Reformed Theological Seminary
Summer 2014

NT516 Acts & Romans 2 Hrs.
Meeting Dates and Times: See Below

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Description (as per RTS Catalogue)
“A study of Acts and Paul’s Epistle to the Romans that emphasizes both the original meaning and the modern meaning” (p.68).

Course Objectives
(1) To understand and critically to evaluate academic research in Acts and Romans.
(2) To understand issues of special introduction pertaining to Acts and Romans.
(3) To understand Acts and Romans in their first century context.
(4) To understand the implications of Acts and Romans for the contemporary church, and to understand Paul in particular as a model of applying theology to the life of the church.
(5) To understand with greater clarity and precision key questions and issues in Acts and Romans: the person and work of the Holy Spirit; the nature and mission of the church; the nature of gospel preaching [Acts]; the person and work of Christ, the nature and condition of man, covenant and law, the application of redemption (justification by faith alone, sanctification, union with Christ, etc.) [Romans].

Required Texts (see below for page assts.)
(1) The Holy Bible, preferably in a recent translation such as the New American Standard, English Standard Version, New King James, or the New International Version.
(4) Herman Ridderbos, When the Time Had Fully Come, pp. 44-77
(5) Herman Ridderbos, Paul: An Outline of His Theology, pp. 13-90
(6) Geerhardus Vos, The Pauline Eschatology, pp. 1-71
Course Meeting Dates & Times
NT 516 will meet on the following dates and times. These are required sessions at which your prompt and engaged attendance is expected. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence will reduce the student’s final grade by one-half of a letter grade.

Monday 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Wednesday 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Assignments & Requirements
Your assignments fall into three basic categories: digests, a final exam, and a research paper.

I. Digests (40% of final grade)
To read and complete seven (7) digests of the following readings: Carson & Moo; Johnson; Ridderbos, WTFC; Ridderbos, Paul; Vos; Gaffin, BFNBS; Gaffin, R&R. See attached guidelines. Due July 25. Late work will subject your work to reduction of one full letter grade per day late (or fraction thereof). Each digest is worth 5% of the final grade, with the exception of Johnson, which is worth 10% of the final grade.

II. Exam (30% of the final grade)
To complete a proctored final exam based on class lectures. The exam will be closed book. Your exam is due not later than July 25. Late submissions will subject your work to reduction of one full letter grade per day late (or fraction thereof). 30% of the final grade.

You will be asked on your final exam to declare the extent of your reading in translation of Acts and Romans. This question will be worth 5% of the final grade.

III. Research Paper (30% of the final grade)
To prepare a 12-15 page research paper. This paper must be submitted, in hard copy, to the front desk not later than July 25. Late submissions will subject your work to reduction of one full letter grade per day late (or fraction thereof). See below for guidelines. 30% of the final grade.

If you have had Greek, you may write on Acts or Romans. If not, you must write on Acts.
Guidelines – Digests (adapted from Dr. Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.’s guidelines)

Please prepare a digest of each assigned reading, double-spaced or 1.5 spaced. A written digest is not simply a repetition but a summary or overview organized to highlight the author’s main ideas and distinctive emphases. It may have one of several formats – an outline, a running commentary, a series of brief paragraphs. It should be concise without being superficial. A digest is not a response paper. I want to see that you have understood what you have read.

Your digests must be at least three (3) pages long and no longer than ten (10) pages each.

Paper Guidelines

You will submit a 12-15 page research paper, exclusive of cover page and bibliography. This paper is an exegetical paper that demonstrates awareness of and competence in both the primary and secondary literature.

The paper should have the following elements and meet the following guidelines:

- A concise introduction that reflects your awareness of the pertinent issues
- A strong, incisive, clearly-stated thesis in the opening of the paper
- A cogent argument that is integrally tied to and flows from your thesis
- Organization that is both inherent to the paper and evident to your reader
- A conclusion that properly concludes the argument of your paper, concisely reflecting on the implications of your thesis for our understanding of biblical teaching (generally) and for the life of the church today.
- Fair and decisive engagement of the secondary literature. You should engage positions that are similar to your own and positions with which you disagree.
- Citation of at least six to eight commentaries and at least one journal article.
- Engagement of the following kinds of sources:
  - Academic commentaries (not collections of sermons, lay commentaries, or devotional expositions)
  - Academic monographs
  - Articles published in scholarly journals
  - Literature published both before and after 1900
  - Reformed & evangelical sources as well as non-Reformed sources
- Footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical references!). Footnotes should be single spaced, 10 pt font. The first line of each footnote should be indented.
- Pagination – each page should be clearly numbered
- Consistent, readable margins – ½ to 1 inch margins on each side of the text
- Text set in left justification, Times New Roman font, 12 pt. Set your indentation at ½ inch.
- Double or 1.5 spacing only.

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• Greek or Hebrew typed or handwritten (no transliterations)
• Documentation according to format and standards prescribed in the *SBL Handbook of Style* – this applies both to the body of the paper and the bibliography. Please take special note of the abbreviations.
• Absence of typographical, grammatical, syntactical, or spelling errors. Such errors will result in a lower grade on your paper. Proofread!
• A staple in the upper left hand corner – no folders, etc., please.

**The Good Paper Guide**

In grading your final paper, I will make reference to the following criteria (in addition to the guidelines set forth above, p.3). I have adopted these criteria, with slight modification, from a syllabus of Dr. W. Duncan Rankin.

**General**
Is the paper interesting? substantial? well-written?
Is the paper sufficiently focused or developed?
Is the paper organized? organized clearly?

**Development and Flow**
Does the paper show clear plan and purpose?

**Treatment**
Is the thesis of your paper stated clearly? Is your thesis pedestrian?
Does your paper raise more issues than you have adequately addressed in it?
Does your paper raise issues that cannot be adequately addressed in a paper of this scope and length?
Does your paper provide sufficient data to enable the reader to understand the problems and issues?
Does your paper set forth and engage various positions fully? fairly? objectively?
Does your paper provide careful, biblical exegesis?
Do your conclusions follow from the premises and data you set forth in the paper?
Does your paper evidence knowledge of and interaction with the broader Reformed tradition? views within modern evangelicalism? non-evangelical views?
Does your paper have material that should have been excised? Does it have material that is not germane to the subject?
Is the length of your paper adequate to address the issues raised?

**Documentation**
Is your paper well documented? adequately documented? poorly documented?

**Bibliography**
Does your paper have a bibliography?
Is your bibliography excellent? adequate? poor?
Does your paper omit key secondary sources that should have been included?

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Appearance
Is your paper neat in appearance? Is your paper annoying to read?

Errors
Does your paper have typographical errors? grammatical errors? syntactical errors? spelling errors?

Time of Submission
Was your paper submitted on time?
Did you submit it in both hard copy and electronically (per syllabus instructions)?

Your assigned grade is based upon the following: your successful completion of the instructions for this assignment, as those instructions are set forth in this syllabus; your overall quality of presentation; my assessment of your grasp of the subject matter; your skill in communicating the material; the quality of your work relative to your peers in the course.