Course Syllabus: Paul and His Letters-CU 2204N

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Course Description:
This course will explore the material written by and attributed to St. Paul the Apostle. As the material covered in this course is perhaps the most difficult material to grasp theologically in the New Testament, special attention must be given to the texts. St. Paul is not an easy read.

To begin to understand the writings of St. Paul you must:

A. Familiarize yourself with the time period of his writing
C. Understand St. Paul’s use of the Old Testament, especially the characters of Adam and Abraham from the Book of Genesis
D. Understand the basics of Greco-Roman Philosophy and Rhetoric, especially Middle Platonic ideas of the earthly and heavenly man. Our friend Philo can help us here
E. Understand the basics about Hellenistic Judaism and the all important concept of the Law

Required Texts:
The New American Bible, Catholic Bible Press, Any Edition (NRSV also acceptable)
Hard Sayings of Paul, Manfred Brauch, IV Press, 1989. For this book, I would like you to use it when you encounter something in the writings of Paul that seems problematic. It is probably more helpful if you raise questions about what is problematic than if I tell you. It is also more fun that way. For each night you will have to read a Pauline letter (or a section in the case of Romans), the corresponding section in Fr. Brown’s Introduction to the New Testament and a few pages of Brauch’s Hard Sayings of Paul.

Grading/Course Requirements:
I will be using the following grading scale for this class:


As we only have 8 classes this semester your grade will be made up of three (3) comprehensive quizzes (multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank).
Students With Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Counseling and Disability Services in the Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162.

Required Texts:
Hard Sayings of Paul, Manfred Brauch, IV Press, 1989, (HSP)

Format of Presentation:
This class will combine lecture with class discussion. I like to keep the lecture to discussion ratio to about 50/50. In order for this balance to be maintained, students should come to class prepared to discuss the required readings for the day. I expect the engaged student to take notes and ask questions on the material presented in class.

Policy on Plagiarism:
Any student caught plagiarizing another’s work and claiming it as their own will be given an “F” for the class. Please note that there is a difference between incorrect citation and plagiarism. A student who attempts to cite a work but does so incorrectly has only been sloppy. A student who cuts and pastes (or who meticulously types in) another’s work into their own and does not cite it is plagiarizing.

Lecture and Exam Outline

Introduction to the World of St. Paul

(1) August 13-27:
Overview and Acts of the Apostles
NAB: 1 Thessalonians
ITNT: Ch. 18, First Letter to the Thessalonians, pp. 456-466
HSP: Ch. 41, 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15
1 Thessalonians
NAB: Philippians, Philemon
ITNT: Ch. 20, Letter to the Philippians, pp.483-501, Ch. 21 Letter to Philemon, pp. 501-510
HSP: Ch. 37, Philippians 2:12-13, Ch. 38, Philippians 3:4-6 August 27, Quiz up to this material.
NAB: Galatians
ITNT: Ch. 19, Letter to the Galatians, pp. 467-482
HSP: Ch. 32, Galatians 1:9, Ch. 33, Galatians 5:2, Ch. 34, Galatians 6:16
Quiz
(2) August 28-September 10:
Philippians, Philemon and Galatians
NAB: 1 Corinthians
ITNT: Ch. 22, First Letter to the Corinthians, pp. 511-540
HSP: Ch. 14, 1 Corinthians 3:17 and Ch. 17, 1 Corinthians 7:1
ITNT: Ch. 23, Second Letter to the Corinthians, pp. 541-558
HSP: Ch. 29, 2 Corinthians 3:14 and Ch. 31, 2 Corinthians 6:14
The Corinthian Letters/ September 10, Quiz up to Galatians
NAB: Romans, Chapters 1-5
ITNT: Ch. 24 Letter to the Romans, pp. 559-563
HSP: Ch. 2, Romans 5:12 and Ch. 3, Romans 5:20

(3) September 11-24:
Romans Part 1
NAB: Romans, Chapters 6-16
ITNT: Ch. 24 Letter to the Romans, pp. 564-574
HSP: Ch. 4, Romans 6:2, 7 and Ch. 8, Romans 10:4
Romans Part 2
NAB: Titus, 1-2 Timothy
ITNT: Ch. 29, Pastoral Letter: To Titus, pp. 638-652, Ch. 30, Pastoral Letter: The First to Timothy, pp. 653-671 and Ch. 31, Pastoral Letter: The Second to Timothy, pp. 672-680
HSP: Ch. 48, Titus 1:12-13, Ch. 47, 1 Timothy 5:23

Lecture on Titus-1 Timothy-2 Timothy/September 24, Quiz on Corinthians and Romans
NAB: Colossians, Ephesians and if you really feel like it 2 Thessalonians
ITNT: Ch. 27, Letter to the Colossians, pp. 599-619 and Ch. 28, Epistle (Letter) to the Ephesians, pp. 620-637
HSP: Ch. 36, Ephesians 5:22 and Ch. 39, Colossians 1:15