

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** Romans

**TERM:** Fall 2025-2026

**PROFESSOR:** Rafael Rodriguez

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: 20  
# AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The apostle Paul and his letters dominate our understanding and reconstruction of the earliest generation of the Christian movement. Paul's influence over Christian theology, especially in Reformed traditions, is rivaled only by the influence of Jesus himself. This course examines Paul's long and most influential letter, moving beyond "Pauline theology" to explore exegetical, historical, and social aspects of his letter to the Romans as well as Christianity at its origins and in twenty-first century contexts.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- to introduce the epistle to the Romans (author, audience, occasion, purpose, etc.);
- to examine and interpret the content of the epistle to the Romans;
- to evaluate the epistle to the Romans within the context of late-Second Temple Judaism;
- to locate the Roman assemblies within the broader context of Christian origins;
- to integrate the theology and ethics of the epistle to the Romans within 21st-century Christianity.

### **PREREQUISITES:**

NT120, or permission of instructor

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:**

#### **Required:**

- Ben C. Blackwell, John K. Goodrich, and Jason Maston, eds., *Reading Romans in Context: Paul and Second Temple Judaism* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015). **ISBN:** 978-0-3105-1795-5; \$19.99
- Lisa M. Bowens, Scot McKnight, and Joseph B. Modica, eds., *Preaching Romans from Here: Diverse Voices Engage Paul's Most Famous Letter* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2023). **ISBN:** 978-1-7252-5817-4; \$29.00
- an appropriate commentary; options will be discussed at the start of class

#### **Recommended:**

- Scot McKnight, Lynn H. Cohick, and Nijay K. Gupta, eds., *The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023). **ISBN:** 978-0830817856; \$74.99
- Rafael Rodriguez, *If You Call Yourself a Jew: Reappraising Paul's Letter to the Romans* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014). **ISBN:** 978-1625646804; \$41.00
- Additional materials TBD

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

Final research essay/project and presentation

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.