

Course Description

Course Number: BI 375

Course Title: Romans

Name of Instructor: Troy Troftgruben

Semester and Year: Spring 2023

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.

Beers, Holly. *A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2019. Offers a realistic portrayal of daily life for first-century women in relation to Paul's ministry and the Jesus movement.

Possible alternative text (instead of Holly Beers): Papandrea, James. L. *A Week in the Life of Rome*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2019. Offers a portrayal of the first-century Christian community at Rome, but with a bias against early female leadership and traditional assumptions about Peter's primacy in starting the church at Rome.

Recommended Interpretive Resources:

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- Andria, Solomon. *Romans*. Hippo/Africa Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Barth, Karl. *A Shorter Commentary on Romans*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2012.
- Byrne, Brendan. *Romans*. Sacra Pagina 6. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1996.
- Dunn, James D. G. *Romans*. Word Biblical Commentary, 38A & 38B. Waco: Word Publishing, 1988.
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. *Romans*. NT Library Series. Louisville: Westminster John Knox (forthcoming).
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. "Romans." Pages 547-56 in *The Women's Bible Commentary*. 3d ed. Ed. Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2012.
- Gorman, Michael. *Romans: A Theological and Pastoral Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022.
- Harrisville, Roy A. *Romans*. Minneapolis: Augsburg NT Commentary series.
- Hoyt, Thomas L., Jr. "Romans." Pages 249-75 in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Ed. Brian K. Blount. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.
- Hultgren, Arland J. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Jewett, Robert. *Romans: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Keck, Leander E. *Romans*. Abingdon NT Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
- Kittredge, Cynthia Briggs. "Romans." Pages 395-426 in *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Ed. Margaret Aymer, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sanchez. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.
- Wright, N. T. "Romans." In Leander E. Keck (ed.), *The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 10*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.