Course Schedule

Important: **ALL TIMES EASTERN** - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Course Outline for details

Week	Module	Activities and Assignments	Available/End/Due Dates	Weight (%)
		[Introduce Yourself](#)	**Due** Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Ungraded
Week 1	[Module 01](#): Sources for the Study of Paul	[Discussion Posting #1](#) (Initial Post)	**Due** Friday, September 15, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**3.5%**
		[Discussion Posting #1](#) (Response Post)	**Due** Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
Week 2	[Module 02](#): Greco-Roman and Jewish World			
		Virtual Office Hour: Check-in (Focus: Thesis Statement)	Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 11:00 AM	**1% (Bonus)**
Week 3	[Module 03](#): Paul's Life as Seen in His Letters and in Acts	[Quiz #1](#) (Modules 01-02)	**Available** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM **Ends** Friday, September 29, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Best 4 of 5 quizzes total **20%**
		[Discussion Posting #2](#) (Initial Post)	**Due** Monday, October 2, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**3.5%**
Week 4	[Module 04](#): Paul the Letter Writer: 1 Thessalonians & Philemon	[Discussion Posting #2](#) (Response Post)	**Due** Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
		[Critical Analysis Workshop](#) ⬀		

Reading Week (Saturday, October 7, 2023 to Sunday, October 15, 2023)

		Book Study Assignment (Part 1: Thesis Statement/Outline)	**Due** Monday, October 16, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**5%**
Week 5	Module 05: Galatians: Faith vs. Law?			
		Quiz #2 (Modules 03-04)	**Available** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 8:00 AM **Ends** Friday, October 20, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Best 4 of 5 quizzes total **20%**
Week 6	Module 06: 1 Corinthians: Problems in the Life of a New Congregation	Discussion Posting #3 (Initial Post)	**Due** Monday, October 23, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**3.5%**
		Discussion Posting #3 (Response Post)	**Due** Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
Week 7	Module 07: 2 Corinthians: Paul in Trouble with His Own Movement?	Virtual Office Hour: Check-in (Focus: Book Study Part 2)	Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 11:00 AM	**1% (Bonus)**
		Discussion Posting #4 (Initial Post)	**Due** Monday, November 6, 2023 at 11:55 pm	**3.5%**
Week 8	Module 08: Philippians: Christ and Wisdom — A Study of an Early Hymn	Discussion Posting #4 (Response Post)	**Due** Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
		Quiz #3 (Modules 05-07)	**Available** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 8:00 AM **Ends** Friday, November 10, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Best 4 of 5 quizzes total **20%**
Week 9	Module 09: Romans: A Manifesto of God's Peace and Justice	Book Study Assignment (Part 2: Final Essay)	**Due** Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**15%**
			Available Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 8:00	Best 4 of 5

Week 10	[Module 10](#): Paul After Paul? Pseudepigraphy: 2 Thessalonians and Colossians	[Quiz #4](#) (Modules 08-09)	AM **Ends** Friday, November 24, 2023 at 11:55 PM	quizzes total **20%**
		[Final Assignment](#): Letter of "Paul" (Available in the Dropbox)	**Available** Friday, November 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM	
Week 11	[Module 11](#): Ephesians: "Gathering Up All Things in Christ"	[Discussion Posting #5](#) (Initial Post)	**Due** Monday, November 27, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**3.5%**
		[Discussion Posting #5](#) (Response Post)	**Due** Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
Week 12	[Module 12](#): Introduction to Pastoral Letters and Concluding Assessment of Paul	[Quiz #5](#) (Modules 10-12)	**Available** *Sunday*, December 3, 2023 at 8:00 AM **Ends** *Tuesday*, December 5, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Best 4 of 5 quizzes total **20%**
		Virtual Office Hour: Check-in (Focus: Final Assignment)	Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 11:00 AM	**1% (Bonus)**
		[Book Study Assignment](#) (Bonus Option Opportunity)	**Due** Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**4% (Bonus)**
Week 13		[Discussion Posting #6](#) (Initial Post)	**Due** Monday, December 11, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**3.5%**
		[Discussion Posting #6](#) (Response Post)	**Due** Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**1.5%**
		[Final Assignment](#): Letter of "Paul"	**Due** Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 11:55 PM	**30%**

There is no final examination for this course

Contact Information

Announcements

You are expected to check **Announcements** on the **Course Home** page on a regular basis. To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

Discussions

Discussion topics can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above. A General Discussion topic has been made available to allow you to communicate with your peers in this course. Your instructor may drop in at this discussion topic.

