

Course Prospectus

For THL 412 Epistles of Paul I

Contents

OVERVIEW	2
Course description.....	2
Prerequisites and corequisites.....	2
Course credit.....	2
INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES.....	2
YOUR INSTRUCTOR	3
COURSE PROTOCOLS	3
Technology access	3
Students with disabilities	3
Attendance in this online course	3
Withdrawing from or dropping this course	4
Terms and phrases	4
Study tips	5
TEXTBOOKS	5
COURSE REQUIREMENTS.....	5
Due dates and extensions	5
Icebreaker assignment	5
Reading assignments.....	6
Discussion forums.....	6
Writing assignments.....	6
Lectures.....	6
Quizzes and examinations.....	6
Course evaluation.....	6
GRADING	6
ACADEMIC IRREGULARITY	7
COURSE OUTLINE	8

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

Overview

Welcome to the "Epistles of Paul." Those who elect to walk the seldom traveled path of the Christianity of Jesus of Nazareth and the apostles Peter, Paul, John, and James, seek to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The Apostle Paul said to follow him as he followed Christ and to emulate his example of obedience to God. To do so requires an understanding of apostolic teachings and the will to live by the apostles' doctrine. Our collective task is the examination of the history, traditions, and myths surrounding the early church to arrive at a fuller understanding of the period and "for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3). This course focuses on the teachings, message, background, purposes, and themes of Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians and Galatians with special emphasis on the understanding of core doctrines. Students encounter leading issues and engage in assigned readings, conceptualization activities, and vocabulary building.



Paul spent 18 months in Corinth before the Jews of the city charged him with breaking the law and brought him before Gallio at the city's place of judgment (The Bema). The mention of Gallio provides an anchor for New Testament chronology as we know from Roman sources that Gallio was proconsul of Achaia from June 51 to May 52. Standing on this platform, the proconsul dismissed the charges against Paul as a dispute of Jewish law and not of a criminal nature.

Course description

This is the first of two courses focused on the Apostle Paul's life and writings. Its emphasis is on the first four of his letters to the seven churches (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Galatians) and including a study of the background, message, purposes and themes of each. Stress is upon the use of critical, historical, archaeological, and cultural analysis. Upon completion, students should be able to use analysis tools to read, understand, and explain these biblical writings.

Prerequisites and corequisites

Prerequisites: THL 136 or consent of instructor.

Corequisites: None.

Course credit

Three (3) semester credit hours.

Instructional Objectives

On completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the author, background, theme and content of each book;
2. Discuss important concepts contained in each book that relate to understanding the history and development of the New Testament Church and its doctrines;
3. Identify and discuss key points of books that are subject to textual criticism;
4. State and demonstrate the Apostle Paul's teaching on various doctrines and themes throughout all of his epistles and in particular his views on Christian living; and
5. State the definition of basic terms.

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

Your Instructor

This course includes lectures by faculty and guests. Links to lectures are in the lessons. To contact any of the lecturers in this course on lesson details and issues please use the email feature in the e-learning system (Populi). If you have a personal message for any of them, please use their personal email addresses:

Mr. Peter G. Nathan pnathan@livinguniv.com

Mr. Kenneth Frank kfrank@livinguniv.com

Dr. Douglas S. Winnail dwnnail@lcg.org

Dr. Michael P. Germano mgermano@livinguniv.com

Mr. Gerald Weston gweston@lcg.org

The instructor of record for this course is Peter G. Nathan. To contact him on course details and issues please use the email feature in the e-learning system (Populi) or pnathan@livinguniv.com. His telephone is 704-708-2295.



Mr. Peter Nathan served as a professor in Theology for seven years at Ambassador College/University. As a faculty member in 1990, he led a group of students to participate in the Tel Mozan Expedition, Syria, which was directed by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati. His studies at Southern Methodist University focused largely on Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. Most recently he has completed a Master's program at University of Cambridge focusing on Jewish Christian relations, with an emphasis on early Church history and the "Parting of the Ways."

