

NT5105 Exegesis of Romans

Course Syllabus

(revised 2020-02-24)

1. Course Description

This course is an exegetical-theological study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans in the Greek text. It involves the treatment of selected historical, grammatical, structural, and lexical data which elucidate the meaning of this important New Testament document. Special emphasis will be given to the theological themes and overall argument of the Epistle.

2. Course Objectives

2.1. Cognitive. Upon completion of this course, the diligent student should:

- Know the literary structure, theme, and message (argument) of Romans as a whole.
- Know the main historical, exegetical, and theological issues in Romans along with proposed solutions to these problems.

2.2. Conative. Upon completion of this course, the diligent student should be able:

- To translate and analyze grammatically the Greek text of Romans.
- To do competent exegesis in the Greek text of Romans in light of its historical, literary, and theological components in preparation for expository preaching and teaching.
- To analyze selected exegetical and theological problems in Romans and formulate exegetically defensible solutions.

2.3 Affective. Upon completion of this course, the diligent student should:

- Value the message of Romans for orthodox Christian faith.
- Desire to glorify God in preaching and teaching Romans showing its relevance to life experience.

2.4 Rationale. The exegetical-theological study of Romans is the capstone required course in the New Testament Studies department. It builds on and enhances the student's skills in doing accurate exegetical work in the Greek New Testament as a foundation for effective exposition and application in Christian ministry.

3. Course Textbooks

3.1 Required

Each student is required to purchase one of the following commentaries:

Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Epistle to the Romans*, 2 vols. International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1975–79.

If you already own Cranfield, you are encouraged to purchase one of the other commentaries as well.

Dunn, James D. G. *Romans 1–8 and Romans 9–16*. Word Biblical Commentary 38A–38B. Dallas: Word, 1988.

Jewett, Robert assisted by Roy Kotansky. *Romans: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.

Moo, Douglas J. *The Epistle to the Romans*. 2nd ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Romans*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament 6. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

3.2 Suggested

For translation, besides any grammars and BDAG, the student may use the following tool:

Burer, Michael, and Jeffrey Miller. *A New Reader's Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008.

For the theological paper, the following are suggested texts:

Alexander, Donald L., ed. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988.

Beilby, James K., et al., eds. *Justification: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Dieter, Melvin E., et al. *Five Views on Sanctification*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. [by Donald Hagner] Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

3.3 Supplementary Bibliography

No other textbooks are required. However, the student must own or have access to the standard resource tools needed for doing exegesis in the Greek text. Several commentaries and other reference works are on reserve or in the reference section of the library for your use. For the basic tools of exegesis, see especially Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*, Rev. and exp. ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013). Consult Cranfield (1975-79), Dunn (1988), Fitzmyer (1993), Moo (1996), Schreiner (1998), and Jewett (2006) for a discussion of commentaries and the history of exegesis. See each section of Käsemann's *Commentary on Romans* for a review of literature. Take advantage of the electronic databases on the DTS library website, especially the [ATLA](#) databases. For additional helpful resources, see the separate annotated bibliography "Helpful Resources" (in the course files).

4. Course Requirements

4.1 Translation Assignments (Daily Readings)

The student is required to read the Greek text of Romans two times as assigned, reporting these readings in the online education portal for the course.

First Reading: You are to read the assigned passages from the Greek text as listed in the assignment schedule. Since this is a "study" translation, you may use any of the available Greek translation aids

except an interlinear and/or an English translation including translations in commentaries. Following the completion of this translation, you may check with an English translation.

Second Reading: You are to reread the assigned passages from the Greek text after it is discussed in class as listed in the assignment schedule. Since this is a “second reading” translation, you must use a lexicon only, whether BDAG, Burer-Miller, or similar reader’s New Testament tool. All other translation aids are forbidden for this reading.

In order to get full credit for these two readings, you must complete them (as described above) by Friday of finals week at noon. It is best to do the first reading before the class period in which the passages will be covered and the second reading weekly for maximum benefit.

Credit for the readings will be awarded on the basis of your faithfulness in completing them as assigned on time. Partial credit for partial completion will not be given.

