



AMERICAN
NATIONAL
CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

Paul and His Theology

Spring Semester 2025

Course Syllabus

COURSE TITLE

TH-110, "Pauline Theology"

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time: Saturdays, 11:00-12:00 E.S.T. via ZOOM

Semester: Spring, 2025 [January 25-March 29, 2025]

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: (Rev.) Mark DeStephano, B.A. (Fordham); M.Div., S.T.B., Th.M., S.T.L. (Regis College of the University of Toronto); M.A. (Saint Peter's); A.M., Ph.D. (Harvard)

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Office hours: The course instructor prefers to be contacted first by email unless the matter is urgent. The instructor will respond to email communications as soon as possible. If you would like the instructor to contact you by phone, please include your number in your email. Also, please indicate if the matter is urgent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

One of the most important and yet controversial figures in history, Paul of Tarsus is loved by many as the "founder of Christianity" and despised by others as being a pretentious "false prophet." This course will explore the many dimensions of the person of Paul, and his teachings in their sociohistorical and theological contexts, considering the documentary sources upon which Pauline Studies are based, and examining how different understandings of Paul have been formulated.

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Discuss the Jewish world in the time of Paul
- Discuss the Greek and Roman worlds in the time of Paul
- Explain the primary sources that support our study of Paul
- Describe the elements of the epistolary genre in the ancient world
- Discuss the Pauline canon and its challenges
- Describe the controversy around Paul's "conversion" and his "apostleship"
- Chart the route of Paul's missionary journeys
- Explain the major tenets of Paul's theological thought
- Discuss Paul's role as the first Christian "theologian"
- Explain Paul's significance in the formation of the early Christian Church

TEXTS

In addition to the required texts listed below, additional readings may be assigned from supplemental texts. These additional readings will be provided by the instructor as handouts at no cost to the participants. Assigned readings will make use of the abbreviated references in bold print.

- Ehrensperger, Kathy. "Speaking Greek Under Rome: Paul, the Power of Language and the Language of Power." *Neotestamentica*. Vol.46, No.1 (2012): 9-28.
- Holy Bible (preferably the Jerusalem or RSV)
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999. (to be provided by the professor)
- La Grange du Toit, Philip. "Was Paul a Christian?" *Neotestamentica*. Vol. 53, No. 1 (2019): 1-30.
- Montefiore, C.G. "Rabbinic Judaism and the Epistles of St. Paul." *The Jewish Quarterly Review*. Vol. 13, No. 2 (Jan. 1901): 161-217. (to be provided by the professor)

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS (NOT REQUIRED)

- Barth, Karl. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Trans. Edward Hoskyns. London: Oxford University Press, 1972.
- Borg, Marcus J. and John Dominic Crossan, *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*. New York: HarperOne, 2010.
- Crossan, John Dominic, *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*. New York: HarperOne, 1993.
- Crossan, John Dominic and Jonathan L. Reed, *In Search of Paul: How Jesus' Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004.
- Crossan, John Dominic, *Paul the Pharisee: A Vision Beyond the Violence of Civilization*. Salem, OR: Polebridge Press, 2024.
- Fitzmyer, Joseph A., *Paul and His Theology: A Brief Sketch*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1989.

- Marrow, Stanley B., *Paul: His Letters and His Theology*. New York, NY and Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1986.
- Roetzel, Calvin J. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
- Wills, Gary. *What Paul Meant*. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2006.
- Wright, N.T., *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

All participants, including auditors, are expected to participate in class discussions and to complete the assigned readings in advance of each class. Throughout the course the instructor will ask participants, including auditors, to take a role in presenting a particular subtopic, which will require additional preparation.

Students who are auditing the course are exempt from the course requirements, although asked to be diligent in attendance and reading and to participate fully in the class discussions. But are perfectly welcome (and encouraged!) to take on any or all of the non-formation credit requirements.

Participants in formation and all those taking this course for credit are required to complete the following:

Each student will receive a weekly participation grade of up to 100 points and a grade for a written assignment of up to 100 points.

(1) Assignment 1: Reflection paper of at least one page expressing the writer's initial thoughts and observations about Paul (January 25, 2025)

(2) Assignment 2: Reflection paper of at least two pages discussing Montefiore, "Rabbinic Judaism and the Epistles of St. Paul" (February 1, 2025)

(3) Assignment 3: Reflection paper of at least two pages discussing the Gentile world of Hellenism and the Roman Empire to which Paul brought the Christian Gospel, with mention of Ehrensperger's theories (February 8, 2025)

(4) Assignment 4: Reflection paper of at least two pages discussing the controversy surrounding Paul's "conversion" and "apostleship" (February 15, 2025)

(5) Assignment 5: Answer questions in Johnson, pp. 291, 320-321, and 337-338 (February 22, 2025)

(6) Assignment 6: Answer questions in Johnson, pp. 379 and 389 (March 1, 2025)

(7) Assignment 7: Answer questions in Johnson, p. 363 (March 8, 2025)

(8) Assignment 8: Answer questions in Johnson, pp. 402 and 419-420 (March 15, 2025)

(9) Assignment 9: Answer questions in Johnson, pp. 449 and 473 (March 22, 2025)

(10) Summation Paper: Reflection paper of at least five pages summarizing the ways in which the writer's understanding of Paul has changed over the course of the semester and differs from the initial course reflection paper (March 29, 2025)

Formatting and Submission of papers: Papers must be prepared using Microsoft Word or a Microsoft Word compatible/equivalent word processor. All papers must conform to the following format:

Type font: Times New Roman 12 point. Text should be typed in regular face except for emphasis, which may be done using boldface, underlining, italics or a combination of the three. Headings and subheadings should be no larger than 16 point.

