

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: Paul in His Contexts

TERM: Fall 2023-2024

PROFESSOR: Jennifer Kaalund

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 15
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Paul is arguably the most influential figure in the first century religious movement that would become Christianity. The aim of this course is to situate Pauline literature in its first century context in order to see how these letters have influenced the development of Christianity. This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore a variety of interpretative approaches, including historical-critical, feminist, liberation hermeneutics, and postcolonial studies. Students will explore the significance of these letters to the Church and world today.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- to better understand the contents, structures, and literary genres of Pauline literature
- to situate the texts in the historical context of Second Temple Judaism and the Greco-Roman world, specifically its historical, religious, and philosophical settings
- to consider how socio-cultural contexts shapes interpretive traditions and practices
- to reflect on the connection between Christian ministry and biblical insight, both then and now
- to identify and discuss major methodological approaches to Pauline interpretation and relate these approaches to contemporary society
- to analyze the political, ethical, and theological implications for the various approaches to Pauline literature

PREREQUISITES:

NT 110, NT 120

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:

- John G. Gager, *Reinventing Paul* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000) ISBN 978-0195150858, \$19.99
- Joseph Marchal, ed. *Studying Paul's Letters: Contemporary Perspectives and Methods* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012) ISBN 978-0800698188, \$28.79
- Paula Fredriksen, *Paul: The Pagans' Apostle* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017) ISBN 978-0300240153, \$24

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Course participation and written reflection on readings;
Presentation;
Annotated Bibliography;
Research Paper

ATTENDANCE: Required.