

**Erskine Theological Seminary**  
*Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning*

NT 602A  
New Testament II  
Spring Term, 2008  
Saturdays, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.  
Augusta Extension Campus  
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- I. **Course Description:** This one-semester course explores the background, literary art, theological teaching and contemporary message of Romans through Revelation. Attention is given to the canonical significance of these writings and to their value for ministry. *Required.* Three hours.
  
- II. **Course Objectives:** The mission statement of Erskine Seminary indicates that its purpose is to educate its students “for service in the Christian Church”, in particular, the study of the Bible “in its own literary, historical and theological settings”, so that the student may “interpret it with relevance and meaning applicable for today.” This course examines the literary and historical aspects of the New Testament epistles and Revelation, as well as considering their particular characteristics and messages. Critical exegetical issues related to each New Testament genre will be explored. Emphasis will be laid upon acquiring a deeper understanding of the authors’ intentions, and communicating this message to the contemporary Church.
  
- III. **Required Textbooks:** The NIV Bible text (Barker, Kenneth, general editor, *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), notable for its affordable price, popular translation and excellent notes and maps, will be used in this course, and is suggested reading of each student. The selection of a Bible translation, however, will be left to the individual student.

**The Required Textbooks below may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at [www.ecampus.com/erskine](http://www.ecampus.com/erskine) from January 4, 2008.**

Brown, Raymond E., *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Roetzel, Calvin J., *The World that Shaped the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Waters, G.P., *Justification and the New Perspective on Paul*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2004.

In addition, there will be small reading assignments and/or handouts throughout the course to help the student organize and understand the relatively large amount of material to be learned.

- IV. Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. If a student must be absent due to an emergency or illness for all or part of a session, the student is responsible for all work done and due for that session. *No more than one session may be missed*. Due to the nature of the course, missing classroom discussion will almost certainly adversely affect the student's performance on the scheduled exams.

Students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class session, particularly the biblical reading assignments due. Classroom discussion will constitute an important element of our learning together, and will be adversely affected by poor preparation.

Three objective one-hour exams will be administered, and will be related to the biblical, background or critical material covered in the previous session. The tests must be taken on the assigned dates. See course outline for test dates.

Additionally, there will a required book review of *Justification and the New Perspective on Paul*. This review will be an analysis of the author's arguments. A guide sheet will be provided for this analysis.

- V. Evaluation:** The Seminary grade scale (*Catalogue*, p. 36) will be used in determining a letter grade. The student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

Three one-hour tests (3 x 25%) = 75%  
Book review 25%

Note: Completed and graded tests and papers will be returned to the student in a subsequent class period. Papers and tests tendered at the end of the semester (where impossible to return in class) will be held by the professor for pick-up by the student. Alternately, if the student wishes, the paper/test may be placed in the student's campus mailbox, or mailed to the student. In such cases, the student should indicate the mailbox number on the paper/test, or, when mailed, supply a SASE.

- VI. Class Meeting Dates:** This course will meet for four eight-hour sessions on the following Saturdays: February 9, March 1, March 29 and April 26. See course outline below for details.
- VII. Seminary Policies:** The student is encouraged to read the Erskine Seminary 2007-2008 Catalog for important information regarding drop/add procedures and deadlines (p.48) class withdrawal (p. 33), as well as the correct manner of dealing with the grade status of “incomplete” (p.36). Please consult the Student Handbook for policies re. writing style and ethics, e.g., inclusive language and plagiarism, as well as the Seminary Catalogue, p. 36f. A brief summary of these policies is as follows:

A grade of “**incomplete**” is not a privilege if the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when (1) the student has completed most of the assigned coursework and (2) when the student has been providentially hindered from completing the rest. The student and professor must complete the appropriate form before an “incomplete” can be given. The final date that an “incomplete” can be changed to a grade for the Spring semester is August 1, 2008. After this date, the grade of “incomplete” will automatically become an “F”, and cannot be altered.

If the student needs to **withdraw from a course**, a withdrawal form may be procured from the Registrar’s office. A professor cannot withdraw a student from a class. A student who fails to go through the proper withdrawal procedure will be charged full tuition for the course, regardless of attendance.

The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is **inclusive** rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalogue stands as an example of recommended usage.

The student must be especially careful regarding citation of sources in all Seminary course work. Failing to cite a reference, or claiming other’s material as one’s own constitutes a type of fraud known as **plagiarism**. A charge of plagiarism is serious, and can result in the student’s expulsion from the Seminary.

## Course Outline

### Session 1: Saturday, February 9 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

#### Introduction: Paul and the Pauline Corpus

- A. The Person of Paul
- B. Travels and the Mediterranean Basin
- C. The Letter Genre

- D. The Question of Pseudonymity and Deutero-Paul**
- E. Paul and the Letter to the Romans: Pastor and Theologian**
- F. Corinth and the Corinthian Correspondence**

**Reading assignments for this session:**

**Read Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 409-455; pp. 511-589;**

**Read Romans and both I and II Corinthians.**

**Session 2: Saturday, March 1 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)**

**Introduction: The NT Church: Household, Social Strata and Institutions**

- A. Galatians: Paul, the Law and the New Perspective**
- B. Thessalonians: Life and Eschatological Expectation**
- C. Philippians: Paul and Church Partnership**
- D. Colossian-Ephesians: A Redactional Study**
- E. Philemon: Paul, Philemon and Persuasion**

**Reading assignments for this session:**

**Read Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 456-510; 590-637;**

**Read Calvin J. Roetzel, *The World that Shaped the New Testament*, pp. 79-116;**

**Read Galatians, I and II Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon.**

**Note: *Test #1 will be administered during this class session.***

**Session 3: Saturday, March 29 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)**

**Introduction: The Pastoral Letters and the General Epistles**

- A. The Question of Pseudepigraphy**
- B. The NT Apocrypha and the Question of Canon**
- C. Paul and the General Epistles: Canonical Balance?**
- D. I and II Timothy and Titus**

**Reading assignments for this session:**

**Read Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 171-275;**

**Read Calvin J. Roetzel, *The World that Shaped the New Testament*, 37-152;**

**Read I and II Timothy, Titus, Hebrews and James.**

**Note: *Test #2 will be administered during this class session.***

**Session 4: Saturday, April 26 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)**

**Introduction: The General Epistles and the Apocalypse**

- A. The Letters of Peter**
- B. The Letters of John**
- C. Jude: Message, Form and Apocryphal Influences**
- D. The Apocalyptic Genre: History, Features and Contemporary Examples**
- E. The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

**Reading assignments for this session:**

**Read Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 383-405; 705-724; 748-813;**

**Read I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude and Revelation.**

**Note:** *Test #3 will be administered during this class session.*

**Note:** The book review of *Justification and the New Perspective on Paul* will be due at this time.