

BIL-235: Life and Letters of Paul

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Course Description

This course surveys the life, ministry, letters, and thinking of the apostle Paul as found in the book of Acts and his own letters.

Course Overview

This class explores the conversion, commission, and life and ministry events of Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles. This is accomplished primarily through a survey of the historically objective account of Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*, but also by discovering the autobiographical treasures scattered throughout the writings of Paul, himself.

This course uses inductive study methods to uncover the common threads of Christian doctrine that can be traced throughout the writings of Paul. Selected reflections on key Pauline teachings will not only reveal his understanding of the *kerygma* but show the continuity of the Holy Spirit's revelation in inspiring the apostle's writing.

Finally, the perusal of theological essays concerning the Paul's life and writings will give students contextual and interpretational insights into these two arenas.

In the study of the preceding, there will be an effort to relate and apply the elements of Paul's life and writings to the key roles and relationships in the life of the Christian minister.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of our journey, you should be able to:

1. Trace the crucial events that form mileposts in the life of the Apostle Paul.
2. Understand the major themes of the Paul's view of Christianity as reflected in his writings.
3. See the life of the modern Christian minister in comparison with the life of one for whom to live was Christ.

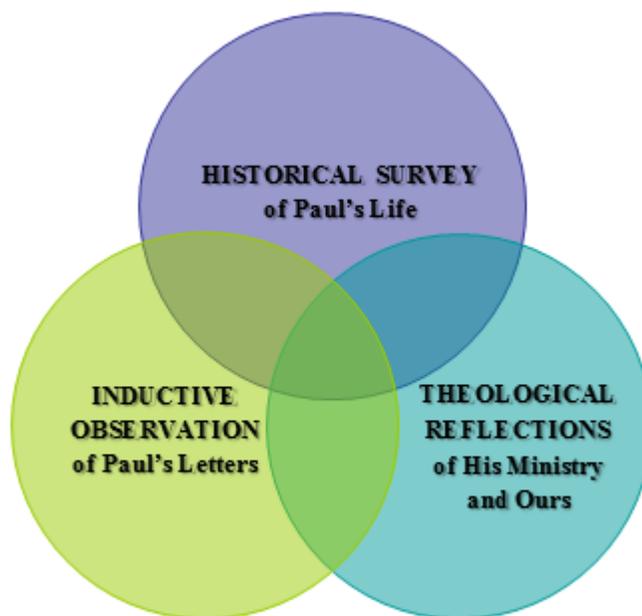
Course Materials

- Bruce, F. F. (1981). *Paul: Apostle of the heart set free*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans.
- DVD: Visual Bible from Off-Campus Library Services (OCLS) **prior to the start of the course** at <http://www.indwes.edu/ocls> (click on Submit Request) or call them at 800-521-1848. This DVD is NOT available through Tree of Life.

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Course Map



Course Schedule

This course is five weeks long. You will complete one Workshop each week. While you are free to browse ahead in the course, please complete the coursework during the week allotted to each Workshop.

In order to stay organized you should first read all of the pages in the Syllabus. Make sure you understand the course structure and requirements.

When you have a basic grasp of the way the course is laid out, start working your way through the lessons and activities in Workshop 1.

It will be VERY IMPORTANT to establish a schedule. You will not do well if you leave everything to the last minute each week.

Every discussion must be completed by the last day of the week assigned to each Workshop. For example, if Workshop 1 is scheduled to go from Wednesday through Tuesday, your discussion would be late if it was posted on Wednesday morning. The deadline is midnight the last night of the workshop. Late postings *may* be accepted but all of the points may not be awarded. Please see the Discussion Grading Rubric for additional details. Be sure to contact your facilitator if there are any extenuating circumstances.

Attendance Requirements

Online workshop attendance is determined by *activity* during a workshop, either through discussions or submission of assignments. A student is reported absent for a workshop if he or she does not make at least one submission of an assignment or make a posting in a discussion forum assigned during that workshop. Participating in discussions does not guarantee full participation points. The criteria for full participation points will be determined by the course facilitator.

If a student exceeds the allowed absences and does not contact the Office of Student Services to officially withdraw before the last workshop, the facilitator is directed to issue the grade of "F."

Under emergency circumstances, a student may be allowed one (1) absence in courses that are five workshops/weeks or fewer. Under emergency circumstances, a student may be allowed two (2) absences in courses that are more than five workshops/weeks.

Late Policy

No credit is available for postings of any kind made in the Discussion Forums after a given workshop week ends.

If your facilitator approves your submission of late **assignments** (Note: An assignment is a paper, a project, a team presentation, etc., **not** a discussion) each assignment score will be penalized 10% per day up to 5 days late. After day 5, late assignments will not be accepted.

