

**Pauline Studies**  
**PhD: CHTH G105–C06**  
**MA: NT 6ZP6**

McMaster Divinity College  
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Winter 2023 (Term 2)  
Tuesday 9:00–10:50am

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide an overview of major developments 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 history and 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 7<sup>th</sup>**.

1. Readings and Seminar Discussions (30%). Students are expected to read an overview textbook in keeping with the course schedule (i.e. Horrell's *Introduction to the Study of Paul*), as well as the various primary and secondary readings made available each week on A2L. The assigned readings will be discussed each week, and students are expected to participate actively in these discussions. In general, comments and/or questions should demonstrate both that the student is acquainted with NT studies and that they are thoughtfully assessing Paul, the Pauline letters, and the field of Pauline studies.
2. Syllabus or Book Review (15%). Students can choose either to produce a course syllabus or to write a book review. The chosen assignment must be **uploaded to A2L in Microsoft Word format before Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm**.

The course syllabus must use a format that conforms to the syllabus expectations of a specific post-secondary institution (of the student's choosing), and the course topic must be either Paul and his letters (in general), Pauline theology (more specifically), or some Pauline sub-corpus (meaning a particular letter or group of letters). The syllabus must include a select bibliography for students in addition to required textbooks or other readings.

The book review must evaluate, in approximately 2,500 words, a book published within the past fifteen years. It should be suitable for publication in a research periodical. Students should employ the rubric supplied on A2L when assessing their chosen book, and their use of the rubric should be visible in the final review (in the substance of its evaluation, if not in the form of its presentation).

3. Draft Research Paper & Presentation (15%). 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 final paper is to be **7,000–8,000 words in length** (see below). For students who are uncertain about what constitutes an effective research paper, a detailed grading rubric is available on A2L.

Initial paper drafts will be **uploaded to A2L in Microsoft Word format before Thursday, March 3 @ 11:59pm**. These drafts will be distributed on the following day to all other seminar participants. On the morning of March 7, each student will lead a **50-minute class discussion** of their research project. This should begin with a 20-minute presentation that covers the chosen research topic, a survey of prior research concerning the topic, the main thesis of the student's research paper, and the student's own assessment of the paper's current strengths and weaknesses. This opening presentation will then be followed by thirty minutes of interactive Q&A. The draft paper, the student's presentation of it, and the ensuing class discussion should provide seminar participants with a clear understanding of the student's research question and his or her current approach to answering it. Ideally, students should also go away with some concrete steps for improving their draft paper.

4. Final Research Paper (40%). Each student will revise their draft paper in keeping with feedback both from the professor and from fellow seminar participants. Each student will then submit a final research paper that is suitable for publication in a research periodical. Final papers must be **uploaded to A2L in Microsoft Word format before Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm**.

### GRADING SUMMARY

Readings and Seminar Discussions	30%
Syllabus <i>or</i> Book Review	15%
Draft Research Paper & Presentation	15%
<u>Final 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 (26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> ed.), UBS (3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> ed.), or Westcott-Hort.

Course readings will be made available electronically, including the following overview book:

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](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Agenda
Jan 10	Introduction to Pauline Studies Resources and Strategies for Research	Personal Introductions Discuss Research Paper Topics
Jan 17	Paul's Life	Discuss Assigned Readings
Jan 24	Paul the Letter Writer	Discuss Assigned Readings
Jan 31	Paul the Theologian	Discuss Assigned Readings
Feb 7	Paul, Israel, and the Jewish Law	Discuss Assigned Readings
Feb 14	Perspectives on the Pauline Assemblies	Discuss Assigned Readings
Feb 21	Evaluating Paul's Legacy Today	Discuss Assigned Readings
Feb 28	No Class (Intensive Week)	
Mar 7	Discuss Draft Research Papers	
Mar 14	Discuss Student-Suggested Topics/Passages	
Mar 21	Discuss Student-Suggested Topics/Passages	
Mar 28	Discuss Teaching/Preaching Paul	
Apr 4	Discuss Final Research Papers	

## 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.