Syllabus for NT 422: New Testament Interpretation
Romans (Fall 2015)

A course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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Course Description:

The description of this course in the current BMATS catalog is as follows: “This course consists of analytical interpretative studies in Acts or one or more New Testament epistles. Emphasis is given to the application of New Testament precepts to current situations in life. Introductory and background materials receive only abbreviated treatment. Note: The course may be repeated when a different book (or books) is studied. Prerequisite: NT 123 or 511 or 512, depending upon the book(s) studied.” The particular book that will be the focus of this course is Romans.

Course Textbooks:

- Holy Bible - The student may bring the English version of the Bible of his or her choice. The version that will be used in class is the New American Standard Bible.


  (additional note: This resource can be found at the library in the reference section if the student wishes not to purchase this volume. Reference works cannot be checked out, so it will always be available in the library).

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, the student should . . .
1. possess a firm grasp on the background, purpose, themes and literary characteristics of Paul's epistle to the Romans.

2. possess a detailed outline of Romans that can be expanded and applied for teaching and preaching purposes.

3. be able to trace Paul's thought regarding the righteousness of God throughout the book of Romans.

4. to provide a summary of the major points made by scholarly articles related to Paul and thematical issues covered in Romans.

5. be able to outline and summarize the contents in the various chapters of Romans.

6. be able to evaluate a particular thematic issue in Romans utilizing relevant sources to develop a logical presentation of Paul's thoughts on that issue.

7. gain a greater appreciation for the epistle of Romans as an inspired and infallible writing within the corpus of Holy Scripture.

**Course Requirements:**

**Reading**

The student is required to read the commentary by Robert H. Mounce in its entirety. The student should read the commentary in conjunction with the verses that will be covered each day (see course schedule). The student will also read selected articles from the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (see list of articles on p. 5 of this syllabus). The student must also read the book of Romans two times through the course of the semester from two different English translations of the student's choosing.

**Summary Paper**

From the 14 articles read from the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, the student will write a summary of five of those articles. The summaries should include the pertinent information discussed in each article and placed in the student's own words. Each article needs to be one page in length, double-spaced using Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. The combined summary report should be no more than 5-7 pages in length.

**Research Paper**

The student will write a 5-7 page research paper on a thematic topic from the book of Romans (see list on next page). The student's work will be analyzed and graded based on the BMA Seminary Research and Writing Rubric. The student
should strive to include 8-10 solid resources from technical commentaries, monographs, theological resources, and journal articles. This paper must contain a title page, contents page, body of paper, and selected bibliography. The title page, contents page and bibliography do not count toward the 5-7 pages for the body of the paper. The body of the paper should be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 pt. font. The following are some of the approved themes that can be traced in Romans. If the student chooses something not on this list, he or she must seek approval by the professor:

1. wrath of God
2. law of God
3. justification
4. sanctification
5. righteousness of God
6. impact of sin
7. OT usage in Romans
8. God's plan for Israel
9. God's plan for Gentiles
10. Sovereignty of God

Section Summaries

In this course there will be five major sections of Paul's discussion concerning the righteousness of God (see list of sections below). The student will provide a summary of each section by stating what Paul has to say about the righteousness of God in each section. Each summary should be one page in length double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 pt. font. The combined report should be no longer than 5-7 pages in length.

1. The Need for God's Righteousness (1:18-3:20)
2. The Gift of Righteousness (3:21-5:21)
3. The Effect of Righteousness (6:1-8:39)
4. The Extent of Righteousness (9:1-11:36)
5. The Result of Righteousness (12:1-15:13)

Late Work

All written assignments must be turned in according to the dates on the class schedule. All written assignments will be turned in via email as an attachment from a Word Document to the professor's email address on the first page of this syllabus. Any work turned in late will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day it is late. In order to pass the class, all assignments must be turned in.

Course Examinations
The student will be required to take a mid-semester exam and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative. Exams must be taken on the days they are scheduled.

