I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of God’s saving self-revelation in Jesus Christ through the Pauline epistles. The course will emphasize biblical content, knowledge of the historical and religious contexts of the New Testament, and acquaintance with the basic concepts of New Testament theology.

II. TEXTS

1. New Testament (bring to class)
2. One of the following:
3. One introduction to Paul selected from the list below:

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Establish a general familiarity with the contexts within which the various New Testament documents were written and read
2. Gain a working knowledge of the content, purpose and message of each book of the New Testament covered in class
3. Begin to formulate a basic New Testament theology

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

a. Requirements
   i. Reading:
1. Read each assigned book of the New Testament before we discuss it in class.
2. Read the selected introduction to Paul before the first day of class.
3. Read the textbook chapter that covers the assigned books of the New Testament before we discuss it in class.
   a. Note: You are not required to read the gray pages in deSilva.
4. Read Westerholm by the time the final paper is due

ii. Summary Sheets
1. For each book of the NT studied you are to complete a ‘summary sheet’. These should not exceed one page in length and can be written in ‘bullet-point’ or paragraph form. Each ‘summary sheet’ should be organized under the following headings:
   a. Authorship and date
   b. Genre
   c. Historical and Pastoral setting of the recipients
   d. Purpose(s)
   e. Central message and/or major topics
2. See the final page of this syllabus for an example
3. Note: ‘Summary Sheets’ are due at the start of class on the day the relevant book will be discussed (see class schedule below). These sheets are designed to facilitate your reading and should provide a useful resource for future reference and review.

iii. Final Papers
1. This 6-8 page paper will provide an opportunity to explore further an issue that has caught your interest during our study of the letters of Paul. A list of topic will be provided.
   a. Note: Papers should be double-spaced and you should consult at least 4 resources in addition to your textbook (not including the Bible, which should of course be consulted!). Please attach a bibliography. **Due Date will be announced in class,**

V. COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Course Intro; Intro to Paul 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</td>
<td>Read: NT Intro/ 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Corinthians</td>
<td>Read: NT Intro/ 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Summary Sheets</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Galatians</td>
<td>Read: NT Intro/ Galatians Summary Sheet</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>Philippians &amp; Phililemon, 1 &amp; 2 Timothy and Titus</td>
<td>Read: NT Intro/ Philippians &amp; Phililemon, 1 &amp; 2 Timothy, and Titus Summary Sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Colossians and Ephesians</td>
<td>NT Intro/ Colossians and Ephesians Summary Sheets</td>
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VI. COURSE EVALUATION  
   a. Reading: 25%  
   b. Summary Sheets 25%  
   c. Paper: 50%

**Example Summary Sheet**

2 Peter

**Authorship and date**  
- Traditionally ascribed to the Apostle Peter but possibly composed by an anonymous Christian leader writing in Peter’s name to preserve and defend the apostolic message for a new generation  
- If written by Peter: circa 64 CE  
- If written by an anonymous author: late first century (?)

**Genre**  
- Letter in form  
- Testament (i.e. deathbed speech) in content

**Historical and Pastoral setting of the recipients**  
- Christians living in a Greco-Roman context encountered innovative teachers (possibly of an Epicurean orientation) who, probably in light of the delayed parousia (i.e. the return of Christ), challenged the notion that God would intervene in human affairs through judgment and the destruction of the cosmos

**Purpose(s)**  
- Attempts to answer the objections raised by the innovative teachers by reaffirming the future return of Christ as Lord and Judge. The reality of Christ’s return counters the libertine tendencies of the rival teachers by grounding the call to holiness in the future hope of judgment and salvation.
Central message and/or major topics

- God has, does, and will intervene to punish the ungodly and rescue the just
- Christ’s return and the associated final judgment appear delayed because the human and divine perception of time is different and because God, in his mercy and patience, does not wish that any should perish and therefore allows time for repentance