4.2 Written Assignments

4.2.1. Two exegetical papers

Each student is required to write **an exegetical commentary of 6,000–8,000 words** on two assigned passages in Romans of approximately 5–10 verses each. The passage and due date for each paper will be assigned by the professor.

These commentaries should follow the format of the exegetical papers you did for NT5104. A separate handout entitled “Instructions for the NT5105 Exegetical Papers” modifies the parameters of the study slightly, especially in terms of length. Please follow the instructions carefully.

These papers focus on the various skills associated with exegesis from the Greek text and your ability to organize and express the results of your work in English in a clear and coherent manner.

The evaluation of your exegetical commentary will focus on its exegetically derived substance, accuracy of interpretation (how well you handle the various interpretative problems), and clarity of presentation (how well you state and support your understanding of Paul’s meaning). Make sure to proofread your paper carefully before submitting it.

4.2.2. One theological paper

Each student is required to write *one* theological paper of **not more than 5500 words** (including footnotes but not counting the bibliography) on the doctrine of sanctification or salvation.

The *style* of this paper is to be written in good English composition with documentation in footnotes. Use Turabian, 9th ed. and the DTS supplement available at the DTS Library web page]. Further guidelines will be given in class. Please proofread the paper carefully.

The *purpose* of this paper is to articulate some aspect of Paul’s doctrine of sanctification/salvation on the basis of exegesis in Romans. The paper should include both the objective (theological) and the subjective (ethical) side of this subject.

The *evaluation* of this paper will be on how well you handle the subject theologically. **The paper will be due by Friday of exam week.**

Agape Project option: as a substitute for the theological paper you may choose to engage in an Agape Project instead. See details below.

Any late paper will have a 5% grade reduction per calendar day (including weekends and holidays) of lateness until a maximum of 50% grade reduction is reached. You are responsible to get the rough draft of your work to your typist in plenty of time to avoid being late. Also, allow time for computer glitches. If a paper is late, please put the date and time it was submitted on the front of the paper and submit it to the NT administrative assistant.

4.2.3. Quizzes

There will be eight written quizzes given during the semester. Each quiz will involve the translation of verses and the parsing of verb forms from verses selected from the passages designated on the assignment schedule plus a paradigm from an omega verb based on the verb chart.

The two lowest or missing quiz grades will be dropped from the grade computation. This includes absences and cuts. There will be no make-up quizzes except for illness or emergency situations as approved by the professor.

NO exams will be given in the course.

4.2.4 Agape Project Option

Instead of writing the theological paper (see above), you may choose to engage in an Agape Project to fulfill that portion of the course requirement. If you choose this option, you must fulfill the requirements listed below.

Commit yourself early in the semester to serving with one of the organizations listed by the Seminary's Agape Project office. (For more information, please check with your professor or the Associate Director of the Agape Project: Aaron Switzer at aswitzer@dts.edu.) If you prefer to design your own project, it must be approved by your NT5105 professor. You will be expected to serve regularly over the semester engaging directly with people on the fringes of society (homeless, elderly, refugees, etc.). Your service with them should total about 15 hours spread out as evenly as possible across the semester. By the end of the second week of the semester you must affirm (via email to your professor) your commitment to a specific ministry site.

As you go through the semester, take some time to reflect on the following themes and passages from Paul's letters based on your personal experience of engaging with people in your Agape Project. Weekly or twice-monthly journal entries will enhance your reflection on what you are learning across the semester.

- Human brokenness because of sin and the transforming power of the gospel (Rom 1:16-17; 1:18-32; 3:9-20; 2 Cor 4:1-6; Eph 2:1-10; 1 Thess 1:2-10).
- God's call for Christians to mirror his compassion by loving service to others (Rom 12:9-21; 1 Cor 13:1-13; Gal 5:13-14; 6:9-10; Eph 4:32-5:2; Phil 2:1-11; Titus 3:1-6).
- Our need to depend on God in view of our inadequacy in ourselves for what Christian ministry requires (1 Cor 2:1-5; 2 Cor 1:3-11; 3:4-11; 4:7-18; 12:7-10; Eph 3:14-21; 2 Tim 2:1-2).