Contact Us

Who and Why	Contact Details
Instructor and TA • Course-related questions (e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.) • Questions of a personal nature	**Post your course-related questions** to the Ask the Instructor discussion topic. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well. **Questions of a personal nature** can be directed to your instructor. Your instructor checks email and the Ask the Instructor discussion topic frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday. learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca
Technical Support, Centre for Extended Learning • Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN	Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number. Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time). IST Knowledge Base: For Students Student Resources
Learner Support Services, Centre for Extended Learning • General inquiries • Examination information	extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Course Description

There are several major components of the course. First, the course will deal with some background material on the formation of biblical documents. This will help you, whether or not you have had an introductory course in New Testament in the past, to get on board with the assumptions behind many of the questions raised and conclusions drawn in the course of study. Second, we will then deal with the nature of the sources for Paul's life and thought, and, third, glean from those sources what information we can about Paul and his life. The fourth component is really a number of in-depth studies of the letters that bear his name. That will make up the bulk of the course. In the process you will learn to see them as real correspondence from the very first decades of what became Christianity, reflecting the dynamics of life in the ancient Greco-Roman Mediterranean world. Paul's ideas will be discussed within the context of his letters, rather than as a systematic body of thought or theology. It will become quite apparent why that is important. At the conclusion of the course, I will briefly address two of the most popularly contentious issues in relation to Paul, namely, his views on homosexuality and the status of women. In particular, the issue of the status and role of women will give you an excellent opportunity to test your learnings, to try out your skills as biblical scholars and interpreters.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of this course are as follows:

- The first and most important objective of this course is, obviously, to learn about the important figure of antiquity who continues to have an enormous impact on our present time—Paul the Apostle.
- The second objective is to learn to read and analyze the relevant New Testament documents as historical sources of information both on Paul's life and his thought.
- The third objective is to pay particular attention to what it meant for Paul as a Jew to have a mission to non-Jews, and what effect that had on his thought, his hopes, and also his troubled relationship with fellow Jews.
- The fourth objective is to keep in mind throughout what it meant for Paul to work, preach, teach, and form communities within the context of Roman imperial reality.
- The fifth objective is a bit fuzzy, since it is one you yourself will shape in a wide variety of ways, given that you as students have very different kinds of religious investment (or perhaps none at all) in this subject matter. I very much hope that this study will nudge you to "go deep" in wrestling with the implications of Paul's thought—whatever that might mean for you personally.

This online course was developed by Thomas R. Yoder Neufeld and revised by Amanda Witmer, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning.

About the Course Instructor and Author

Course Instructor — Amanda Witmer

My name is Amanda Witmer and I will be your course instructor, marker, and contact person for this course. I am a historian of religion, with a focus on the first century and the historical Jesus. My background in this area includes a Master of Theological Studies degree from Conrad Grebel University College, an MA in Religion and Culture from Wilfrid Laurier University and a PhD from McMaster University in Early Christianity and Judaism. My specific area of interest is the historical Jesus and my dissertation was on the topic of situating Jesus' exorcisms and his role as exorcist within the larger first-century socio-political context. I am also very interested in the social history of the first century. My book, *Jesus, the Galilean Exorcist: His Exorcisms in Social and Political Context*, was published in 2012 by T & T Clark. I look forward to meeting you all online and to our interactions.

I wish you all well in the course and feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you might have. As I don't have an office on campus, I have no telephone access, so we will be communicating primarily via email.