No late assignments will be accepted after the close of the final workshop.

Statement on Academic Honesty

You must include the following statement on the title page of all assignments / projects that you submit to your facilitator.

I have read and understand the plagiarism policy as outlined in the syllabus and the sections in the Student Bulletin relating to the IWU Honesty/Cheating Policy. By affixing this statement to the title page of my paper, I certify that I have not cheated or plagiarized in the process of completing this assignment. If it is found that cheating and/or plagiarism did take place in the writing of this paper, I understand the possible consequences of the act/s, which could include expulsion from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Course Assessment

Official Grading Scale

The final course grade will depend on the total number of points earned. Here is how the points break down in terms of letter grades.

Letter Grade	GPA Points	Percentage	Actual Points
A	4.0	95 - 100	950 - 1000
A-	3.7	92 - 94.99	920 - 949
B+	3.3	89 - 91.99	890 - 919
B	3.0	85 - 88.99	850 - 889
B-	2.7	82 - 84.99	820 - 849

C+	2.3	79 - 81.99	790 - 819
C	2.0	75 - 78.99	750 - 789
C-	1.7	72 - 74.99	720 - 749
D+	1.3	69 - 71.99	690 - 719
D	1.0	65 - 68.99	650 - 689
F	0.0	0 - 64.99	0 - 649

A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Anticipates well and writes logically & clearly. Anticipates steps in the progression of ideas.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject. An active listener and participant, the student communicates well orally and in writing.
C	Quality and quantity in and out of class is average. Requirements are addressed minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Assignments may be missing or unsatisfactory.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable for an undergraduate student, and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Point Distribution for entire course:

Workshop	Discussions	Individual Assignments	Project Group	Total Points per Workshop
Workshop 1	60	100	0	160
Workshop 2	60	100	0	160

Workshop 3	60	100	100	260
Workshop 4	60	100	0	160
Workshop 5	60	100	100	260
TOTAL	300	500	200	1000

Written Work:

By what standards should you (and will the instructor) evaluate your writing? The following guidelines should be helpful.

1. How accurately does your writing respond to the set question? (In other words, you did not invent your own question to answer.)
2. How clearly does your writing enable a reader to understand what you think on this subject?
3. Have you moved beyond saying what you believe to why you believe as you do?
4. Have you written in good concise grammatical form with proper spelling?
5. Have you followed any other instructions the course facilitator has given you for this paper?

The questions you will be answering are large questions. Books have been written to answer these questions. You could write much longer papers on these questions. Do your best to summarize your thinking on the set questions within the limited length each assignment allows.

Please submit all papers in double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins (standard APA format). Give references for any Bible passages to which you refer and the version you are using. If you have consulted other sources, give an APA style List of References on a second page. For samples, go to Off Campus Library Services (OCLS).

Please include a copy of the assigned questions in your Discussion Forums and all papers in this course.

References

A Select Biography is found on pp. 476-479 of the text, compiled by the author:

Baird, W. (1985). "Paul," In *Harper's Bible dictionary* (2nd ed., pp. 757-765). Harper & Row.

Betz, Hans Dieter. "Paul," in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 5. Doubleday, 1992, pp. 186-201

Bornkamm, G. (1995). *Paul*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress.

Bruce, F. F. (1981). *Paul: Apostle of the heart set free*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Erdmanns.

Capes, D. B., Reeves, R., & Richards, E. R. (2007). *Rediscovering Paul: An introduction to his world, letters and theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic.

Dunn, J. (Ed.). (2003). *The Cambridge companion to St. Paul*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.

Gorman, M. J. (2004). *Apostle of the crucified Lord: A theological introduction to Paul and his letters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Keck, L. E. (1988). *Paul and his letters* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Fortress.

Pollock, J. (1994). *The apostle : A life of Paul*. London, England: Catholic Book Club.

Roetzel, C. J. (1991). *The letters of Paul: Conversations in context* (3rd. ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Westminster/John Knox.

Schreiner, T. (2006). *Paul, apostle of God's glory in Christ: A Pauline theology*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

Westerholm, S. (2004). *Understanding Paul: The early Christian worldview of the letter to the Romans* (2nd ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Wright, N. T. (2006). *Paul: In fresh perspective*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press.

APA Writing Style

For link to Off Campus Library Services go to or use the resources listed in IWU Resources on your menu:

APA Guide <https://ocls.indwes.edu/APA/APA6eGuide.pdf>

Library <https://ocls.indwes.edu>

Expectations, Policies, and Important Student Information

School/Division	Link
DeVoe School of Business Division of Liberal Arts School of Services and Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
School of Educational Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Wesley Seminary @ IWU	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information

School/Division	Link
Nursing - Undergraduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Nursing - Graduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>