

**Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

SS 750 Pauline Literature and New Testament Epistles

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Tuesdays 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Three Credit Hours

CAC 109

Required Text: Contemporary English Translation of the Bible

I. Course Description:

This course will survey the entire New Testament. The content and context of each book will be presented briefly. Major themes will be examined. Selected passages will be chosen for exegesis and discussion. The course is required for all M.A. and M.A.P.M. students. (Catalogue)

II. Course Objectives – Rationale

“It is the objective of the Sacred Scripture department to give the student an overview and introduction to each book of the Bible over the course of the program. Of course not every book can be examined in depth, nor can each book be treated equally. However, at the end of each course the student should be able to see how the books considered in a particular course relate to the Bible as a whole.”

Course SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes)

In accord with the SLOs of the degree programs offered at SSCMS, at the completion of the course, students should be able:

- To understand contemporary Catholic biblical scholarship with regard to the Letters of Paul, the Letters of the New Testament and the relationship of the New Testament to the Old Testament;
- To understand how the writings came to be composed, the context for their composition and the theological viewpoints of the various authors;
- To better inform the student’s use of Sacred Scripture in homilies (where applicable), Scripture study groups, teaching (both about the Bible itself and the proper use of Scripture when teaching in other theological disciplines) in catechetical and sacramental programs;
- To enhance one’s own spiritual life through a greater appreciation of the Bible and its use in private reading;
- To become cognizant of other interpretations outside the Catholic tradition and their relation to Catholic positions;

- To become aware of controversies regarding the Bible, the origins and reasons for them and possible solutions;
- To apply the process of exegesis through researching a specific text and applying a scientific methodology.

III. Church Documents

It is presumed that the student is familiar with the following Church documents:

- a. Catechism of the Catholic Church
- b. *Providentissimus Deus*
- c. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
- d. *Dei Verbum*
- e. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

IV. Assignments

An exegesis paper will be assigned. Details will be given in the first class. The passage for exegesis must be within the books under consideration in the course and approved by the instructor. The paper must follow the outline given in the Writing Guide available on the Seminary Web site. Nonnative speakers of English are strongly urged to consult the Writing Center and follow its procedures. Each student will choose a different passage. The time for the approval of the passage will be determined at the beginning of the course. The finished paper is due a week before the final exam. No extensions will be given.

V. Attendance and Participation

In accord with the formation and academic norms of the seminary program, attendance at all classes is expected. Exceptions for serious reasons will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

VI. Examinations

There will be two formal exams. One will be a midterm exam that will follow a “take home” exam format and the other will be the final exam in an oral format. Discussion in class and/or on “discussion boards” is an important aspect of the student’s grade.

VII. Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated by the average of the two exams, the exegesis paper and class participation.

VIII. Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Violations in this area are considered a serious offense and may result in a failing grade and/or dismissal from the program (Catalogue)

IX. Availability

Office hours by appointment. Please e-mail, call or see me in class to arrange an appointment. My office is in the CAC, second floor 203.

X. Course of Study

1. Paul's Life
2. Paul's World
3. General Issues with Paul
Appreciation of Paul
4. Letters
 - a. Literary Form
 - b. Authorship
 - c. Proto and Deutero Pauline Letters
6. I Thessalonians
Philippians
7. Galatians
8. I Corinthians
II Corinthians
9. Romans
10. Pseudopigrapha
II Thessalonians
Hebrews
11. Colossians
Ephesus
Philemon
12. Pastoral Letters
Titus
I Timothy
II Timothy
13. New Testament Epistles
1/11 Peter

- 14.. James
Jude

XI. Required Texts:

The only required text is the Bible itself, however, it may prove helpful to consult the optional texts that are listed in the bibliography. Any modern English language translation of the New Testament may be used. Different translations are encouraged and will sometimes be referred to in class to show how the interpretation of certain passages may vary due to how they are translated. Recommended books will be mentioned in class.

XII. Course Delivery Method(s)

The course will be presented in the classroom using the traditional lecture format. Questions and discussions are an integral aspect of the course. Materials will be made available on the *Populi* platform. Additional discussion topics will also be posted on *Populi*.

XIII. Grading Criteria

Grade Interpretation

Grade	Honor	Points	Percent	Interpretation
A	4.0	100-94		Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90		Superior
B+	3.3	89-87		Very Good
B	3.0	86-83		Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80		Average
C+	2.3	79-76		Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70		Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below		Fail
F	0			Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0			Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0			Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0			Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, "I," grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the "I" from the instructor before the final class of the course. A Petition for an "I" Grade is filed with the Academic Dean's Office and Registrar's Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an "I" is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an "F."

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

XIV. General Guidelines: *These are taken from the Catalog or the Web site except where indicated*

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the Student Writing Guide posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments.

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor suspects a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.

4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student's file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student's mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student's plagiarism and a faculty member of the student's choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as "to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>intransitive verb: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> ("cheat." Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. MerriamWebster Online. 5 May2010

<http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, "cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game" (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence,1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person's paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.

(The term "exam" may be substituted with "quiz," "paper," or "presentation" as the case may be.)

XV. Select Bibliography

Students are encouraged to use the many online resources available through the campus library or any other modern library.

Anchor Bible

Anchor Bible Dictionary

Brown, R.E. An Introduction to the New Testament. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Elenchus of Biblica. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Press

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible

New Testament Message Series

Sacra Pagina

The New Jerome Biblical Commentary

Notice of Change: The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.