



# BIBS 322/423

## The New Testament Epistles

### Campus Course Outline 2017

#### SEMESTER 2 2017

**Lecturer:**

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**Office hours:**

Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11am

**Welcome to BIBS 322/423 The New Testament Epistles!** This course provides a detailed discussion of important themes in Paul's theology and in the interpretation of Paul's letters, with exegesis of selected texts.

You'll see that the course is in two parts. Firstly, we will deal with a range of significant issues in the interpretation of Paul's thought. Clearly only a selection of topics can be chosen, but these ones are important.

Secondly, we will cover Romans 3:21-7:25 in exegesis. I would have loved to be able to cover all

of Romans in this paper! However, then we would have needed a much longer course, and would not have been able to cover passages in much detail. So we will look at Romans 3:21-7:25. I hope however that you will read all of Romans through and gain a good idea of how the section we look at fits into the whole.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### At 300-level

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of key themes of Pauline theology;
- identify and discuss selected key issues in the interpretation of Paul's letters; and
- undertake exegesis of a selected text from Paul's Epistles, employing the appropriate critical tools and methods.

### At 400-level

In addition to those at 300-level, you should be able to:

- develop research skills in a subject so that you can analyse and critically evaluate contemporary research in that area;
- demonstrate the ability to clarify differing intellectual approaches to evidence; and

- present an exegetical assignment in which in-depth exegetical skills are demonstrated.
- respond to the exegeses of others, demonstrating the ability to critically analyse an argument.

## TEACHING

- Weekly lectures (Tues and Thurs, 12:00-12:50pm)
- A Teaching Day offered in Dunedin
- If you are unable to attend a Teaching Day, then most of the contents of one of the days will be recorded and made available as a podcast on Blackboard.

## ASSESSMENT

- **BIBS322:** Two essays worth 25% each of the final mark, and a two-hour exam
- **BIBS423:** Two essays and an assignment. There is no examination at 400-level.

## RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool;
- This Course Outline and the Course Book
- One essential textbook (see the following section)
- eReserve, a resource for extra readings, which you can access via Blackboard;
- The Department's "Study and Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Chicago citation style when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

### **THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

**Please Note:** You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided only through Blackboard and your University email address, as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy, so you must check these emails regularly. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed

information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

The textbook for the course is:

- Dunn, J.D.G. *Romans 1-8*. Word Biblical Commentary 38A. Dallas: Word Books, 1988.

It is essential reading for Modules 10-14. It can be obtained from the University Book Shop at 378 Great King Street, Dunedin, phone (03) 477 6976, fax (03) 477 6571, email [ubs@unibooks.co.nz](mailto:ubs@unibooks.co.nz)

Please note that books will not be posted to you from the UBS until payment is made. You can do this by credit card when you order, or by cheque when you receive the *pro forma* invoice from the UBS, which is sent following your order.

## TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) published in 1989 is the recommended Bible text. Note that there are editions with or without the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical books. The full edition (with the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical books) is recommended. It is sometimes helpful to compare the NRSV's translation with that of other modern English versions, but the NRSV is the text from which we shall be working.

300-level students will be allowed to bring a copy of a Bible with them into the exam but it MUST be a hard copy version; electronic copies of the Bible will not be permitted in the exam. Please see the requirements under 'Examinations' below.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### Module 1: Paul's Conversion and Call

**Teaching Day:**

Monday 17 July: Dunedin: 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm

*Teaching Day Session 1:***Module 3:** "In Christ" in Paul**Module 2:** Paul's Christology*Teaching Day Session 2:***Module 5:** Justification by faith and the implications of the "New Perspective" on Paul**Module 4:** Introduction to Romans**Module 6:** "Faith in Christ" and "The Faithlessness of Christ" in Paul**Module 7:** The Death of the Christ in Paul**Module 8:** Paul's Understanding of the Spirit**Module 9:** Paul's Understanding of the Church and ministry**Module 10:** Romans 3:21-31**Module 11:** Romans 4:1-12**Module 11:** Romans 4:13-25**Module 12:** Romans 5:1-11**Module 12:** Romans 5:12-21**Module 13:** Romans 6:1-14**Module 13:** Romans 6:15-23**Module 14:** Romans 7:1-12**Module 14:** Romans 7:13-25**Module 15:** Paul and the Gift

## COURSE BOOK

### Introductory Discussions in the Course Book

We hope that your Course Book is an invaluable resource for this course. Section A in each of the Modules in the Study Guide introduces you to significant issues in interpretation for the topic under consideration. They were written by Dr Chris Caradus, who completed a PhD in New Testament in the Department. While he worked under my supervision and sometimes drew on my lecture notes, etc., much of the hard and creative thought has come from Chris. We hope that the Study Guide material will provide a useful introduction to the issue that they address and will provide a perspective from which to read the readings that follow in the Module. They are the place to begin with each Module. After you have read them, work through the readings for that Module in the order they are given.

