



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Syllabus

5261 Galatians and Romans

Spring Semester Jan 08-May 03

Harding School of Theology • Spring 2024

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr.

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Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: roster@harding.edu

Office Phone Number: *901-335-4296*

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform

the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.

Your grade could be penalized for unexcused absences and coming to class unprepared.

The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof. Carlus Gupton, Lipscomb University.

Course Etiquette for HST Live

HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.

All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor’s call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially

during class.

“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g., a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.

Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g., a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc. [While I have pacifist tendencies, some of the examples of bad classroom etiquette provided by Dr. Gupton in this last paragraph ignite images of punishment by “firing squad” in my mind; Prof. Richard Oster].

Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class. Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (e.g., no background family noise, TV, etc.)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding’s *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

If you wish to contact me via email and it is unrelated to a course, it is best to email me directly at roster@harding.edu.

HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

This course is supported with the video platform [www.Zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>) to facilitate class participation. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g., dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).
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5261 Galatians & Romans intersects many of the MDiv outcomes. The following shows ways in which this course reflects many of the goals of the MDiv.

- 1 **Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.** Effective ministers need to be well versed in the scripture as the source of our knowledge of God and his will for humanity.

- 2 **Demonstrate advanced exegetical skills in the interpretation of scripture.** This will equip ministers to understand God and his will at the highest level both for personal spiritual formation and for teaching others.
- 3 **Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.** Ministers need to refine their own understanding of the Christian faith, to be able to respond to contemporary proposals in Christian theology (both academic and popular), and to be able to teach others the central elements of the faith.
- 4 **Be able to communicate effectively in written and oral** Such public communication serves as a primary way a minister contributes to the spiritual formation of the congregation and to the cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel.

Due to the large size of the book of Romans, the majority of the course lectures will be given to covering the book of Romans. Romans will be investigated from the perspective of the Claudian Edict and certain saints returning to Rome following the death of the Roman Emperor Claudius. There is obviously a strong Jew-Gentile component to the issues and arguments of the letter for the believers in Rome. We will look at some of the old topics of Pauline doctrine and evangelical Christianity in light of new questions presented by the New Perspectives on Paul.

Toward the end of the course, we will look briefly at the book of Galatians. The student, however, is responsible for reading ALL of the commentary on Galatians by Keener and the article by McKnight. You will be responsible also for these as well as my lectures on Galatians on the Final Exam.

PRÉCIS OF IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 08	First class meeting
Jan. 29	Research paper prospectus due
Feb 26-March 03	Intensive Course/Study Week, No Class Meeting
March 04-08	Spring Break, No Classes
March 11	Week of Midterm Examination
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 08	Research paper due
April 29	Week of Final Examination

You perhaps wonder about Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a US Federal Holiday, celebrated this year of 2024 on Jan. 15th. HST campus is closed that day, and the Galatians and Romans class will not meet. In order to compensate for that lost class time, the course “5261 Galatians and Romans” will regularly meet from 6:00-9:00 PM every week (except for MLK Day) in place of the regularly scheduled time of 6:00-8:45 PM every week.

Required Textbooks

Craig S. Keener, *Galatians*, Cambridge University Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1108445573

Craig S. Keener, *Romans. New Covenant Commentary* Series. Cascade Books Wipfandstock, 2009, ISBN 978-1606081563

McKnight, Scot. *Reading Romans Backwards: A Gospel of Peace in the Midst of Empire* Hardcover – July 15, 2019, ISBN 978-1481308779

Ben Witherington III, *Paul's letter to the Romans. A socio-Rhetorical Commentary*, Eerdmans, 2004. ISBN 978-0802845047

Required Articles

1. Kim, Kyoung-Shik. God Will Judge Each One According to Works: Judgment According to Works and Psalm 62 in Early Judaism and the New Testament. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, 2011, pp. 167-96 [chapter 09]. 30 pages
2. McKnight, Scot. "Introduction: Legalism Then and Now." In Galatians. The NIV Application Commentary, pp. 19-46. 30 pages
3. Oster, Richard E. "Congregations of the Gentiles' (ROM. 16:4): A Culture-based Ecclesiology in the Letters of Paul." Restoration Quarterly 40 (1998): 39-52. 13 pages
4. Smith, Mark D. "Ancient Bisexuality and the Interpretation of Romans 1:26-27." Journal of the American Academy of Religion 64 (1996): 223-56. 30 pages

Research Paper

Research paper. A one page prospectus for your 15 page research paper is due by the **third** class meeting (**Jan. 29th, 2024**). In this course the paper needs to focus upon one facet of a major theological theme in the NT. I **must approve** the topic submitted in your one page prospectus; this protects you from working on an inappropriate topic or doing the paper in a flawed way. If you have not yet taken Advanced Theological Research, then **it is imperative** that you receive some preliminary guidance from the library staff about the available resources for your research paper. The deadline for submission of your research paper is **April 08th, 2024** at the beginning of class (6:00 PM). I will need an electronic copy submitted at the same time to me via Canvas putting "term paper" in the **Subject** line. I do not want a pdf format electronic copy of your article. I need it submitted in a typical word processing format. If your paper includes Greek or Hebrew fonts, then they **MUST** be unicode fonts. If you do not have such, then you can obtain them free from various sites on the internet. If you cannot do this, then have

the library staff assist you. *I will **NOT** accept a paper where the Greek or Hebrew fonts look like rectangular boxes or hieroglyphics, etc.*

If you do not submit your paper on time, then you must notify me immediately via email that you have not submitted your paper on schedule. You also need to inform me at that time when you expect to submit it. If you do not submit it at that later date, then I need another email from you informing me that you have missed the deadline and informing me when you hope to submit your paper. If you fail to notify me that you have not met the deadline, then you will be penalized one letter grade [e.g., your paper could go from a grade of "B" to a grade of "C"].

Penalty for late papers. Your paper grade will be penalized one letter grade each week it is late. For example, if it is two weeks late, then the grade would go from a "B" to a "D." This penalty is in addition to the penalty for failure to notify me that you have not submitted your paper on schedule.

Since your research paper is 30% of your grade, please submit it on schedule. Naturally you will not be penalized if there are acceptable reasons, e.g., death, serious illness, for your tardiness. I must be notified by email or phone if you believe you have an acceptable reason for tardiness.

Midterm Examination

The midterm examination is scheduled for the week of **March 11th, 2024**. The Exam will consist of an Objective part that includes typically T/F, Fill in the Blank, Listing, etc and Essays. This exam will cover all the lectures given until that point in time. The midterm exam will cover the required readings related to the book of Romans up to the point in the lectures. The various articles by Kim, McKnight, and Smith are required for the Midterm exam.

Final Examination

The final examination is scheduled for **April 29, 2024**. The Exam will consist of an Objective part that includes typically T/F, Fill in the Blank, Listing, etc. and Essays. This exam will cover all the lectures given until that point in time after the midterm exam. That is, the Final Exam is **not** comprehensive for the entire course; it only covers the class lecture material given after the midterm exam. The Final Exam will also cover the entirety of Galatians, from Keener's commentary and brief lectures from Prof. Oster. The article by Oster is also required reading for the Final Exam.

Grade Distribution

<i>Research Paper</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Midterm Examination</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Final Examination</i>	<i>35%</i>