**The Pauline EPISTLES**

**Fall 2013, CHR 325**

**MWF 9:00-9:50**

**Jen 212**

# Dr. Ray Van Neste

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I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

The course has been designed to increase your understanding and application of the Pauline epistles. The course will focus more on the actual letters we actually have from Paul rather than on hypothetical reconstructions of Paul’s life or motivations.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. The student will grow in knowledge of the historical, conceptual, and methodological backdrops of the Pauline Epistles, including matters of authorship, genre, recipients, purpose, rhetorical style, and the background of the author's thought.

1. The student will learn more about the critical nature of the task of responsible biblical interpretation which includes grammatical, historical, contextual, theological, and practical aspects. Specifically that you learn to trace the flow of argument in paragraphs of Paul’s letters.
2. The student will be able to determine the provenance of the letters, i.e., delineate factors which were directly responsible for the occasion of each letter.
3. The student will grow in your ability to present legitimate practical applications based on the biblical text for the contemporary Christian.
4. That the Apostle Paul's writings become more deeply embedded in your life.

III. TEXTBOOKS

In addition to an English translation of the Bible you are required to use the following books:

Hawthorne, G., R. Martin, and D. Reid, ed. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. IVP, 1993.

Longenecker, Richard N. *The Ministry and Message of Paul*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971 (now out of print but available through Spring Arbor Distributors and available used from many online sources).

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles, 2d edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

St. John, Patricia. *Twice Freed*. Christian Focus Publications.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is mandatory for you to get as much as possible out of this course. Missing excessive class time will be penalized as follows:

Misses Deduction from Final Grade

*3‑4 hours 5 points*

*5‑6 hours 10 points*

*7‑8 hours 20 points*

*You cannot pass this class with more than 8 absences.*

Bring written excuses for absences due to sickness, emergencies, etc. It is your responsibility to notify Dr. Van Neste in advance or immediately upon your return of the reason for your absence. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of all non‑college approved absences. No absence will be excused without a written note given to the professor by the first date back to class.

**If you are late to class your tardiness is recorded and three times late to class will be counted as an absence from class.**

You are expected to take quizzes at the times listed in the Course Schedule. STUDENTS WITHOUT A VALID EXCUSE WILL BE AWARDED A GRADE OF 0 ON THE QUIZ MISSED. Students with a valid excuse will be permitted to arrange an alternate time to take the quiz.

B. Reading

The purpose of the reading report is to ensure that students have completed the required reading for the course. **You must read the required material before the date mentioned in the course schedule below.** The reading report is to be handed in no later than the final exam. **Those who do not hand in a reading report will receive an “F” for the class**. The form to be used for the reading report will be handed out the first day of class. See that form for how the reading affects your grade.

Pop quizzes may be given to encourage the reading.

C. Content Quizzes

On stated days a brief quiz will be given covering the factual content of the next letter to be studied. Questions will focus on people, places, key events, etc. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage a thorough knowledge of the basic data of the text (without which all other discussion is futile).

D. Sentence Flows

Typed sentence flows will be required for the passages assigned. All sentence flows must be done from the NASB, ESV or Greek. These are to follow the method described in chapter six of the Schreiner text. Further explanation will be given in class.

These will be due at the beginning of class. **Late assignments will not be accepted since they will be discussed in class.**

E. Book Review of *Twice Freed*- This novel has been assigned as a different way to help the student assimilate the different pieces of Paul’s work and travels into a coherent whole. The review should be 3-5 pages long. Interact with the content discussing strengths and weaknesses, benefits, etc.

**Late penalty for this review is the same as for the research paper.**

F. Research Paper

You are required to write a 12‑15 page research paper on a passage from the Pauline Epistles.

