

BRIERCREST

BLST 620 Pauline Epistles/THEO 759 Theology Specialty: Pauline Epistles Fall 2023

Professor: Douglas Moo
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Course Dates: November 27-December 1, 2023
Course Delivery Method: In-Person Modular

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the key themes in the letters of Paul, especially as these relate to his Jewish heritage and Greco-Roman context. The study will include careful analysis of the biblical text as well as critical engagement with the methods and perspectives of leading Pauline scholars. Special attention will be given to a range of issues that have significance for the church including church leadership, the role of women in ministry, the work of the Spirit, and the use of the Jewish scriptures as a frame of reference for Christian life.

COURSE INTEGRATION

Besides Jesus Christ, Paul is a key figure in early Christianity and probably the earliest writer of the New Testament. Paul was primarily responsible for the growth of early Christianity and instrumental in the development of early Christian theology. His influence on the thought and practice of the early Church was so fundamental that he continues to be relevant for today, and Pauline studies are arguably the most debated in New Testament scholarship. Students will interact closely with primary sources (the Pauline Letters and the Book of Acts) and secondary sources. Students will be encouraged not only to acquire in-depth knowledge of Paul and his letters but also to apply this knowledge to contemporary Christian ministry and contexts. The course will ground students in a biblical-theological understanding of the Pauline Corpus within an evangelical framework and contribute to ministerial formation, personal development, and vocational competency.

COURSE TEXTS

Gorman, Michael J. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and his Letters*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017.
Moo, Douglas J. *A Theology of Paul and his Letters: The Gift of the New Realm in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2022.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. To be able to locate the letters of Paul in the context of his life and ministry and to appreciate how that context informs the theology of each letter.
2. To get a general idea of the particular theological contribution of each Pauline letter.
3. To learn the main foci of Pauline theology and understand how the various letters contribute to our understanding of these foci.
4. To appreciate the essential unity of Paul's teaching by seeing how the diverse witness of his letters on key issues combines in an overall unity.
5. To appreciate how Pauline theology, in whole and in its parts, interfaces with the larger enterprise of NT theology and with biblical theology.
6. To stimulate serious personal reflection on Paul's teaching, reflection that will result in deeper obedience to our Lord and more effective proclamation of the gospel.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

*Note: this course will conclude Friday afternoon.

Date	Topic	Key Texts	Required Reading
Nov. 27 AM & PM	<u>Paul, Missionary Theologian</u> Life and Letters <u>A Survey of the Letters</u> Galatians 1-2 Thessalonians 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans Colossians Philemon Ephesians Philippians 1-2 Timothy, Titus		Gorman, 1-672 (pre-course)

Nov. 28 AM	Approaching Paul's Theology The Center of the New Realm Gospel Jesus	Col. 1:15-20 Phil. 2:5-11	Moo, 3-53 Moo, 349-73
Nov. 28 PM	The Inauguration of the New Realm Grace "The faithfulness of Christ" Cross Resurrection	Gal 3:22-25 Rom. 3:21-26 1 Cor 15:12-28	Moo, 374-404
Nov. 29 AM	The Old Realm Sin and Death Israel, Exile, and the Law (the "New Perspective") Human Beings	Rom 5:12-21 Gal. 2:16 and Rom. 3:20 ("works of the law")	Moo, 405-58
Nov. 29 PM	The Blessings of the New Realm Overview Justification Other Images	Gal 2:15-21 2 Cor 5:11-22	Moo, 459-507
Nov. 30 AM	Entering the New Realm Grace Election Faith	Rom 9:6-13 Gal 3:7-14	Moo, 508-31
Nov. 30 PM	The Consummation of the New Realm Parousia Judgment and Deliverance Israel? New Creation	1 Thess 4:13-18 2 Thess 1:3-10 Rom 11:17-27	Moo, 532-67

Dec. 1 AM	The People of the New Realm Israel The Body of Christ Gifts and Ministry Sacraments	 Eph 2:12-22 1 Cor 14:1-5 1 Tim 3:1-13	Moo, 568-602
Dec. 1 PM	Living in the New Realm Basic Perspective Sources of Guidance Specific Issues Final Reflections	Philemon Rom 6:1-11 1 Cor 9:19-23	Moo, 603-47

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignments

Due: November 26, 2023

1. Analysis of Gorman – 20%

Read the entirety of Gorman, *Apostle of the Crucified Lord*. Write a 1000-word paper on Gorman's treatment of one of Paul's letters (or a combination of letters: e.g., 1-2 Thessalonians or 1-2 Timothy & Titus). The paper should combine description and criticism. Submit the paper to Canvas before class begins and be prepared to read it to the class on the first day of classes.

2. Highlights of Paul's Teaching – 20%

After reading (and perhaps re-reading) the letters of Paul, each student should identify, in a 1000-word paper, 2-3 issues Paul addresses that are particularly relevant to current Christian experience.

Mid-Course Assignment

Text Presentation-- 20%

Each student should prepare a brief (20 minute) presentation on one of the texts listed in the "Key Texts" column on the course calendar. Students should do some research on the text (in 2-3 commentaries) to become familiar with its issues. The focus of the presentation should then be on the contribution of the text to the theological issue it is associated with (on the calendar).

Post-Course Assignment***Due: January 26, 2024***Research Paper – 40%

- a. The paper should focus on a single theological issue within Paul.
- b. Careful study of key texts should provide the basis for theological reflection and conclusions. These texts should be carefully chosen so that a genuinely representative (not necessarily exhaustive) selection of texts is studied. Students who have Greek (and Hebrew) should use it; but, of course, it is not required, and students without the languages should seek to use good English-based reference sources. Commentaries and other significant articles and books should be consulted for insight into these texts.
- c. A synthesis of the teaching of the texts that are studied should conclude the paper. The synthesis should seek to do justice to all the relevant data that have been selected. This synthesis should again engage in conversation with other key books and articles on the topic. Concluding this synthesis should be a reflection on the significance of the paper's findings for contemporary Christian thought and practice.
- d. The papers should be written in appropriate academic style, following either Turabian or MLA guidelines.
- e. Length: 3500 words (inclusive of text and notes)

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one (1) full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

Course Schedules

Modular classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

As members of the Briercrest learning community, students have a responsibility to conduct themselves with integrity and honour. Students who cheat on exams, plagiarize, inappropriately collaborate, or use generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) without instructor authorization in the preparation and/or submission of their assignments violate the trust placed in them by their instructors, fellow students, and the seminary. Any such actions constitute a breach of academic honesty and will result in serious consequences, such as failure of an assignment, failure of a course, or expulsion from the seminary.

Plagiarism, whether intentional or involuntary, is the submission of the work of others, published or unpublished, in whole or in part without acknowledgment or proper documentation. All information, ideas and/or direct quotations taken from other primary or secondary sources must be documented appropriately. Students are responsible to ensure they are using their sources with transparency and honesty. For more details, consult the [Seminary Calendar](#). In addition to being familiar with these pages, instructors assume that you have completed the Briercrest Academic Integrity course on [Canvas](#) and understand the information contained in it.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition (mental or physical) who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should contact the ARC Coordinator in person (L234 in the Library), by phone (1-306-801-6159), or by email (arc@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.). It is recommended that students meet with their professors to discuss the requirements of their accommodations (i.e.,

how the student will receive lecture notes, or how the professor wants to receive extension requests).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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