Margins, Paragraphs and line spacing: Papers should use a one-inch margin on all four sides. Using the "Paragraph" dropdown menu, select "0" space before each paragraph and 6 pt. space after each paragraph. Doing this eliminates hard breaks that take up unnecessary space (in other words, there should be no paragraph space holders between each paragraph). Set the line spacing to 1.5.

Page numbering: Insert and center page numbers in the footer of each page (using the page number dropdown menu from the "Insert" menu tab allows you to insert and center page numbers automatically).

Citations and Notes: Documentation of your sources and ideas is essential in academic writing. Please use a standard style for uniform citations; you may wish to consult one of several style books for this purpose. You may use either footnotes or endnotes.

Submission of your papers: All papers should be converted to PDF files and emailed to the instructor before 5 PM eastern time on the date they are due. Papers that do not meet the formatting requirements outlined above will not be accepted and will be returned for proper formatting.

PLAGIARISM AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Refer to the ANCTI Policies and Procedures for the ANCTI policy on plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in courses.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Participants are expected to attend each of the ten classes of the course. Perfect attendance, while desired, is not always possible to achieve for reasons beyond a participant's control. Accordingly, a participant may have up to three unexcused class absences. Additional absences will result in a reduction in the participant's grade and absence from more than six classes will result in the participant being automatically withdrawn from the course and the final evaluation will so reflect.

All participants are expected to actively engage the course material and class discussions. Class participation forms an element of the grade for participants taking the course for credit, but even those not taking the course for credit are encouraged to participate fully as discussion is a vital part of the learning experience.

Presence in Class on Cams. All course participants should be aware of the requirements regarding presence in live online instruction: Unless specifically excused by the instructor, each participant is required to participate via a live camera and the participant's presence must be seen as actively present on the camera view in the class. A static screenshot or similar static symbol is not permitted except for very brief periods of less than five minutes should a participant need to step away from the class for personal care. Should a somewhat longer period be required, the participant must secure the instructor's permission, preferably in advance, and may be taken only with the instructor's approval. Use of this exception should not be abused during any class session.

Because all classes are conducted via Zoom, participants must mute their microphone once the class has begun and unmute when they wish to ask a question, make a comment or respond to something raised during the class. Care must be taken not to "speak over" one another.

Participants are expected to always show the utmost courtesy and respect for others participating in the course.

Other policies and procedures: Participants should consult the ANCTI website's (<https://antci.org>) for additional policies and procedures pertaining to Institute courses.

Participants should also refer to the Institute's Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute's website at <https://ancti.org>) regarding withdrawal from courses.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments and presentations, both written and oral. Where applicable, grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments and presentations, both written and oral.

Participants taking this course for academic credit in the American National Catholic Theological Institute will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Assignments and participation will be evaluated using the following indicators of performance:

E = Excellent (Approximate equivalent to: A+, A, A-)

S = Satisfactory (Approximate equivalent to B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-)

U = Unsatisfactory (Equivalent to F)

W = Withdrawal (Student withdrawal from course for any reason)

WP = Withdrawal Passing (withdrawal with course at least half completed successfully)

WT = withdrawal based on exceeding the withdrawal time limit.

Accordingly, work rated "E" or "S" will be recorded as a Pass; work that is unsatisfactory will be recorded as a Fail. Participants should also refer to the Institute's Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute's website at <https://ancti.org>) regarding withdrawal from courses.

Late Work: If a participant is aware of a situation that will cause work to be submitted late or a presentation not to be made on time, the participant should inform the instructor as soon as possible to request to be excused from the deadline for the work or the presentation date. If excused, the instructor will assign a new due date in consultation with the participant. Unexcused work/presentations will result in no credit for that work or presentation. Unexcused work/presentations submitted late because of an unforeseen emergency will be accepted when a reasonable explanation, as determined in the instructor's sole discretion, is provided.

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
62 or less	F	0

Weighted elements of your grade:

Participation of up to 100 points each week (50%), Weekly Reflection Papers of 100 points each (30%), Final Summation Paper (20%)

Final grades for this course will be reported to the Registrar. Participants taking the course for credit should receive their grade no later than three days after they are reported to the Registrar.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework	Major Deadlines
Class 1	Judaism in the Time of Paul	January 25, 2025 Montefiore, "Rabbinic Judaism" Assignment 1
Class 2	The Greek and Roman Worlds in the Time of Paul	February 1, 2025 Ehrensperger, "Speaking Greek" Assignment 2
Class 3	Sources for the Study of the Life of Paul and the Pauline Canon; Paul in the <i>Acts of the Apostles</i>	February 8, 2025 Johnson: 245-252 Assignment 3

Class 4	Paul's Missionary Journeys: A Map of His Travels; Authentic Pauline Letter: Galatians; the Controversy of Paul's "Conversion" and his "Apostleship"	February 15, 2025 Johnson: 327-340 La Grange du Toit, "Was Paul a Christian?" Assignment 4
Class 5	Authentic Pauline Letters: 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians	February 22, 2025 Johnson: 281-324 Assignment 5
Class 6	Authentic Pauline Letters: Philippians and Philemon	March 1, 2025 Johnson: 369-391 Assignment 6
Class 7	Authentic Pauline Letters: Paul's Theological Masterpiece, the Letter to the Romans	March 8, 2025 Johnson: 343-366 Assignment 7
Class 8	Disputed Letters: Ephesians, Colossians	March 15, 2025 Johnson: 393-421 Assignment 8
Class 9	Disputed Letters: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews	March 22, 2025 Johnson: 423-476 Assignment 9
Class 10	Paul the Theologian and the Origins of the Christian Church	March 29, 2025 Assignment 10