Subsequent to the time at Ambassador University, he focused on education of young adults within church communities, providing seminars in Biblical Studies to help lay a foundation for future roles in the ministry. In addition, he has written and published numerous articles on the identity of the early church, which carefully examined and challenged many of the commonly held assumptions relating to that era of time. The place and use of the Dead Sea Scrolls in understanding the early church environment has been a special interest.

Course Protocols

Technology access

This course requires web access. You also have to have an established email account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. If you do not already have it, you may download the free Adobe Acrobat reader at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, which you may then install and use to access PDF documents on this site.

Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please inform your instructor using the email feature in the Populi system (on the course "Info" tab click on your instructor's name, and then on "Send Email").

Attendance in this online course

One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary for students to derive maximum benefit from

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

a course and to maintain a satisfactory academic record, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go."

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before "Last day to withdraw from a course" as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of "W" for it. After that date, the grade will be a "WF" and counted in a student's GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student's class attendance or punctuality endangers the student's success or places other students at risk.

Withdrawing from or dropping this course

It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course.

Withdrawal requests may be conveyed in any manner to the course professor, Registrar, or Dean of Faculty. This action is sufficient for ensuring any refund owed you. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the "Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty" as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a "W" is recorded.
- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of "W" if passing (not computed in GPA) or "WF" if failing (computed in GPA).
- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of "WF."
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of "W" on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of "W" or "WF" for the course depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw will be assigned a grade of "W" for the course.

Terms and phrases

Each lesson includes a set of terms and phrases for you to learn. This exercise is to help you develop and expand your biblical and theological vocabulary as you proceed through the lessons and to help you focus on the context of the content you are reading. Examinations will specifically test your mastery of the basic terminology of this course. Many students find looking over vocabulary words just as they go to bed at night and as they arise in the morning helps commit them to memory. Be sure to review your definitions before an examination.

For some terms and phrases, we have given a scriptural link. We selected the NKJ, the New King James Version, as our default for scriptural text. When alternate scriptures appear we provide the appropriate link as NASB, KJV, RSV, NIV, and the like.

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

Study tips

Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. Your instructor functions as a facilitator with you as the driving force in mastering course content. Do not put off completing your readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

- Look over assigned readings.
- Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
- Define terms in the assignment. The exams will specifically test basic terminology. Develop your biblical and theology vocabulary as you proceed assignment by assignment.
- As you view lectures complete your notes.
- Complete your answers for the writing assignment.
- Each week review your notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words you defined.
- If you have a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention you not only acquire assistance but you also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. Use the Inbox on your course home page to send questions.

Textbooks

Required Textbooks

Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. ISBN 9780801039645.

The Bible - preferably a New King James version (also consult other translations)

Optional Textbooks

Wenham, G.J., J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson, and R. T. France. *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1994. ISBN 9780830814428.

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. ISBN 9780801036088.

Trobisch, David. *Paul's Letter Collection: Tracing the Origins*. Bolivar, MO: Quiet Waters Publications, 2001. ISBN 9780966396676.

Trobisch, David. *The First Edition of the New Testament*. USA: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN 9780199897971.

White, Jefferson. *Evidence and Paul's Journeys: An Historical Investigation into the Travels of the Apostle Paul*. Hillard, OH: Parsagard Press, 2001. ISBN 9780970569509.

Course Requirements

Due dates and extensions

Submit assignments on or before the due date. No late or make-up assignments will be allowed except for extreme circumstances (permission of instructor is necessary). Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

Icebreaker assignment

To officially begin this course you must complete an icebreaker assignment by which you introduce yourself to your classmates through posting a short autobiography on the course Discussion Forum. A student will earn points by posting the Icebreaker assignment on time. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing this course.

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

- The icebreaker assignment must be submitted not later than the eighth day of the semester.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" topic on the lesson "Welcome and Overview" Discussion Forum.
- Please read and comment on at least two other bios by the due date in order to get credit.
- Full credit for this assignment will only be given if all three of the above requirements are met.

Do NOT create a NEW discussion. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals. This is not the place for a profession of faith, or the details your conversion experience, or problems you have had with previous fellowships, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help us know, understand and appreciate each other.

Reading assignments

Final reading assignments are located on the individual lesson pages at the course website.