*The paper must be 12-15 double-spaced pages in length and typed according to Turabian style and must include 25 sources, 5 of which must be journal articles.* Additional information will be provided the first week of class. The paper should be laid out in the following design:

* Introduction
* Opening Statement
* Important Questions Raised by the Passage
* Your objective for This Paper
* Historical Background Pertinent to This Passage
* The Impact of the Broader Literary Context
* \*\*Verse by Verse analysis (this section will represent the bulk of the paper)
* Your Paraphrase of the Passage
* The Importance of the Passage for Christian Living (Application)

**The paper topic must be chosen by the end of the second week on SEPTEMBER 4. This paper should be approximately one quarter to one half page long, should be typed and double-spaced. All I require you to do is provide 1) your name; 2) the topic or passage; and 3) a brief explanation why the passage interests you.**

**Working OUTLINES and SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY must be submitted on OCTOBER 2.**

**This paper is due NOVEMBER 22!! To be deemed "on time" each assignment related to the paper must be submitted before the end of class on the day due. Each assignment submitted late will negatively affect the final grade in the following manner:**

*After class on the day due: ‑3 points*

### One day late: ‑10 points

### Two days late: ‑15 points

## Three days late: ‑20 points

*Four or more days late: score of "*0*"*

If the paper is due on a Friday, papers turned in over the weekend will be considered one day late. Papers turned in on the following Monday will be considered two days late.

G. Exams

Due to the regular content quizzes and paper, there will only be one exam, the final, which will be comprehensive.

H. Final Grade

Your final grade for the term will be determined as follows:

*Sentence Flows* 15%

*Content Quizzes* 15%

*Reading* 5%

*Book Review* 10%

*Research Paper* 30%

*Final Exam* 25%

If the paper is due on a Friday, papers turned in over the weekend will be considered one day late. Papers turned in on the following Monday will be considered two days late.

I. Grading Scale ‑ letter grades will be given in accordance with Union's grading policy:

**A = 95‑100 B = 85‑94 C = 75‑84**

**D = 65‑74 F = below 65**

V. APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PROFESSOR

I am available to meet with you for any reason and want to help you in any way I can! If you need to meet with me, please make an appointment and pay attention to my weekly schedule posted on my door. My office is Jen. 326 and my office number is 661-5532. You can also reach me through e-mail at rvanneste@uu.edu. If you have an emergency or an immediate prayer need feel free to come by my office or call me at 664-9803.

My prayer is that we will grow in our knowledge of God's Word this term with the end that we will grow in the *practice* of His Word. I am looking forward to the adventure with you. Let's work hard and have a great time!

EXCURSUS: RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING AN EXEGETICAL RESEARCH PAPER

**\* Stay organized**

**\* use notes**

**\* develop an outline**

**\* go back and key your notes according to your outline**

**\* sort**

**1. Investigate the historical background**

#### Intro. of Commentaries

##### Theological Dictionaries under the title of your book

**2. Read the broad context several times and fit your passage into that broad**

**context**

‑ How does it function in the big picture of things in this part of the book?

**(intro., one point, conclusion, example, etc.)**

**3. Ask "what are the key questions of interpretation here?"**

**a. Non‑Greek Students ‑ Find at least five different translations and highlight their differences**

**What are the key phrases and words that are translated differently?**

**Does the meaning change with the different translation (this will show you some of the different possible interpretations)**

**b. Greek Students ‑ Look in the indexes of the grammars and ask grammatical questions**

**4. Study the meaning of important words**

###### Use a theological dictionary

Use a concordance to find how the word is used elsewhere in this book and then how it

**is used elsewhere in the NT**

**5. Develop your own outline of the passage**

**6. Go to the commentaries and record insights word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase**

**7. Write your own paraphrase of the passage including interpretive phrases**

**8. Write the Paper**

Pauline Epistles; Fall 2013

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Assignment Sheet:

Assignments and readings are due on the day they are listed.

**Week 1**

August

21 Intro to the class

23 Paul the man

Longenecker 13-40, 87-112

**Week 2**

26 Paul the Letter Writer/ Method

Schreiner 13-50, 97-126, 135-46

28 Method (Cont.)

C. S. Lewis, “Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism” (provided)

*DPL* “Hermeneutics, Interpreting Paul”

30 1 Corinthians (**Content Quiz)**

*DPL*, “Corinthians, Letters to the”

Longenecker, 41-59

Flow: 1:26-31

**Week 3**

September

2  **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

4 1 Corinthians (cont. ch3-4)

*DPL*, “Law”, “Cross, Theology of the”, “Church”