For the assignments we have provided a reasonable amount of reading material. However, at this level, it is to be hoped that you will also read more widely. We have provided a Bibliography for this purpose.

## TEACHING DAY/EVENING

This course involves a teaching day/evening in Dunedin. Although it is not compulsory to do so, students are strongly encouraged to attend. Students who are unable to attend, will be able to access a podcast summary of the key issues covered in the teaching day.

### Dunedin

Date: Monday 17 July 2017  
Time: 3:00 - 9:00 pm  
Venue: University of Otago, room to be confirmed

#### *Timetable for Dunedin Teaching Evening*

3:00-6:00 Session 1  
6:00-7:00 Dinner (students are responsible for providing their own dinner)  
7:00-9:00 Session 2

**IT IS CRITICAL** that students prepare for the teaching day/evening by doing the reading for the material to be covered in the Teaching Day as indicated below.

#### Teaching Day Session 1:

##### **Module 3:** "In Christ" in Paul

You're encouraged to do Reading 7 by Bassler and 8 by Hooker for this.

##### **Module 2:** Paul's Christology

IT IS ESSENTIAL to do Reading 6, by Hurtado (Readings Book numbered p111-118) for this Session. We will be discussing this Reading in detail

#### Teaching Day Session 2:

##### **Module 5:** Justification by faith and the implications of the "New Perspective" on Paul

You're encouraged to do Reading 11-14 for this.

##### **Module 4:** Introduction to Romans

IT IS ESSENTIAL to do Reading 9, by Haacker (Readings Book numbered p139-145) AND Reading 10, by Wright (Readings Book numbered p144-164) for this Session. We will be discussing this Reading in detail.

During the teaching day, Paul will introduce the material and set the scene, but there will also be discussion of the readings. It is recommended that when you do the readings you ask yourself: **What one question or comment would I like to make, arising from this reading? Come along prepared to offer this one question or comment about each reading.**

## ASSESSMENT

Please read the section on assessment in the 'Essential Information' website carefully for instructions on how to submit your essays, as well as important advice on grading, plagiarism and deadlines. We will assume that you are familiar with this information.

### **300-Level Assignments**

#### **Assignment A (25%)**

Word Limit: 2000 words  
Due Date: **EITHER** Friday 11 August 2017  
**OR** Friday 22 September 2017

Answer **one** of the following questions:

- EITHER (a) Discuss the significance of Paul's conversion and call for his Theology.
- OR (b) What did Paul mean by the phrase "in Christ"?
- OR (c) Discuss Paul's Understanding of the Spirit.

#### **Assignment B (25%)**

Word Limit: 2000 words  
Due Date: **EITHER** Friday 11 August 2017  
**OR** Friday 22 September 2017

- EITHER (a) Write an exegesis of Romans 3:21-31
- OR (b) Write an exegesis of Romans 5:12-21

### **Examination - 300-level only (50%)**

The date and venue for the examination will be sent to your eVision calendar as soon as it has been set by the Examinations Office. All arrangements for examinations are handled by the Examinations Office. It is your responsibility to check these dates and note them carefully.

**Please note:** students will be allowed to bring a Bible into the examination room. It should be a copy of the NRSV and it may or may not have the Apocrypha. It must have **no annotations or underlinings** and it must not be a study edition (which has extensive footnotes) or an eBook. Paperback editions can be purchased relatively cheaply. If you have any doubts about your edition, please check with your lecturer.

The examination supervisor will need to check your Bible before you are allowed to use it. If it does not comply with the above, the examination supervisor will hold your Bible until the examination is over, thus you will not have access to a Bible for the examination

**400-LEVEL ASSIGNMENTS**

**Three** assignments are required at 400-level; **there is no exam at this level.**

**Assignment A (35%)**

Word Limit: 2500 words  
Due Date: **EITHER** Friday 11 August 2017  
**OR** Friday 22 September 2017

**Topic:** Answer **one** of the following questions:

- EITHER (a) Critically evaluate the “New Perspective on Paul”.
- OR (b) What did Paul mean by the phrase “in Christ”? How central is this idea of participation “in Christ” for Paul’s theology?
- OR (c) Present the debate about the phrase “Pistis Christou”. What is at stake in this debate? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each position?

**Assignment B (40%)**

Word Limit: 3000 words  
Due Date: Friday 8 September 2017

**Topic:** Write an exegesis of a selected passage from Romans 3:21-7:25. See below under Assignment C for further details about the passages and contacting Paul to select your passage.

This will be selected in discussion with Paul Trebilco. PLEASE contact Paul to say which passage you would like to cover – see further details under “Exegetical Assignments and Responses at 400-level” below.

Each student is required to post their Assignment B on Blackboard. The Due Date Is 8 September 2017.

**Assignment C (C1, C2 and C3)**

Value IN TOTAL: 25% (This assignment has **three parts**)

**C1 and C2:** Responses to exegetical assignment B

Word Limit: 700 words  
Due Date: Tuesday 3 October 2017  
Value: Each response is worth 10%

You are to write TWO responses to two different exegesis assignments (Assignment B) by students. In your response you will be expected to show evidence of reading.

