**N.T. 445 – Romans**

**Course Syllabus**

**Appalachian School of Theology, Inc.**

**Fall 2023**

Instructor: Steve J. Collins

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**I.** **Class Meeting Place, Dates, and Time**

 Meeting Place: First Baptist Church (Family Life Center), Nickelsville, VA

 Dates: Each Monday Night beginning August 21st and ending December 4th.

 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

**II. Course Description**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with an analytical and expository study of the book of Romans. We will focus on its contribution to the doctrines of sin, salvation, sanctification, life and hope in Christ, as well as the place of Israel and the Church in God’s divine plan.

**III. Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is to introduce and enable participants to encounter the book of Romans in a systematic, yet exciting, way wherein they will not be overwhelmed by the deep theological content contained therein.

As a result of enrollment, intense study, participation, and group discussion each class member should be able to:

 1. Understand the social / cultural background of Romans and its effect on the book’s

 message.

 2. Understand the current scholarly contributions to the study of the Pauline epistles and their impact on various interpretations of the book of Romans.

 3. Identify and remember the basic content, major themes, and message of Romans.

 4. Analyze Romans to determine the rhetorical impact of the book.

 5. Participate intelligently in the great discussions about Christian doctrine that have occupied theologians throughout the history of the church.

 6. Acquire confidence in their understanding and usage of the basic theological words, concepts, issues, options, and traditions in Christianity.

 7. Form reasonable belief-positions regarding these issues and articulate how these may influence and shape his / her ministry in the local church.

 6. Meditate on and talk about, offering Scriptural support, their Christian theological beliefs in a clearer and better-informed manner.

 7. Engage in life-long study of and reflection on Christian theological beliefs and practices.

 8. Interpret the world, personal existence, and all things in relation to the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

 9. Identify, understand, and address the contemporary issues confronting Christians as they engage in ministry and missions outreach.

 10. Help others mature in the areas of bible study, leadership, and ministry.

 11. Integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview that honors Jesus Christ and aids in the advancement of His Kingdom.

**IV. Format and Procedures**

This course is designed to be an interactive learning experience that will be hybrid in nature (offered both in person and online). As such we will employ lecture, interactive discussion, and intense Bible study in which all participants are invited, encouraged and expected to interact.

1. Please understand that while we have made, and are continuing to make, major investments in technology that enables participants to join us in person or live in a virtual classroom setting, we cannot and are not responsible for “glitches” in internet service providers on their end or ours.

 a. *If you’re participating online* and encounter an issue during any of our class sessions *it is never appropriate to* *interrupt* *our facilitators with your issues or concerns.* The sole purpose of our facilitators is to share content and lead the session that is underway. *They are not available for tech support* as their focus is on the task at hand. You may, and are encouraged to, send a message in our class meeting to Steve Collins. You can also send him a text message at 276-393-2741 or you can message him on Facebook Messenger. Either way, he will get back with you as quickly as possible.

 b. *If you’re participating in person*, please remember that the audio / video equipment we’ve invested in for our classroom setting *is extremely sensitive to everyone’s voice and physical activity*. As such, the cameras and audio are constantly picking up and focusing on each of us that are interacting and moving around so it’s possible for those who are joining us online to hear and see everyone but our facilitators. Let’s be conscious of these issues.

 2. We will provide a copy of the facilitator’s teaching outline to each person in attendance at the close of each class setting.

 3. We will provide an electronic copy of the facilitator’s teaching outline as well as a link and passcode to the Cloud Recording of each session on the morning following our class session.

 4. Students are expected to prepare for each session by completing their reading and written assignments in order that they may actively and positively enhance our learning environment by their intense participation.

**V. Required Texts**

1. *Encountering the Book of Romans: A Theological Survey, Second Edition,* Douglas J. Moo, Baker Academic, ISBN 978-0-8010-4966-8

 2. The Bible (your choice of a reputable translation)

**VI. Recommended Resources**

 1. A good theological dictionary such as:

* *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology,* Edited by Walter A. Elwell
* *Essential Theological Terms,* Justo L. Gonzalez
* *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms,* Stanley K. Grenz

**VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

 1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology is: *Any student who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

 2. Reading – 20% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.

 3. In Class Participation – 20% of final grade:

* We cannot overstress the importance of open discussion in our class settings. As facilitators our goal is not to cover all of the material we are studying and have prepared to present but to engage students in open, honest discussion of the material and topics we are focusing on.

 4. Students who are taking the class for credit will *write and submit two papers* in our fall semester:

 (1) Jesus Christ: “The Second Adam” – 20% of final grade: Romans 5:12-21, see

 textbook pgs. 87-92

* This paper should focus on the importance of the Second Adam in contrast to the First Adam. The paper should be double-spaced and contain at least at least 5 full pages of content. The student should reference the Bible, Moo’s textbook and at least two or more outside sources.