At the end of your time of serving, choose one of these themes and write a three-page reflection paper (double-spaced; no footnotes or bibliography needed) describing what you have learned about that theme through this process of service and reflection over the semester. At the start of your paper briefly describe the setting where you served, your normal activities there, and the frequency of your involvement and total time you invested. Provide specific reflections on key points from Paul's letters and how your

service has deepened your understanding of the theological and biblical theme you have chosen. Include what you have learned about your own strengths and weaknesses in relation to providing compassionate service to others and how you have grown in your personal appreciation of the need for compassionate service. As much as possible, relate how your specific experiences with people and situations arising from your service over the semester have contributed to your learning and growth.

Your reflection paper must be submitted to the NT office by Friday of exam week. Include a title page giving your name, your professor's name, and your file number.

5. Course Supplemental Information

5.1. Students with Disabilities or Medical Incidents

Dallas Theological Seminary works to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with psychological, medical, physical, and learning disabilities. A student desiring or needing accommodations on the basis of such disabilities or of medical incidents such as hospitalization or severe injury is to contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (<https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/disability-services/>). If the student is aware of a condition that may impact his/her studies, the student should contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at prior to the beginning of the semester or at the onset of a crisis.

5.2. Receive Weather and Emergency Alerts by Text Message

DTS wants you to be aware of our emergency texting service. We strongly urge you to go to <https://www.dts.edu/account/alerts/> and sign up to receive emergency texts related to weather or disaster school closing.

6. Course Policies

6.1. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

The following letter/number scale from the *Student Handbook* (§1.15.2; see <https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/handbook/>) will be used in evaluating papers in the course:

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

6.2. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Percentage breakdown:

- Translation assignments (daily readings) 20%
- The quizzes 20%
- The exegetical papers (two of equal value) 40%
- The theological paper or Agape Project 20%

6.3. Class Participation

The student should be prepared to discuss exegetical points discussed in class. There will be no grade assessed regarding class participation.

6.4. Late Assignments

NO extensions will be granted for this course except in unusual circumstances beyond the student's control as approved by the professor.

6.5. Absences

There is no attendance policy.

7. Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule

Date	Cls	Lecture Topic	Assignments Due
26-Aug	1	Introduction to the Course; Introduction to Romans	[None]
	2	Romans 1:1-17	
2-Sep	3	Romans 1:18-32	
	4	Romans 2:1-16	Quiz 1: Translation and parsing from Rom 2:1-16 only.
9-Sep	5	Romans 2:17-3:8	
	6	Romans 3:9-20	Quiz 2: Translation and parsing from Rom 2:17-3:20 only.
16-Sep	7	Romans 3:21-31	
	8	Romans 4:1-25	
23-Sep	9	Romans 5:1-11	
	10	Romans 5:12-21	
30-Sep	11	Review and Discussion	Quiz 3: Translation and parsing from Rom 5:1-21 only
	12	Romans 6:1-11	
7-Oct	13	Romans 6:12-23	
	14	Romans 7:1-12	Quiz 4: Translation and parsing from Rom 6:1-7:12 only
14-Oct	15	Romans 7:13-25	
	16	Romans 8:1-17	
21-Oct	17	Romans 8:18-39	Quiz 5: Translation and parsing from Rom 8:1-39 only
	18	Review and Discussion	Theological Paper on SANCTIFICATION Due
28-Oct	19	Romans 9:1-13	
	20	Romans 9:14-29	Quiz 6: Translation and parsing from Rom 9:1-29 only
4-Nov	21	Romans 9:30-10:21	
	22	Romans 11:1-16	
11-Nov	23	Romans 11:17-36	
	24	Romans 12:1-21	Quiz 7: Translation and parsing from Rom 12:1-21 only
16-20 Nov		Reading Week	No Class
23-27 Nov		Thanksgiving Break	No Class
2-Dec	25	Romans 13:1-14	
	26	Romans 14:1-23	Quiz 8: Translation and parsing from Rom 14:1-23 only.
	27	Romans 15:1-13	
9-Dec	28	Romans 15:14-16:27	