Course Author — Thomas R. Yoder Neufeld

Please note that the course author has retired and is not involved in the ongoing delivery and administration of this course. Communication regarding course content should be addressed to the instructor.

Tom Yoder Neufeld taught at Conrad Grebel College at the University of Waterloo since 1983. He was a member of the Religious Studies Department of the University of Waterloo, and also served as chair of the department. Conrad Grebel College is one of four church-related colleges on the campus of the university. CGC is a Mennonite college, and presently furnishes the Religious Studies Department with two professors. Mennonites originated in Europe during the Reformation period of the Sixteenth Century. The Bible, and particularly the teachings of Jesus, have always held a position of high respect in the Mennonite community.

His education began in Europe. He graduated with an Honours BA in History at the University of Manitoba in 1970, and then with a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard University Divinity School in 1973, from which he also received a Doctor of Theology degree in New Testament and Christian Origins in 1989. His dissertation, *Put on the Armour of God! The Divine Warrior from Isaiah to Ephesians*, was published in 1997 by Sheffield Academic Press. In 2002 he published a commentary on the Letter to the Ephesians (*Ephesians*; Believers Church Bible Commentary; Scottdale, PA/Waterloo, ON: Herald Press).

Materials and Resources

Textbooks

1. *The New Testament*

There are many Bible translations. Many students will already be in possession of a Bible. They all translate the same original Hebrew and Greek (Greek for the New Testament). You may use any of the following (listed alphabetically, not in order of priority or quality of translation):

- *Good News Bible* (GNB, also known as *Today's English Version* [TEV])
- *Net Bible* (available free online or in printed format)
- *New American Bible* (NAB)
- *New American Standard Bible* (NASB) or the older *American Standard Version* (ASV)
- *New International Version* (NIV), or the recent *Today's New International Version* (TNIV)
- *New Jerusalem Bible* (NJB) or the older *Jerusalem Bible* (JB)
- *New King James Version* (NKJV) or the venerable *Authorized or King James Version* (AV or KJV)
- *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV) or the older *Revised Standard Version* (RSV); see also the recent revision of the RSV called the *English Standard Version* (ESV)
- *Revised English Bible* (REB) or the older *New English Bible* (NEB)

Note #1: Paraphrases such as *The Living Bibl*e (and *New Living Bible*) or *The Message* are not suitable for this course.

Note #2: Students who are very familiar with the Bible and are used to reading it always in a particular translation may wish to choose a different one in order to catch a fresh glimpse of a particular passage (see next note for info on access to alternative translations on the web).

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [W Store | Course Materials + Supplies](#) .

For your convenience, you can compile a list of required and optional course materials through [BookLook](#) using your Quest userID and password. If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519-888-4673 or toll-free at +1 866-330-7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

Additional Online Resources

The Internet allows easy access to various translations of the New Testament. One portal is the [New Testament Gateway](#) . Check there under Bible Translations and many other valuable resources. For numerous versions of the Bible available online see [Online Translations of the Bible](#) Check also at [BibleGateway](#) .

The following Study Bibles of the NRSV are all recommended and available from online bookstores (check with UWaterloo bookstore on which ones it carries):

- *The HarperCollins Study Bible: Fully Revised & Updated* (New Revised Standard Version), HarperCollins, 2006.
- *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha,* Abingdon, 2003.
- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha (New Revised Standard Version)*, Augmented Third Edition, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Resources

- Library services for [Co-op students on work term and Extended Learning students](#) ⬀

Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

Activities and Assignments	Weight
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Discussion Postings (6 at 5% each)	30%
Quizzes (Best 4 of 5 at 5% each)	20%
Book Study Assignment • Part 1: Thesis Statement/Outline (5%) • Part 2: Final Essay (15%) • Bonus Option (maximum of 4% bonus mark)	20%
Final Assignment: Letter of "Paul"	30%
Bonus Option: Virtual Check-in Participation • Bonus 1% each x 3	Maximum of 3% bonus mark

There is no final examination for this course.

