

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 153**  
**PAUL'S EPISTLES**  
**SPRING, 1999**  
**Dr. Gail P.C. Streete**

**CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**

	<p>Thurs., Jan. 14: Introduction: Paul's Multicultural Environment</p>
<p>Tues., Jan. 19: The Paul Chronicles: Read: Acts 9, 13-28; Galatians 1:1-2:10; Philippians 3:4-6</p>	<p>Thurs., Jan. 21: Apocalypse Now and Then: Read: 1 Thessalonians</p>
<p>Tues., Jan. 26: Apocalypse Now and Then: Read: 2 Thessalonians</p>	<p>Thurs., Jan. 28: Letter from an Ephesian Jail: Read: Philemon; Seneca, Letter 47; King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (last two on reserve)</p>

**FEBRUARY**

<p>Tues., Feb. 2: Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Read: Philippians</p>	<p>Thurs., Feb. 4: Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Read: Galatians 1-3</p>
<p>Tues., Feb. 9: Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Read: Galatians 4-6</p>	<p>Thurs., Feb. 11: FIRST TEST</p>
<p>Tues., Feb. 16: The Body of Christ: Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Corinthians 1-6 (in that order)</p>	<p>Thurs., Feb. 18: The Body of Christ: Read: 1 Corinthians 7-11; Streete, "Sex, Spirit, and Control" (on reserve)</p>
<p>Tues., Feb. 23: The Body of Christ: Read: 1 Corinthians 12-16</p>	<p>Thurs., Feb. 25: The Body of Christ: Read: 2 Corinthians 1:1-6:13; 7:2-17; 10- 13</p>

## MARCH

<p>Tues., Mar. 2: Manifesto to Rome: Read: Romans 1-4; Martin, "Heterosexism and the Interpretation of Romans 1:18-32" (on reserve)</p>	<p>Thurs., Mar. 4: Manifesto to Rome: Read: Romans 5-8</p>
<p>Tues., Mar. 9: SPRING RECESS</p>	<p>Thurs., Mar. 11: SPRING RECESS</p>
<p>Tues., Mar. 16: Manifesto to Rome: Read: Romans 9-16</p>	<p>Thurs., Mar. 18: SECOND TEST</p>
<p>Tues., Mar. 23: Paul and His Legacy: Read: Ephesians (all); Colossians (all); "A Prayer of Paul the Apostle" (on reserve)</p>	<p>Thurs., Mar. 25: Paul and His Legacy: Read: Ehrman, "Does the Tradition Miscarry?" (on reserve)</p>
<p>Tues., Mar. 30: Paul and His Legacy: Read: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus; Streete, "Pure Brides, Old Wives, and Little Women" (on reserve)</p>	

**APRIL**

	Thurs., Apr. 1: Passover begins; Maundy Thursday NO CLASS
Tues., Apr. 6: Paul and His Legacy: Read: Acts of Paul and Thecla (on reserve)	Thurs., Apr. 8: Paul and His Legacy: Read: MacDonald, Chapter 1
Tues., Apr. 13: Paul and His Legacy: Read: MacDonald, Chapter 2	Thurs., Apr. 15: Paul and His Legacy: Read: MacDonald, Chapter 3
Tues., Apr. 20: Awards Convocation Paul and His Legacy: Read: MacDonald, Chapter 4  PAPER DUE	Thurs., Apr. 22: Paul and His Legacy: Read: MacDonald, Chapter 5
Tues., Apr. 27: Paul at the Movies: Film: Peter and Paul (Pt. 1)	Thurs., Apr. 29: Paul at the Movies: Film: Peter and Paul (Pt. 2)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE, AND METHOD:**

Paul of Tarsus has been called the "second founder" of Christianity and even its "inventor" because it is his writings that were eventually the most influential in the development of early Christianity. Yet Paul had no intention of being a founder: he was not one of Jesus' original followers, he never uses the word, "Christian," and he customarily divided the world, not into Jews and Christians, but into Jews and "Greeks" (or Gentiles). Very few religious figures were so controversial in their lifetime and so revered after their deaths. Despite his influence, however, Paul was and continues to be understood in ways that are often contradictory.

In this course, we will examine the letters attributed to Paul in the New Testament canon, and his influence upon radically different kinds of Christian groups, all of which claimed to speak with his "authentic" voice. In the course of this study, each reader is invited to do close readings of the letters and related material and to examine varying interpretations to see how Paul continues to speak to different generations.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

New Oxford Annotated Bible (New Revised Standard Version). THIS VERSION ONLY.  
Dennis R. MacDonald, The Legend and the Apostle: The Battle for Paul in Story and Canon (Westminster John Knox, 1983).

Reserve readings as indicated on syllabus.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

This course is reading-intensive. All assigned readings are to be prepared prior to the day for which they are required. You cannot succeed in this course unless you do the readings, even if you think you are already familiar with them. **Attendance and active class participation will account for 20% of your final grade.** (Any more than three absences will affect your grade.)

There will be two in-class tests and a final examination. The in-class tests are on dates shown on the syllabus. The final is scheduled for Wed., May 5, at 1:00 p.m. All tests are to be taken when scheduled. **Each test and the exam is worth 20% of your final grade.**

The final component of your grade is a paper dealing with some topic in Paul's letters, theology, or influence. Topics for the paper, as well as a complete description of the requirements, will be given out well in advance. **The paper will constitute 20% of your final grade.**

## **OFFICE AND OFFICE HOURS:**

Clough 406 (phone: 843-3742; home: 523-2481)

Office hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

E-mail: [gstreete@rhodes.edu](mailto:gstreete@rhodes.edu) ID: GSTREETE

Website: [www.streete.religion.rhodes.edu](http://www.streete.religion.rhodes.edu)

*Please retain this syllabus: it contains important information.*