 (2) Divine Sonship: “Our Adoption into the Family of God” – 20% of final grade: Romans Chapter 8, see textbook pgs. 115-126

* This paper should focus on the importance of our adoption into the family through Jesus Christ and the great peace, security, and benefits this affords us as members of the family of God. The paper should be double-spaced and contain at least at least 5 full pages of content. The student should reference the Bible, Moo’s textbook and at least two or more outside sources.

\*A copy of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers (6th edition)* by Kate L.

 Turabian, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1996 is available for

 use by the students.

\*All students are expected to familiarize themselves with *the plagiarism*

 *statement* on the last page.

**VIII. CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| **Date** | **Readings**  | **Topics** |
| 8/21/2023Week #1  |  Main Text, Preface - pgs. 1-20 | **Part 1: Encountering an Ancient Letter; Getting Oriented: What is Romans Really About?; Paul and the Romans**  |
| 8/28/2023Week #2 |  Main Text, pgs. 21-44 | **Part 2: Encountering the Human Dilemma; The Gospel of God; God’s Wrath Against Sinners: Romans 1:1-32** |
| 9/4/2023Week #3  | **Labor Day: No Class** (Working on Your 1st Paper) |  |
| 9/11/2023Week #4 | Main Text, pgs. 45-64 | **Part 2: Encountering the Human Dilemma; Jews are “Without Excuse”: The Universal Power of Sin Romans 2:1 – 3:20** |
| 9/18/2023Week #5  | Main Text, pgs. 65-82 | **Part 3: God’s Righteousness in Christ; The Faith of Abraham: Romans 3:21 – 4:25** |
| 9/25/2023Week #6 | Review Main Text, pgs. 1-82 | **Class Review & Discussion on Textbook Parts 1 – 3 or Students Present Their 1st Papers in Class** |
| 10/2/2023Week #7 | Main Text, pgs. 83-102 | **Part 4: Encountering Life and Hope in Christ; Rejoicing in Life and Hope: Freedom from the Power of Sin: Romans 5:1 – 6:23** |
| 10/9/2023Week #8 | Main Text, pgs. 103-128 | **Part 4: Freedom from the Law; Life and Hope through the Spirit: Romans 7:1 – 8:39** |
| 10/16/2023Week #9 | Main Text, pgs. 129-148 | **Part 5: Encountering the Relationship between Israel and the Gospel; Israel & the Plan of God; Israel, the Gentiles & the Righteousness of God: Romans 9:1 – 10:21** |
| 10/23/2023Week #10  | Main Text, pgs. 149-168 | **Part 5: The Future of Israel; Part 6: The Christian Mindset: Romans 11:1 – 12:21** |
| 10/30/2023Week #11  | Main Text, pgs. 169-188 | **Part 6: Citizens of the World & Citizens of Heaven; A Plea for Unity in the Church: Romans 13:1 – 15:13** |
| 11/6/2023Week #12  | **Reading Days: No Class**(Working on Your 2nd Paper) |  |
| 11/13/2023Week #13  | Review Main Text, pgs. 83-188 | **Class Review & Discussion on Textbook****Parts 4 – 6 or Students Present Their 2nd Papers in Class** |
| 11/20/2023Week #14  | Main Text, 189-198 | **Part 7: Encountering the Letter’s Conclusion; Additional Comments on the Concluding Material: Romans 15:14 – 16:27** |
| 11/27/2023Week #15  | Review Main Text, 189-198 | **Class Review & Discussion on Textbook** **Part 7 or Students Present Their 2nd Papers in Class** |
| 12/4/2023Week #16  | **Final Class of Semester** | **Get Together for Evening Meal & Class Discussion** |
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**IX. THE SCHOLASTIC GRADING POLICY**

 A+ 98 – 100 (4.3) The student has demonstrated the mastery of the

 A 95 – 97 (4.0) material and its application.

 A- 93 – 94 (3.7)

 B+ 90 – 92 (3.3) The student has demonstrated above average

 B 87 – 89 (3.0) mastery of the material and its application.

 B- 85 – 86 (2.7)

 C+ 82 – 84 (2.3) The student has demonstrated the required mastery C 79 – 81 (1.7) of the material and its application.

 C- 77 – 78 (1.7)

 D+ 74 – 76 (1.3) The student has demonstrated below average D 71 – 73 (1.0) mastery of the material and its application.

 D- 69 – 70 (0.7)

 F 68 – below (0.0) The student has failed to master the material and its application.

 P Passing WP Withdrew Passing

 I Incomplete WF Withdrew Failing

**X. PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.

**XI Library Support**

* Our students can use and borrow books from our Regional Library located on the church campus of First Baptist Church of Nickelsville.
* Virginia residents and UVA/Virginia Tech graduates can use and borrow books from the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech libraries by using a Virginia driver’s license.
* Access to free, full text journals is available at <http://www.doaj.org>