Official Grades

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest 🔗.

Course Policies

Turnitin®

Refer to the [University Policies](#) page for information regarding Turnitin®.

Late Written Assignments

There are sometimes exceptional circumstances in which students are unable to get their written assignments in by the due date (illness, emergencies, etc.). If you anticipate a problem, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. If no arrangements have been made, a late penalty of 5% per day will normally be applied up to a maximum of 15%. The late penalty for papers submitted more than 10 days late, and for which no extension or arrangements have been made, will be determined by the instructor, but will be no less than 20%. No assignments will be accepted after two weeks late except with prior permission from the instructor.

Late Discussion Postings

Both the initial post and the follow up post must be posted by one week from the due date to receive partial credit. Partial credit will be given for late postings up to one week past the due date. Late postings will receive a 50% deduction (3.5% becomes 1.75%, and 1.5% becomes 0.75%). This does not include any deductions for quality.

Plagiarism and the Use of AI (ChatGPT)

The very nature of the assignments makes plagiarism less of a temptation than it otherwise might be. As you know, there is hardly a more serious academic sin. University of Waterloo's policy is clear. Plagiarism is

> *The act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. The use of other people's ideas or words must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This applies to all written materials such as essays, laboratory reports, work term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without acknowledgement, however, is contrary to accepted norms of academic behaviour.*

If plagiarism is discovered it will lead to a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university. I am obligated to make this clear to you, and to report infractions to the Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Affairs.

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as critical thinking and analysis, developing and practicing writing skills and the ability to synthesize and incorporate information from biblical texts. Therefore, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of [Policy 71](#) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage ([ICAI](#), n.d.).

 You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted,

you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- Student Success Office for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- Writing and Communication Centre for assignments with writing or presentations
- AccessAbility Services for documented accommodations
- Library for research-based assignments

Using AI tools, ChatGPT, or similar tools that generate text, code, or visual images for content generation and submitting it as one's own original work is a violation of the University of Waterloo's Policy 71 (Student Discipline)

University Policies

Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the Ontario, Canada Time Converter .

Short-Term Absences

Review the University of Waterloo's Accommodations policy for more details.

Additionally, undergraduate students have the option to self-declare a short-term absence during the formal lecture period by following the Undergraduate student short-term absences process outlined by the Registrar's Office.

Please follow the instructions above and contact your instructor for applicable accommodations.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** Undergraduate students should see the Undergraduate Academic Integrity Module and graduate students should see the Graduate Academic Integrity Module website.

Proper citations are part of academic integrity. Citations in CEL course materials usually follow CEL style, which is based on APA style. Your course may follow a different style. If you are uncertain which style to use for an assignment, please confirm with your instructor or TA.

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the Office of Academic Integrity .

Turnitin

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

Turnitin® at Waterloo

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline, may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Final Grades

In accordance with Policy 46 - Information Management , Appendix A - Access to and Release of Student Information, the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to Quest to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo LEARN are unofficial.

AccessAbility Services

AccessAbility Services , located in Needles Hall, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

Accessibility Statement

The Centre for Extended Learning strives to meet the needs of all our online learners. Our ongoing efforts to become aligned with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) are guided by University of Waterloo accessibility Legislation and policy and the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 . The majority of our online courses are currently delivered via the Desire2Learn Learning Environment. Learn more about Accessibility at D2L .

Use of Computing and Network Resources

Please see the Guidelines on Use of Waterloo Computing and Network Resources .

Copyright Information

UWaterloo's Web Pages

All rights, including copyright, images, slides, audio, and video components, of the content of this course are owned by the course author and the University of Waterloo, unless otherwise stated. By accessing this course, you agree that you may only download the content for your own personal, non-commercial use. You are not permitted to copy, broadcast, download, store (in any medium), transmit, show or play in public, adapt, or change in any way the content of these web pages for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of the course author and the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning.

Other Sources

University of Waterloo

Credits and Copyright (/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=930170&type=content&rcode=uWaterloo-2813419)