

## Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

### 12 632 A Seminar in Biblical Studies: Ethics and Moral Formation in Paul

Tuesdays 2:30–5:30  
Fall Semester 2014

*Prerequisites:* Introduction to the New Testament.

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### Course Description

This is an advanced course in Paul on the interconnected topics of ethics and moral formation in Paul. The course examines a wide range of material in Paul's letters in the light of both Greco-Roman sources and critical scholarship.

### Course Goals

- 1) that students gain a first-hand familiarity with the relevant material in Paul on the questions of ethics and moral formation through the examination of specific passages;
- 2) that students incorporate into their own interpretive frameworks a range of scholarly perspectives on the topics of ethics and moral formation in Paul;
- 3) that students acquire a basic knowledge of approaches to ethics and moral formation in the Greco-Roman world, including Judaism;
- 4) that students reflect on the hermeneutical aspects and questions that arise from an engagement with Paul in the light of current ethical concerns and questions.

### Textbooks

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Furnish, Victor Paul. *Theology and Ethics in Paul*. 2nd ed. 2009. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780664233365 Amazon retail price: \$30.72

Given, Mark, ed. *Paul Unbound: Other Perspectives on the Apostle*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010. ISBN 978-59856-324-5 Amazon retail price: \$22.50

Everyone will also read an additional book, but these will be library copies.

## Course Requirements

1. Write a 15 page term paper on a self-selected question of ethics and moral formation in Paul. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor.
2. Write a summary and critique of a book, and make a class presentation on it.

More detailed descriptions of these requirements are given below.

## Course Outline

### September 2

- A. Introduction to the course
- B. Introduction to Paul's "Ethics": Question
- C. Exegetical Focus: Gal 4:12-20 — "until Christ be formed in you"

### September 9

- A. The Ethical Teaching of 1 and 2 Thessalonians
- B. Discussion of Furnish, 25-67 and 242-79
- C. The Mosaic law in Galatians—general discussion of the purpose an occasion of the letter as context for Paul's discussion of the Mosaic law and the letter's paraenesis.

### September 16

- A. Discussion of Furnish, 68-111
  - B. Exegetical Focus on Galatians
    - Gal. 2:1-21
    - Gal. 3:1-18
    - Gal. 3:19-4:7
    - Gal. 4:21-5:12 + 6:11-16
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## September 23

- A. Discussion of Furnish, 112–206
- B. The basis of exhortation in Philemon
- C. The basis of exhortation in 1 Cor. 7:21–24 in context

## September 30

- A. Discussion of Furnish, 207–41
- B. Exhortation in Galatians 5
- C. Exhortation in Jewish Christian writings: The “Common Ethic”

## October 7

- A. Presentation on Wasserman, 51–116
- B. Paul and the Law: Explorations in Romans
  - Romans 4
  - Romans 6
  - Romans 7

## October 14

- A. Presentation on Castelli
- B. The Example of Christ
  - Phil. 2:1–12
  - Rom. 15:1–6
  - 2 Cor. 8:8–11
- C. Moral process and progress: Rom 5:1–5; 1 Cor 9:24–27; Phil 3

## October 21

- A. Presentation on Hays, 16–59
- B. Ethics and eschatology in 1 Corinthians 7
- C. Ethics and the Body of Christ — 1 Cor. 12–14

## October 28

- A. Presentation on Barram, 135–73
  - B. Judgment in Paul
    - The Man Sleeping with His Father’s Wife — 1 Cor 5
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Paul and Self-Judgment in 2 Cor 4:1–5  
Justification and the doers of the Law in Romans 2

#### **November 4**

- A. Presentation on Horrell, 166–203
- B. Diet and Days
  - The Weak and the Strong in Romans 14
  - Eating Food Offered to Idols — 1 Corinthians 8
  - Eating Food Offered to Idols — 1 Corinthians 10

#### **November 11**

- A. Discussion of Wasserman, 117–28
- B. The Spirit and the Passions
  - Ethics and the Spirit in Paul: Gal 5 and Rom 8
  - Paul and Hellenistic Moral Philosophy reprised
  - Mind and the passions in Romans 1

#### **November 18**

- A. Presentation on Yeo
- B. Love and Duty
  - The Roman imperium: love and duty in Romans 13
  - The duty to the poor saints in Jerusalem: 2 Cor. 8–9; Rom. 15
  - Bearing burdens and doing good to all. . . Gal. 6:1–10

#### **November 25 No Class---Thanksgiving Break**

#### **December 2**

concluding discussion and sharing of research for term papers

### **Guidelines for Term Paper**

**Term paper.** Write a term paper on a *text* (passage in Paul's letters) or on a *topic* in an area of Paul's understanding of ethics and moral formation. The paper should include a hermeneutical conclusion in which you discuss ways of engaging the Pauline material for a present context. The paper must be no less than 15 pages (not more than 20) + bibliography. Use footnotes. If you choose to do a paper on a text, see the guidelines for an exegetical paper below.

