

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary**

*"For me, life is Christ." (Philippians 1:21)*

### ***SS 750 The Pauline Literature and New Testament Epistles***

Winter, 2014

Three credits

Rev. Leonard Obloy S.S.L. S.S.D. (cand.) (248) 683-0315 lobloy@sscms.edu

#### **I. Course Description**

This course will examine the composition and theology of the letters within the Pauline corpus. The life of Paul and a general discussion of his theological vocabulary will be given before examination of specific epistles. The remaining epistles of the New Testament (except John), i.e. James, Jude, Peter and Hebrews will be a part of this course. (*Catalog*)

#### **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 even can each book be treated equally. However, at the end of each course the student should have a familiarity with the books covered. He/She should also be able to see how the books considered in a particular course relate to the Bible as a whole.

#### **III. Required Texts**

The only required text is the Bible itself. Any modern English language translation may be used. Different translations are encouraged and will sometimes be referred to in class to show how certain passages may be interpreted due to how they are translated.

#### **IV. Church Documents**

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

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. *Providentissimus Deus*
3. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
4. *Dei Verbum*
5. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

#### **V. Assignments**

An exegesis paper will also be assigned. Details will be given in the first class. The paper may be in outline form. The passage for exegesis must be within the books under consideration in the course. The paper must follow the outline given in the Writing Handbook available on the Seminary Web site. Nonnative

English speakers are strongly urged to consult the Writing Center and follow its procedures. Each student must choose a different passage. Passage approval is due by 29 January (by class time). The finished paper is due 12 March (by class time). Assignments may be submitted electronically for online students. No extensions will be given.

Weekly topics will be presented online for student interaction (exposition, discussion, comment).

## VI. Attendance and Participation

In accord with the formation and academic norms of the seminary program attendance at all classes is expected of seminarians. Exceptions for serious reasons will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Lay students have the option of attending lectures in person, by Skype technology or by asynchronous online delivery.

All students, seminarians and lay, residential or online are required to keep up with and participate in online discussions. A schedule of lectures is below. Topics will be given throughout the semester. A secure blog will be the forum for these discussions. Students should check the blog two or three times per week during the whole semester. Detailed instructions on how to use the blog will be given in the first class.

Audio recordings of all lecture will be available on the online forum for purposes of review and study.

## VII. Examinations

Four written essay style exams will be given throughout the course.

Dates for these exams are:

5 February  
26 February  
26 March  
30 April

Examinations take place in the first half of the regular class time; lectures resume in the second half. The examinations are not cumulative. Once an exam is taken on a section of the course, that material is finished. Hence, the final exam of the course, taken during exam week, will cover only the subject matter treated since the last exam. All seminarians must take written exams. Lay students may take written exams or, within 48 hours of the specified dates may opt for an exam by Skype technology.

## VIII. Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated by the average of the four exams, the exegesis paper and online participation totaled and averaged evenly.

## IX. 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 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 failing grade and/or dismissal from the program.” (*Catalog*)

#### X. Availability

Office hours by appointment. I am available every day of the week and throughout most of the day. Please email, call or simply see me in class to arrange a mutually convenient time. My office is on the first floor of the Seminary administration building.

#### XI. Course of Study

- I. Paul's Life
- II. Paul's World
- III. Paul's Thought
- IV. Letters
  - A. Literary Form
  - B. Authorship
  - C. Proto and Deutero Pauline Letters
- V. The Pauline Corpus
  - A. I Thessalonians
  - B. II Thessalonians
  - C. Galatians
  - D. Philippians
  - E. I Corinthians
  - F. II Corinthians
  - G. Romans
  - H. Philemon
  - I. Colossians
  - J. Ephesians
  - K. Titus
  - L. I Timothy
  - M. II Timothy
- VI. New Testament Epistles
  - A. I Peter
  - B. II Peter
  - C. Jude
  - D. James
  - E. Hebrews

#### XII. Select Bibliography

Students are encouraged to use the many on-line 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*