Flow: 3:4-9

**PAPER TOPIC DUE**

6 1 Corinthians (cont. ch5)

*DPL*, “Discipline”, “Flesh”

Flow: 5:1-5

**Week 4**

91 Corinthians (cont.ch 6)

*DPL*, “Lawsuit”

Flow: 6:1-8

11 1 Corinthians (cont.ch 7-9)

*DPL*, “Freedom/Liberty”, “Food Offered to Idols”,

Flow: 8:1-6

13 1 Corinthians (cont. ch 10-11)

*DPL*, “Lord’s Supper”, “Body of Christ”

Flow: 10:14-21

**Week 5**

16 1 Corinthians (cont.ch12-14)

*DPL*, “Gifts of the Spirit”, “Tongues”

Flow: 12:12-17

18 1 Corinthians (cont. ch12-14)

*DPL*, “Prophecy, Prophesying”

Flow: 14:26-33

20 1 Corinthians (cont. ch15)

*DPL,* “Resurrection”, “Body”

Flow: 15:12-19

**Week 6**

23 2 Corinthians, ch1-3 (**Content Quiz)**

*DPL,* “Afflictions”

Flow: 2:14-17

25 2 Corinthians (con.t ch4)

*DPL*, “Old Testament in Paul”

4:1-6

27 2 Corinthians (con.t ch5-7)

*DPL*, “Intermediate State”

Flow: 5:6-10

**Week 7**

30 2 Corinthians (con.t ch8-9)

*DPL*, “Collection for the Saints”

October

2 2 Corinthians (con.t ch10-13)

*DPL*, “Suffering,” “Weakness”

**OUTLINE & BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

4 Romans, ch1-2 (**Content Quiz)**

*DPL*, “Romans, Letter to the”, “Diatribe”

Flow: 2:6-11

**Week 8**

7 Romans (cont., ch3)

Galatians (Biblical text)

DPL, “Expiation, Propitiation, Mercy Seat”, “Law”

Flow: 3:21-26

9 Romans (cont. ch4-5)

*DPL*, “Abraham”, “Adam & Christ”, “Justification”

Flow: 5:12-15

11  **Fall Holiday**

**Week 9**

14 **Fall Holiday**

16 Romans (cont. ch6)

Flow: 6:1-7

DPL, “Redemption,” “Salvation”, “Faith”

18 Romans (cont. ch7-8)

Flow: 8:1-4

DPL, “Adoption”, “Works of the Law”

**Week 10**

21 Romans (cont. ch9-11)

“Election, Predestination”; Chapter on Compatibilism from Don Carson

Flow: 9:6-13

23 Romans (cont. ch9-11)

DPL, “Israel”

25 Romans (cont. ch12)

Flow: 12:3-8

**Week 11**

28 Romans (cont. ch13)

DPL, “Civil Authorities”

Flow: 13:8-10

30 Romans (cont. ch14-15)

Flow: 15:30-33

November

1 Ephesians (**Content Quiz)**

*DPL,* “Ephesians, Letter to the”

Longenecker, 77-86

Flow: 1:3-14

**Week 12**

4 Ephesians (cont.)

Colossians, Philemon (Biblical text)

DPL, “Christology”

Flow: 2:1-10

6 Ephesians (cont.)

Flow: 3:14-19

DPL, “Prayer,” “Magic,” “Households & Household Codes”

8 1 Timothy (**Content Quiz for all PE)**

*DPL*, “Pastoral Letters”, Esolen article (provided)

**Week 13**

11 1 Timothy 2

Flow: 2:11-15

13 1 Timothy 3-4

TBA

15 1 Timothy 5-6

TBA

**Week 14**

18Titus

Van Neste, “The Message of Titus” (supplied)

Flow: Titus 2:11-15

20 Philippians (**Content Quiz)**

*DPL,* “Philippians, Letter to the”

Flow: 1:21-26

22 Philippians (cont.)

DPL, “Gospel”; “Circumcision”

Flow: 2:5-11

**PAPER DUE**

**Week 15**

**25-29** **Thanksgiving Holidays**

**Week 16**

December

2 2 Timothy

Flow: 2:8-13

4 2 Timothy

**Week 16**

**FINAL EXAMS**