**Course Grading**

The student may work toward 1,000 points for this course. The percentage points will not be rounded up. For example, if the student earn 907 points for the course, the percentage will be 90.7%, which is a "B." The student must earn the next level from B to A, C to B, etc. The point values and percentages break down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Summaries</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
<td>(15%) (30 pts. each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary Paper</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>(10%) (20 pts. each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Attendance & Participation**

Students are expected to be in class for each class session. Missing class will result in a reduction in one's overall grade (5 point reduction per miss). Missing more than 1/4 of class sessions, except for extenuating circumstances, can place the student at risk of failing the course. Three tardies is equal to one absence, so be on time!

If for any reason the student must be absent from class, it is not the professor's responsibility to get the student caught up on notes missed for that class session. The student is responsible to seek out another student to receive the notes missed.

Students are allowed to use computers in class for taking notes only. Using the internet during class is strictly prohibited unless allowed by the professor. A violation of this rule may result in the prohibition of using computers in class.

**Classroom Decorum**

Students need to be prepared for each class session by reading the required text from the commentary and Bible that corresponds to the verses that will be discussed according to the course schedule. The primary mode of instruction will be lectures from the professor. Students are encouraged to ask questions that often result in classroom discussions. All discussions should be civil and the professor reserves the right to terminate any discussions that cease to be fruitful. Students are not allowed to eat snacks while class is in session as this can be a distraction for some students. A fifteen minute break will be given at the mid-point of the class period in which snacks may be consumed.
Articles from *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*

The following are a list of articles that must be read in this course:

1. Abraham, 1-9
2. Center of Paul's Theology, 92-95
3. Conversion and Call of Paul, 156-63
5. Election and Predestination, 225-29
6. Gentiles, 335-39
7. Israel, 441-46
8. Justification, 517-23
9. Law, 529-42
10. Olive Tree, 642-44
11. Righteousness, Righteousness of God, 827-37
12. Romans, Letter to the, 838-50
13. Sin, Guilt, 877-81
14. Wrath, Destruction, 991-93
Course Schedule

Aug. 31    Introduction to Course / Intro to Romans / Romans 1:1-17 (Mounce, p. 1-74)
Sept. 7    Romans 1:18-2:16 (Mounce, p. 75-97)
Sept. 14   Professor's Church in Revival Services with Dr. Mike Smith (NO CLASS)
Sept. 21   Romans 2:18-3:20 (Mounce, p. 97-111)
Sept. 28   Romans 3:21-4:25 (Mounce, p. 113-32) (Summary Paper, Dictionary Articles)
Oct. 5     Romans 5:1-6:23 (Mounce, p. 132-59)
Oct. 12    MID-SEMESTER EXAM (Cherokee County Association)
Oct. 19    Romans 7:1-8:17 (Mounce, p. 159-83)
Oct. 26    Romans 8:18-9:33 (Mounce, p. 184-206) (Section Summaries)
Nov. 2     Romans 10:1-11:36 (Mounce, p. 206-27)
Nov. 9     Romans 12:1-13:14 (Mounce, p. 229-49)
Nov. 16    Romans 14:1-23 (Mounce, p. 249-59) (Research Paper Due)
Nov. 23    Romans 15:1-33 (Mounce, p. 259-71)
Nov. 30    Romans 16:1-27 (Mounce, p. 271-83)
Dec. 7     FINAL EXAM

*This is a tentative schedule and the professor reserves the right to make changes and adjustments at his discretion.

*This class will meet on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00 PM in the Grimsley Building.

*This class will plan to meet on Labor Day (Sept. 7) evening since the professor will be out the next week on Sept. 14 due to revival services at his church.
Course Syllabus Contract

I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that the tests must be taken on the dates they are scheduled.

I understand that all assignments must be turned in to have a chance at a passing grade in the course.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up to allow for a better letter grade in the class.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing class will result in 5 points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade for each class missed. I further understand that three tardies are equal to one absence according to the BMATS catalog.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Printed Name _________________________________

Date ____________ Signature _________________________________