

Pauline Studies
PhD: CHTH G105–C06
MA: NT 6XZ6

McMaster Divinity College
Instructor: Christopher D. Land, Ph.D.
landc@mcmaster.ca

Winter 2021 (Term 2)
Monday, March 1, 9:00am–5:30pm
Tuesday, March 2, 9:00am–1:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of major issues in Pauline scholarship as well as an opportunity for students to pursue specialized research in the area of Pauline studies. Class readings, discussions, and presentations will explore the current state of scholarship as regards key Pauline topics. Student research papers will be disseminated near the end of the semester and each paper will receive feedback from fellow students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be given an opportunity to:

Knowing

- Recognize the current state of Pauline scholarship as regards both method and content;
- Formulate well-informed opinions about Paul's life and letters;
- Become an expert on at least one specific area in Pauline studies;

Being

- Become a charitable giver and receiver of critical comments from fellow scholars;
- Reflect upon Paul's commitment to the calling he understood himself to have received;
- Learn from Paul's ministry experiences, including both his successes and his struggles;

Doing

- Survey academic literature on a topic in Pauline scholarship;
- Systematically outline the present state of Pauline scholarship as regards a particular topic;
- Give an effective academic presentation and then field questions and comments;
- Formulate a method that is capable of addressing an open question in Pauline scholarship;
- Write an effective research paper;
- Critically assess a research paper in order to identify its strengths and weaknesses.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

As a graduate seminar in Christian Theology, this course presumes a general familiarity with the New Testament and with the Pauline letters in particular. Students are also expected to have competency in Greek and to have all of the skills required for the production of graduate-level research papers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

NB: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. If a student fails to make a valid attempt at any one of these requirements, this will constitute grounds for failure of the course.

All written assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word format via Avenue to Learn (A2L) unless alternative arrangements are made with the professor in advance of a due date. A penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all late assignments. No assignments will be accepted after **April 7th**.

1. Reading and Social Annotation (30%). Students are expected to read the course textbook in keeping with the course schedule (see below), along with additional primary and secondary readings that will be made available each week on A2L. The online readings will be collaboratively annotated using the Hypothesis annotation tool, which allows students to mark up the texts and to engage in threaded discussions. A grading rubric for these annotations will be available on A2L. In general, comments and/or questions should demonstrate not only that the student is acquainted with NT studies but also that he or she is thoughtfully assessing Paul, the Pauline letters, and the field of Pauline studies.
2. Annotated Bibliography (30%). Students will orient themselves towards their final research paper by developing an annotated bibliography that surveys the general area of Pauline studies that is most directly relevant to the anticipated final research paper. In order to avoid substantial overlap between students, we will discuss anticipated paper topics during the initial seminar meeting on January 5th. **Students should come to the initial class session with some potential research areas in mind.**

Each annotated bibliography must contain approximately seventy-five entries. Older sources and foreign language sources should not be neglected. Zotero (www.zotero.org) is a useful resource, as there is an (unofficial) annotated bibliography format available in the MDC style. Whether or not you use Zotero, the final bibliography must be correctly formatted according to MDC style and **uploaded to A2L in Word format before March 1 @ 9:00am.**

All entries must be annotated. For many entries, a single descriptive sentence will suffice. However, for the works that you deem to be the most significant (at least fifteen of them),

you must offer a more substantial annotation that summarizes the work's main argument(s) before critically assessing its contribution to the development of Pauline scholarship. Students should produce these annotations by engaging directly with the resources in question. Summaries of existing summaries (e.g. book reviews or dust jacket blurbs) are unacceptable.

On the morning of March 1, each student will lead a **one-hour class discussion** of their research area. This should begin with a 30-minute presentation and then continue with 30 minutes of interactive Q&A. Together, the presentation and discussion should leave seminar participants with a solid understanding of the relevant history of scholarship, a critical awareness of the current state-of-play in the field, and some thoughts about future prospects.

3. Research Paper (40%). Each student will write a research paper on a topic of his or her own choosing (provided that the topic fits within the field of Pauline studies). The paper is to be **7,000–8,000 words in length**. For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective research paper, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.

On the afternoon of March 1, each student will **present a preliminary research proposal** to the class. One hour will be allotted to each proposal, with a limit of twenty minutes for the initial oral presentation and the remaining time devoted to Q&A. The proposed research should draw from the annotated bibliography as well as advance a viable (and, for doctoral students, innovative) thesis.

Final research papers must be **uploaded to A2L in Word format before 11:59pm on Friday, March 26th**. They will then be socially annotated by the class during the final weeks of the semester.

GRADING SUMMARY

Reading and Social Annotation	30%
Annotated Bibliography	30%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to own a standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th–28th ed.), UBS (3rd–5th ed.), or Westcott-Hort.

Course readings will be distributed electronically, with the exception of the following:

Horrell, David G. *An Introduction to the Study of Paul*. 3rd ed. London: T&T Clark, 2015.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the MDC chapel entrance. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON, M9A 3C3: phone 416.620.2934; mobile 416.668.3434; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Venue	Agenda		
Jan 5 11am–1pm	WebEx	Welcome and Introductions Topic Assignments Resources and Strategies for Research Introduction to Pauline Studies		
Jan 11–15	Hypothesis	Paul's Life	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Jan 18–22	Hypothesis	Paul the Letter Writer	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Jan 25–29	Hypothesis	Paul the Theologian	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Feb 2 11am	WebEx	Research Updates Topic-Reassignments (if necessary)		
Feb 8–12	Hypothesis	Paul, Israel and the Jewish Law	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Feb 15–19	Hypothesis	Perspectives on the Pauline Assemblies	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Feb 22–26	Hypothesis	Paul's Legacy and Paul Today	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
Mar 1 9am–1pm	MDC	Bibliographical Presentations		
Mar 1 1:30–5:30pm	MDC	Research Paper Proposals		
Mar 2 9am–1pm	MDC	Research & Writing Workshop		
Mar 9 11am	WebEx	Digital Office Hours		
Mar 16 11am	WebEx	Digital Office Hours		
Mar 23 11am	WebEx	Digital Office Hours		
Mar 29–Apr 6	Hypothesis	Student Research Papers		
Apr 6 11am	WebEx	Concluding Class Discussion		

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 Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

In this course, a web-based service will be used for plagiarism detection (Turnitin.com). Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com can submit an electronic copy of their work via email in PDF format and no penalty will be assigned, but all submitted work is still subject to normal verification standards in order to ensure that academic integrity has been upheld (e.g. online search).

A useful guide to avoiding plagiarism is the Harvard Guide to Using Sources:

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

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:

<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.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 its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

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.