Discussion forums

Each student will have the opportunity to post online comments to a Forum question for each lesson. This will enable students to interact with each other and with the instructor.

Writing assignments

All writing assignments in this course should follow the MLA style as set forth in *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* (14th edition) by Lester & Lester. Please cite your sources and use quotation marks where needed. The Files feature on an assignment page lets you submit your work so your instructor can have it handy for download, review, and grading.

Lectures

The lectures in this course are expositions of the Pauline epistles providing students with a verse-by-verse analysis and explication of the text. The focus is upon the literal content and meaning of the written texts in their first-century context. Students should use the opportunity to make notes in their Bibles.

Quizzes and examinations

Each of the five lessons has an associated online quiz of not more than 20 questions. They are closed book quizzes. Under no circumstances are students to print the quiz. Students have 60 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are multiple-choice questions covering lectures, readings, vocabulary words, and geographical terms and places.

There are two closed book exams of 50 objective questions each. Exam 2 will be a proctored examination which will be taken online. For more information on the proctored exam, see Proctored Exams below.

Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the course. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. By completing the assessment, you will earn points toward your final grade. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student's experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined based on the number of points you have earned over the semester as follows:

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

Icebreaker Assignment (25 points)
Discussion Forums (five, 20 points each for a total of 100 points)
Quizzes (five, 40 points each for a total of 200 points)
Writing Assignments (five, 50 points each for a total of 250 points)
Letter Sentence Outlines (four, 50 points each for a total of 200 points)
Exams (two, 100 points each for a total of 200 points; online, closed book and closed notes;
Exam 2 must be proctored)
Course Evaluation (25 points)
Total 1,000 points

Grades are assigned in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning we believe that mastery of the subject matter is achieved when a student can demonstrate that they have achieved 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want you to earn at least 800 points in this course. If you do not do so then you have not developed the mastery we would like you to have. We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades. Also, don't go on a guilt trip if you get a C. That is an honorable grade, but if you receive a D or below, then you might want to retake the course. Mastery of the material is what your goal should be.

Grades are assigned by points as follows:

A 900-1000 points
B 800-899 points
C 700-799 points
D 600-699 points
F Below 600 points

Academic Irregularity

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were your own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned. In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers or examinations, in whole or in part, and to record each of them as a failure. If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

Course Prospectus THL 412- Epistles of Paul I

Course Outline

All reading and viewing assignments are set forth in the lessons on the course website.

Lesson 1 Introduction

- Topic 1 - Life and Teachings of the Apostle Paul
- Topic 2 - Pauline Writings and the New Testament
- Topic 3 - Perils of Traveling in the Roman World
- Topic 4 - Paul's Travels

Lesson 2 Romans

- Topic 1 - Background
- Topic 2 - Repentance and Dead Works (Romans 1-2)
- Topic 3 - Basic Christian Doctrine (Romans 3-10)
- Topic 4 - Faith at Work (Romans 11-16)

Exam 1 (Lessons 1-2)

Lesson 3 1 Corinthians

- Topic 1 - Background
- Topic 2 - Report of Chloe's People (1 Corinthians 1:1-4:21)
- Topic 3 - Concerning Immoral Behavior (1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11)
- Topic 4 - Response to a Letter from the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:12-16:24)

Lesson 4 2 Corinthians

- Topic 1 - The Letter of Grief (2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11)
- Topic 2 - Must We Commend Ourselves Again? (2 Corinthians 2:12-7:3)
- Topic 3 - The Collection (2 Corinthians 7:4-9:15)
- Topic 4 - The "Super-Apostles" (2 Corinthians 10:1-13:14)

Lesson 5 Galatians

- Topic 1 - Background
- Topic 2 - Introduction (Galatians 1:1-10) and Paul's Apostleship (Galatians 1:11-2:21)
- Topic 3 - Paul's Gospel Message (Galatians 3:1-4:31)
- Topic 4 - Paul's Commands on Circumcision, Love and Burdens (Galatians 5:1-6:10) and Epilogue (Galatians 6:11-18)

Exam 2 (Lessons 3-5)

Course Evaluation