical Greek 10. New York: Lang, 2001.
- Doudna, J.C. *The Greek of the Gospel of Mark*. SBL Monograph Series 12. Philadelphia: Society of Biblical Literature, 1961.
- Fanning, B.M. *Verbal Aspect in New Testament Greek*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990.
- McKay, K.L. *A New Syntax of the Verb in New Testament Greek*. Studies in Biblical Greek 5. New York: Lang, 1994.
- Porter, S.E. *Verbal Aspect in the Greek of the New Testament, with Reference to Tense and Mood*. Studies in Biblical Greek 1. New York: Lang, 1989.
- Porter, S.E., and D.A. Carson, eds. *Biblical Greek Language and Linguistics: Open Questions in Current Research*. JSNT Supplement Series 80. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993.
- Porter, S.E., and D.A. Carson, eds. *Discourse Analysis and Other Topics in Biblical Greek*. JSNT Supplement Series 113. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1995.
- Porter, S.E., and D.A. Carson, eds. *Linguistics and the New Testament: Critical Junctures* (JSNT Supplement Series 168. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Thrall, M.E. *Greek Particles in the New Testament: Linguistic and Exegetical Studies*. New Testament Tools and Studies 3. Leiden: Brill, 1962.

#### *Greek–English Lexicons*

- Abbott-Smith, G. *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1986.
- Bauer, W., *A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Translated by W.F. Arndt and F. W. Gingrich. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979; Translated by F.W. Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Liddell, H., and R. Scott. *An Intermediate Greek–English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1987.
- Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida. *Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 volumes. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.
- Newman, B.M., *A Concise Greek–English Dictionary of the New Testament* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1971).
- Souter, A. *A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1916.
- Thayer, J.H. *A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament*. New York: American Book Company, 1897.

#### *Exegesis*

- Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996.

- Conzelmann, H., and A. Lindemann. *Interpreting the New Testament: An Introduction to the Principles and Methods of New Testament Exegesis*. Translated by S.S. Schatzmann. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.
- Fee, G.D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.
- Green, J.B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Hayes, J.H., and C.R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. 2nd edition. Atlanta: John Knox, 1987.
- Kaiser, O., and W.G. Kümmel. *Exegetical Method: A Student's Handbook*. Translated by E.V.N. Goetchius and M.J. O'Connell. 2nd edition. New York: Seabury, 1981.
- Marshall, I.H., ed. *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.
- McKnight, S., ed. *Introducing New Testament Interpretation*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1989.
- Porter, S.E., ed. *Handbook to Exegesis of the New Testament*. New Testament Tools and Studies 25. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Silva, M. *Explorations in Exegetical Method: Galatians as a Test Case*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996.
- Stenger, W. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Translated by D.W. Scott. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

#### *Textual Criticism*

- Aland, K., and B. Aland. *The Text of the New Testament*. Translated by E.F. Rhodes. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Greenlee, J.H. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964.
- Kenyon, F.G., *The Text of the Greek Bible*. 3rd edition. Revised by A.W. Adams. London: Duckworth, 1975.
- Metzger, B.M. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1968.
- Metzger, B.M., *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd edition. New York: American Bible Society, 1971, 1994.
- Vaganay, L., and C.-B. Amphoux. *An Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. Translated by J. Heimerdinger. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

#### *Vocabulary*



- Kubo, S. *A Reader's Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1975.
- Metzger, B.M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998.
- Scott, B.B., M. Dean, K. Sparks and F. LaZar. *Reading New Testament Greek*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993.
- Trenchard, W.C. *The Student's Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Van Voorst, R.E. *Building your New Testament Greek Vocabulary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990.

#### *Linguistics and New Testament Greek*

- Black, D.A. *Linguistics for Students of New Testament Greek: A Survey of Basic Concepts and Applications*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1988.
- Cotterell, P., and M. Turner. *Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989.
- Louw, J.P. *Semantics of New Testament Greek*. SBL Semeia Studies. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.
- Silva, M. *Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

#### *Bibliography to be Expanded Commentaries on Romans*

The following is a selection of Roman commentaries.

- 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, MI: Eerdmans, 1973.
- Bruce, F.F., *Romans*. TNTC. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 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, John 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. Reprint, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1977.
- Hodge, C. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. Edinburgh: Elliot, 1864.
- Jewett, Robert. *Romans*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2007.

- Johnson, L.T., *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. New York: Crossroad, 1997.
- Käsemann, E. *Commentary on Romans*. Translated by G.W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *An die Römer*. HNT 8a. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1974.
- Keener, Craig S. *Romans: A New Covenant Commentary*. NCC 6. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2009.
- Kuss, O. *Die Briefe an die Römer, Korinther und Galater*. RNT. Regensburg, de: Pustet, 1940.
- Lagrange, M.-J. *Saint Paul épître aux Romains*. Paris: Gabalda, 1915.
- Leenhardt, F.J. *The Epistle to the Romans: A Commentary*. Translated by 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. 4th ed. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1933.
- Luther, M. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. Translated by J.T. Mueller. London: Oliphants, 1954.
- Moo, D. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Moo, D. J. *Romans*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
- Morris, L. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Pillar; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Nygren, A. *Commentary on Romans*. Translated by 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.
- Porter, Stanley E. *The Letter to the Romans: A Linguistic and Literary Commentary*. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield, Phoenix, 2015
- 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*. Translated by S.S. Schatzmann. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995. *Gottes Gerechtigkeit: Ein Kommentar zum Römerbrief*. Stuttgart, de: Calwer, 1952.
- Schlier, H. *Der Römerbrief*. HTKNT. Freiburg: Herder, 1977.
- Schreiner, T.R. *Romans*. BECNT. Grand Rapids, MI: 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*. Translated by S.J. Hafemann; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994.
- Talbert, C. H. *Romans*. SHBC. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2002.
- Vaughan, C.J. *St Paul's Epistle to the Romans*. London: Macmillan, 1880.
- Ziesler, J. *Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1989.