The footnotes and bibliography must conform to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., rev. by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007).

*Caution:* The paper is subject to all the stated seminary rules and policies regarding academic integrity. See specifically the section on plagiarism (and how to avoid it) in the *G-ETS Academic Handbook*. Credit cannot be given for plagiarism, whether the plagiarism is intentional or unintentional. In particular, be aware that using exact language from a source (a phrase, sentence, paragraph, etc.) with a note attached but with no quotation marks (or, in the case of more than one sentence, without indenting the material in a block quotation) is plagiarism. Be aware also that a paper made up mainly of quotations from sources, even if these are properly cited, does not satisfy the requirements for an exegesis paper, which should be mostly in your own words. Use quotations sparingly. Present the information and opinions found in your sources by putting them in your own words, paraphrasing and attaching proper citations.

If you choose to write on a text (**exegesis paper**), follow these guidelines:

1. A short introduction in which you introduce the passage and the **focal question(s)** you will be treating, mentioning the state of scholarship on the question. In this part, do not present your interpretation or state a “thesis.” Simply identify the questions that you will seek to answer.
  2. A body in which you present your discussion, with explanation, arguments, and evidence, interacting with the scholarship on the passage. In this section you should state and defend your own interpretations, interacting with scholarship (particularly in 2.3). See “Evidence and Arguments” below.
    - 2.1 A short discussion of differences between translations and any significant textual variants.
    - 2.2. A brief discussion of the form and genre of the passage. The genre in the case of Paul’s writings is “letter,” but within the letters are different forms, such as argument in diatribal style, thanksgiving, scripture proof, speech-in-character (*prosopopoiia*), etc.
    - 2.3 A lengthy discussion of the focal exegetical question identified in the introduction.
  3. A concluding reflection on theological implications of the passage, including the significance of the passage for a contemporary audience and how the meaning of the passage might be affected by the social location and identity of that audience.
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**Evidence and Arguments.** The paper should examine the detail of the passage in consultation with the scholarly resources (commentaries, etc.). In using the scholarly resources, look for **evidence and arguments** in support of the author's interpretations. Do not treat scholarly sources as authorities for interpretations, only as authorities for evidence. In other words, if a commentator states that the ancient writer Josephus says such and such about synagogue customs, you can treat that as authoritative information. But you should not treat the commentator's interpretation of a verse in Romans 3 as authoritative information, only as opinion, and you should examine the commentators' arguments and evidence to see how well they support their opinions before you embrace those opinions in working out your interpretation. Hence, in your exegesis paper you should **back up what you say with evidence and arguments** in consultation with the commentaries.

### **Guidelines for Book Summary and Critique**

to be provided

### **Selected Bibliography**

- Barram, Michael D. *Mission and Moral Reflection in Paul*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006.
- Castelli, Elizabeth A. *Imitating Paul: A Discourse of Power*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991.
- Deming, Will. *Paul on Marriage and Celibacy: The Hellenistic Background of 1 Corinthians 7*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2004.
- Elliott, Neil. *The Arrogance of Nations: Rereading Paul in the Shadow of Empire*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- Engberg-Pedersen, Troels. *Cosmology and Self in the Apostle Paul: The Material Spirit*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Fowl, Stephen. *The Story of Christ in the Ethics of Paul*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1990.
- Furnish, Victor Paul. *Theology and Ethics in Paul*. 2nd ed. 2009. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
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- Harrington, Daniel and James F. Keenan. *Paul and Virtue Ethics: Building Bridges between New Testament Studies and Moral Theology*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2010.
- Horrell, David G. *Solidarity and Difference: A Contemporary Approach to Paul's Ethics*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2005.
- Horsley, Richard A. Editor. *Paul and Empire. Religion and Power in Roman Imperial Society*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1997.
- Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Creation, Cross, and New Community*. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.
- Lambrecht, Jan. *The Wretched 'I' and Its Liberation: Paul in Romans 7 and 8*. Louven: Peeters, 1992.
- Lee, Max. *Moral Transformation in Greco-Roman Philosophy of Mind: Mapping the Moral Milieu of Paul and His Diaspora Jewish Contemporaries*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck. [not yet published]
- Meggitt, Justin J. *Paul, Poverty, and Survival*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1998.
- Rabens, Volker. *The Holy Spirit and Ethics in Paul*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007.
- Rosner, Brian. *Paul, Scripture, and Ethics: A Study of 1 Corinthians 5–7*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Editor. *Understanding Paul's Ethics: Twentieth Century Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Sandnes, Karl Olav. *Belly and Body in the Pauline Epistles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Thompson, James W. *Moral Formation in Paul: The Context and Coherence of Pauline Ethics*. Baker Publishing Group, 2011.
- Wasserman, Emma. *The Death of the Soul in Romans 7: Sin, Death, and the Law in the Light of Hellenistic Moral Psychology*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008.
- Yeo, K.-K. *Musing with Confucius and Paul: Toward a Chinese Christian Theology*. Cambridge: Eugene: Cascade Books, 2008.
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