

Reformed Theological Seminary
02NT5300 • Pauline Epistles (Hybrid)
Course Syllabus • Summer 2022 • RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- 3 credit hours
- Semester dates: June 6 – August 19, 2022
- Hybrid week in-class dates: July 18–22, 2022 (1:00–5:00 PM)
- Description: “An exposition of the epistles in chronological order that emphasizes the application of Paul’s theology to the pastoral needs of the churches of his day and ours.” (*RTS Catalog 2021–2023*, p. 71).

2. Instructor Information

- Zachary J. Cole, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament, RTS-O
- E-mail: zcole@rts.edu
- Office: Orlando Campus #3-214
- Office phone: 407-278-8167
- Office hours: e-mail to arrange an appointment

3. Course Objectives

- To understand the content, message, and redemptive-historical significance of twelve of the Pauline epistles (all but Romans).
- To comprehend the basic structure of Pauline theology.
- To interpret Paul’s letters responsibly and contextually, conscious of their exegetical, theological, and practical implications.

4. Bibliography (Required Textbooks)

- Holy Bible (translation of your choice), read 1 Corinthians through Philemon.
- Herman Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*, trans. J. R. De Witt (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1975), read pages 362–562.
- Grant Macaskill, *Living in Union with Christ: Paul’s Gospel and Christian Moral Identity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019), read all.
- Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), read pages 195–410 (= chapters on 1–2 Corinthians through Philemon) [available as an eBook].

5. Course Requirements

There are four course requirements: discussion posts and replies (25%), reading affirmation (5%), one thematic research paper (35%), and one final exam (35%). To pass the course, students must complete all the requirements.

Discussion posts and replies (25%): In Canvas, at the beginning of the semester, make **one** initial post introducing yourself to the class. Prior to hybrid week, you must complete **three** discussion posts of at least 250 words each. For each of the three posts, you must also make **two** responses to other students' posts (100 words each). That is, you must make a total of ten posts: one introductory post, three 250-word posts, and six 100-word posts.

Discussion post topics are the following:

- i. Select one idea you found interesting in Kruger, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament* (pgs. 195–410), and critically evaluate it.
- ii. Select one idea you found interesting in Macaskill, *Living in Union with Christ*, and critically evaluate it.
- iii. Select one idea you found interesting in Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (pgs. 362–562), and critically evaluate it.

In terms of “critical evaluation,” you are free to select whatever aspect of the author’s work you choose, but you must express a position on it (either agree or disagree), and you must give rationale and evidence for your evaluation. Note that “critical evaluation” does not necessarily mean *negative*; it means your thoughtful appraisal of whether or not the author has persuasively made their point and why. You will not receive a grade for each individual post and reply, but for their overall completion, quality, and charity. DUE DATE: prior to July 16th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM.

Reading Affirmation (5%): Aside from the reading required to make adequate discussion posts, you are free read the textbooks at your own pace throughout the semester. In Canvas, at the end of the semester, you must affirm whether or not you have read 100% of the reading assignments or not. No partial credit is available. DUE DATE: prior to Aug 20th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM.

Thematic research paper (35%): Students will write a 2,500-word paper (+ or – 10%) on the contribution of *one* epistle (1 Cor–Philm) to *one* theological, biblical, or pastoral topic. That is, you must select one epistle and explain what it tells us about one biblical, theological, or pastoral issue of your choice. Students must engage with scholarly resources including commentaries, monographs, and journal articles. See grading criteria below. DUE DATE: Aug 20th @ 5:00 PM. Some possible options (though you may choose something else):

- i. Old Testament typology, or gender, or sexual ethics, in 1 Corinthians
- ii. The three aspects of the law (moral, civil, ceremonial) in 1 Corinthians
- iii. The new covenant, or glory, or idolatry, in 2 Corinthians
- iv. Redemptive history, or curse-language, or promise, in Galatians
- v. Christian unity, or prayer, or spiritual warfare in Ephesians
- vi. Doctrine of God, or shame, or humility, in Philippians
- vii. Eschatology, or baptism, or union with Christ, in Colossians

- viii. Sanctification, or pastoral ministry, or witness, in 1 Thessalonians
- ix. Suffering, or wrath, or prayer, in 2 Thessalonians
- x. Eldership, or women, or Christology, in 1 Timothy
- xi. Shame, or preaching, or false teachers, in 2 Timothy
- xii. Good works, or eldership, or Christology, in Titus
- xiii. Reconciliation, or family language, or slavery, in Philemon
- xiv. Etc.

Whatever topic (and book) you choose, it must provide a thematic study of one topic in an *entire* epistle, not just one passage. Footnotes are included within the word count. No need for a cover page, but please include a bibliography.

Final exam (35%): The final exam will cover the lecture material (both audio and hybrid week), but not the textbooks. Further guidance will be given. DUE DATE: prior to Aug 20th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM.

6. Course Requirement Summary

- Discussion posts 25%
- Reading affirmation 5%
- Final exam 35%
- Thematic paper 35%

7. Grading System

A	(97-100)	4.00
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00
B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66
D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	0.66
F	(below 70)	0.00
I	(incomplete)	–
W	(withdraw)	–
S	(satisfactory)	–
P	(passing)	–

8. Other Information

- This course is designed for hybrid format, meaning that a significant amount of work will be required of you both prior to and after the hybrid week.
- The professor is under no obligation to accept work submitted after the published due date.
- Technology: students are permitted use laptops and/or tablets during the

hybrid week lectures, provided they do not prove disruptive, distracting, or detrimental to learning. The professor reserves the right to ban them.

- Students with documented disabilities may be granted reasonable adjustments for course requirements in discussion with the professor.

9. Class Schedule

Due Date	Activities
By June 13th, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Log in to Canvas, access content ○ Make introductory discussion post
By July 16th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete all discussion posts and replies ○ Listen to audio lectures
July 18–22, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attend hybrid week lectures
By Aug 20th, 2022 @ 5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete textbook and biblical reading ○ Complete reading affirmation ○ Complete final exam ○ Complete thematic essay

10. Grading Criteria

Grading Criteria for Thematic Paper	
Criteria	Comment
Style: the student adheres to the word count, writes in clear and correct English prose, and uses proper citation style.	
Awareness: the student identifies a relevant biblical, theological, or pastoral issue and demonstrates an awareness of why it matters.	
Argument: the student argues a clearly stated thesis with supporting evidence.	
Synthesis: the student synthesizes relevant information about their topic from their chosen epistle.	
Research: the student demonstrates an awareness of scholarly contributions to the topic and represents them fairly and accurately.	
Charity: the student writes with academic honesty, intellectual rigor, and Christian charity.	
Overall comment(s) and grade:	

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Pauline Epistles (NT5300)

Professor: Zachary Cole

Campus: Orlando

Date: Summer 2022

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	The assignments require students to articulate complex ideas clearly, charitably, and with nuance.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	The course content is focused entirely on the Pauline corpus.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed distinctives are considered within each of Paul's letters.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Students will be pushed to apply their reading to relevant issues in the contemporary world.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	Course content and reading situate Reformed views on Pauline theology alongside other views.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Students will be pushed to consider how Paul's letters can be and should be applied in pastoral ministry.