

Course Description

Course Number: BI 375

Course Title: Romans

Name of Instructor: Troy Troftgruben

Semester and Year: Spring 2021

Fulfills the M.Div. New Testament final-year course requirement. Unlimited enrollment. 3 credit hours. Letter grade or credit/no credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course engages one of the most significant writings of Christian Scripture, of ethical exhortation, and of Christian theology: Paul's letter to the Romans. The course includes careful reading, theological reflection, and consideration of ethical and ministry practices today. The course also involves reflection on teaching and leading others into a transformative encounter with Scripture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To read carefully Paul's letters to the Romans, reflecting theologically on its message for faith and church ministry today. (*practice of biblical and theological wisdom*)
- To interpret scripture communally, listening to the voices of published interpreters, church people, and our classroom colleagues. (*practice of collegiality*)
- To claim our own interpretive voices, practicing faithful interpretation that bears the good news (Gospel) to others in today's world. (*evangelical listening and speaking the faith to others*)
- To gain skills, best practices, and experience leading others into an encounter with God through scripture, using digital resources now available to us. (*practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament*)

PROCEDURE: The course will be part presentation and part seminar (dialogue). Based on our reading of Romans together, the course will host reflection on church community, Christian theology, and ministry practices in Paul's day and in ours. Further, the class will feature opportunities for leading Bible study among peers.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be based on completion of some translation assignments (for Greek and English-only learners), two book reviews, an exegetical paper, leading a Bible study, and participation throughout the semester.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required

Beverly Roberts Gaventa. *When in Romans: An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Papandrea, James L. *A Week in the Life of Rome*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2019.

Recommended

Commentaries on Romans:

- Andria, Solomon. *Romans*. Hippo/Africa Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Byrne, Brendan. *Romans*. Sacra Pagina 6. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1997.
- Grieb, Katherine A. *The Story of Romans: A Narrative Defense of God's Righteousness*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Keck, Leander E. *Romans*. Abingdon NT Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.