PLEASE contact Paul to say which passages you would like to respond to. These responses are to be posted on Blackboard, as a response to the original posting of the exegetical assignment.

**C3:** A response to your respondents:

Word Limit: Minimum of 300 words (it can be longer)

Due Date: Friday 13 October 2017

Value: 5%

A written response to the two respondents to your original exegetical assignment B - to be submitted on Blackboard. This response should note points of agreement with the respondents, and also points where you would like to express disagreement, with reasons.

## EXEGETICAL ASSIGNMENTS AND RESPONSES AT 400-LEVEL

As noted above, Assignment B at 400-level involves **each 400-level student** writing an exegesis of a selected passage from Romans 3:21-7:25. We will divide Romans 3:21-7:25 up in this way:

Romans 3:21-31  
Romans 4:1-12  
Romans 4:13-25  
Romans 5:1-11  
Romans 5:12-21  
Romans 6:1-14  
Romans 6:15-23  
Romans 7:1-12  
Romans 7:13-25

Would **400-level students** please **think now** about which passage you would like to write an exegesis of to present to the class on Blackboard. Please contact Paul as soon as possible with your choice – first in first served! **In addition**, indicate the two passages you would like to do in a response.

SO you need to contact Paul ([paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz](mailto:paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz)) to indicate:

1. Which passage you would like to do your exegetical assignment on (and which will be posted on Blackboard).
2. Which two passages you would like to respond to on Blackboard.

To post your assignment on Blackboard, go to Discussion Board, and you will find there the appropriate Forum for your passage. Click on the name of the “Forum” and then click on + Thread – and you will be able to add your assignment. PLEASE add assignments as **pdf documents** if at all possible (rather than as Word documents).

At the end of this outline there is a work timetable, which we hope will clarify the assessment for this paper.

## GIVING A RESPONSE TO AN EXEGETICAL ASSIGNMENT AT 400-LEVEL

In the response you do not need to give a summary of the exegesis. Rather, the response could note:

- points of agreement with the exegesis;
- points that you have found to be of great interest or help (with reasons);

- points where you would like further clarification or have questions you have for the writer of the exegesis, and
- points where you would like to express disagreement, with reasons.

Alternatively,

- you could chose to focus on one theme that comes out of the exegesis and expand on that, or
- you could focus on points of exegetical detail (“When it comes to v4, I think that more could be said about ...” etc).

In your response you will be expected to show evidence of reading.

A response always needs to be respectful in tone, and is not “point scoring”. Sometimes a matter you are not too sure about can be raised as a question rather than a direct criticism – “I wonder if it would be more in keeping with what Paul says in Rom 8 to think that here he means ...” and so on.

## CRITERIA FOR MARKING

The criteria against which your assignments will be marked are:

- Depth of critical analysis and understanding of the issues involved in the topic or Biblical text
- Ability to understand and explain key concepts and ideas
- Depth of coverage of the theological, literary and historical issues and debates that are part of the topic, or of the scholarly discussion about the Biblical text
- Demonstrates ability to provide convincing, well-articulated arguments supporting a point of view
- Depth and range of reading and ability to understand and interact with readings and their differing viewpoints
- Ability to identify, describe and discuss appropriate exegetical methods, issues or problems
- That the assignment is written in an understandable and coherent way
- That the assignment is well-structured and well organised
- That footnotes are given, acknowledging quotations and sources, following acceptable conventions
- That a Bibliography is included, following acceptable conventions.

Note: Some criteria apply to exegetical assignments only; others to thematic assignments only.

## REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, the Department requires that you use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide, which is the norm for many academic journals in the Humanities and is often recommended for theses in the humanities. The Department has prepared a *Study and Style Guide*, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation. You may find it via the Department’s “Essential Student Information” page.

## SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments shall be submitted **electronically** via the “Assignment” feature on Blackboard by **midnight** on the due dates notified. Please do not submit paper copies. For full instructions about how to submit assignments electronically via Blackboard as well as other important information on plagiarism, grading, and deadlines, please see the “Essential Information” web page.

All Assignments submitted in the Department of Theology and Religion must be prefaced with a student *Plagiarism Declaration Form*. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted. It can be downloaded from: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else’s misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University’s Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University’s Academic Integrity website at [www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity](http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity) or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

## STUDENT SUPPORT

The “**Essential Information**” web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library’s resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative enquiries**, please contact:  
The Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.  
Email: [theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:theology@otago.ac.nz) Phone: 03 479 8516

For all **distance learning enquiries**, please contact:

Katherine Rae, Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.

Email: [katherine.rae@otago.ac.nz](mailto:katherine.rae@otago.ac.nz)

Phone: 03 479 8639

**We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcement.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION**

University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand

[www.otago.ac.nz/theology](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology)