

# Course Syllabus WYB3702/6702: New Testament Greek Exegesis: Romans Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology Winter 2025

## **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Stephen Chester, PhD.

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#### **Course Identification**

Course Number: 3000/6000 level

Course Format: In-class

Course Name: New Testament Greek Exegesis: Romans

Course Location: St George Campus, Wycliffe College (5 Hoskin Avenue), room TBD

Class Times: Mondays, 2-5pm

Prerequisites: 3000 Level: WYB1513YY L0101 – Elementary New Testament Greek is required.

WYB2521HF – Intermediate Hellenistic Greek I is desirable. Those who have not taken WYB2521HF should discuss the class with Prof Chester before registering. 6000 Level: Students in biblical studies demonstrate their capacity in Greek through the entry requirements of their programs. Others must have at least two semesters of Greek in a previous program and should discuss the class with Prof

Chester before registering.

## **Course Description**

The class will develop further the exegetical skills of students through engagement with the Greek text of a New Testament book. By means of close reading of the text students will grow in their capacity to use Greek when interpreting the New Testament. Attention will be paid to textual criticism, translation issues, New Testament Greek syntax, and issues of historical, cultural, literary and theological context. The class will build students' ability to offer critically informed accounts of the meaning of New Testament texts in their first-century contexts, and increase students' understanding of the theological message of individual New Testament books and their contemporary implications.

#### **Course Resources**

#### Required Course Texts

 The United Bible Societies, The Greek New Testament – Fifth Revised Edition (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2014) OR Nestle-Aland, Novum Testamentum Graece, 28<sup>th</sup> rev. edition, (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012).

- A Greek lexicon. **One** of the following:
  - BDAG (Bauer-Danker-Arndt-Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition [Chicago: University Press, 2001])
  - LSJ (H.G. Liddell, R. Scott. H.S. Jones [eds.], Greek-English Lexicon: with a revised supplement, 9<sup>th</sup> edition [Oxford, Clarendon, 1940] [all printings from 1968 contain the supplement]), or LSJ Intermediate Greek Lexicon (not as extensive but helpful for tracing roots and word groups)
  - BrillDag [GE] (F. Montanari [ed.], The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek, 1<sup>st</sup> English edition, second printing with corrections [Boston: Brill, 2018])
- A commentary on Romans, of your choice. Please see the bibliography for choices.

# Optional and useful:

- Metzger, Bruce. A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994.
- Wallace, D., Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- An introduction to Romans. Please see the bibliography for choices.

#### Course Website(s)

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/">https://q.utoronto.ca/</a> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <a href="https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701">https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701</a>. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should contact the registrar's office for further help.

# Course Methodology

Seminar-style translation and exegesis of texts, readings, quizzes, exam, exegetical paper.

# **Course Learning Outcomes**

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	
By the end of this course, students will be able to:	This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statement of outcomes (MTS, MDiv):	
translate and analyze the text of Romans, making use of lexicons, grammars, and other available tools;	Translation, seminar discussion, exam, exegesis paper	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.2 MA: 1 PhD: 1.1 ThM: 2.2	

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
assess the validity of translations	Translation, seminar discussion,	MTS: 1.1
and the exegesis of Romans offered in English Bibles,	exam, exegesis paper	<b>MDiv:</b> 1.2, 2.1, 2.2
commentaries, and other		MA: 1
scholarly literature;		PhD: 1.1
		<b>ThM:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 2.5
formulate their own critically informed exegesis of texts from	Exam, exegesis paper	MTS: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2
Romans		<b>MDiv:</b> 1.2, 2.1, 2.2
		MA: 2, 3, 5
		<b>PhD:</b> 2, 5
		ThM: 2.3, 2.5
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	Exegesis paper	
Evaluate the significance of	Liegesis paper	MTS: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2
issues raised by Romans for contemporary ministry and		<b>MDiv:</b> 1.1, 2.1, 2.2
mission.		MA: 2, 4
		<b>PhD:</b> 5
		ThM: 2.2, 2.5

Evaluation: 3000 Level

# Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in the following areas:

10% Participation

40% Mid-term Exam

**50%** Exegesis Paper or Final Exam

- 1. Attendance at class and active participation in seminar discussion. It is expected that students will attend every class. If there is an urgent reason why students cannot be in attendance, they must contact the instructor to explain. The class participation grade is worth a significant amount of the final grade and will be allotted on the basis of class attendance and participation in seminar discussion, as well as facility in Greek reading.
- 2. Mid-Term Exam. Students will be asked to parse, to translate, and to write short exegeses of passages from Romans studied in the first half of the semester. The exam will take place on Monday February 10, 2pm-3.30pm.
- 3. Exegesis Paper. Basic Degree students will prepare an exegesis (2500-3000 words) of a Greek text from Romans. Students will choose a text that interests them in consultation with the professor. The paper will include students' own translation of the text into English and will attend to any text critical issues, to issues of context, and to issues of application. Students should have a bibliography of at least eight items, including a minimum of four exegetical commentaries. The paper is due on Monday April 7.

**Evaluation:** 6000 Level

#### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in the following areas:

**10%** Participation **40%** Mid-Term Exam **50%** Exegesis Paper

- 1. Attendance at class and active participation in seminar discussion. It is expected that students will attend every class. If there is an urgent reason why students cannot be in attendance, they must contact the professor to explain. The class participation grade is worth a significant amount of the final grade and will be allotted on the basis of class attendance and participation in seminar discussion, as well as facility in reading the Greek text.
- 2. Mid-Term Exam. Students will be asked to parse, to translate, and to write short exegeses of passages from Romans studied in the first half of the semester. The exam will take place on Monday February 10, 2pm-3.30pm.
- 3. Exegesis Paper. Students will prepare an exegesis (4000-4500 words) of a Greek text from Romans. The choice of text is to be agreed with the instructor. The paper will include students' own translation of the text into English and will attend to any text critical issues, to issues of context, and to issues of application. Students should have a bibliography of at least twelve items, including a minimum of six exegetical commentaries. Particular emphasis will be placed upon appropriate critical interaction with scholarly perspectives. The paper is due on Monday April 7.

# **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

#### **Grading System - Graduate Degree Students**

5000, 6000 and 7000 level courses use the following alpha grading scale:

A+	(90-100)	Profound & creative
Α	(85-89)	Outstanding
A-	(80-84)	Excellent
B+	(77-79)	Very Good
В	(73-76)	Good
B-	(70-72)	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level
FZ	(0-69)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

#### Policy on Assignment and Course Extensions

Assignment Extension (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. Under exceptional circumstances a student may request a short extension to be determined with the instructor. Instructors are not obliged to approve a request for an extension or accept papers that are late where no extension has been requested. If the instructor chooses to accept an assignment, where an extension has not been requested and approved before the due date, then for that assignment one percentage point per late day will be deducted. The final deadline for the submission of assignments is the date set by the instructor in the syllabus, the examination day scheduled for the course, or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner. If the student fails to submit the assignment by the agreed deadline a mark of zero will be calculated for the assignment.

**Policy on Course Extension (BD)** Students with documented medical difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) who are unable to submit their work by the end of the term must talk with their instructor and request a course extension. The deadline for obtaining a course extension is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. The course extension, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline, with an absolute deadline of the last day of the examination week within the twelfth month following the end of the course. (The course extension must also be approved by the Basic Degree Director and confirmed by the Registrar.) Under extraordinary situations a student may request an extension on the initial extension. To do this, students must complete a second course extension form, include sufficient documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter) and receive the approval of both the instructor and the BD director.

An approved course extension will appear on the student's record as an SDF. If the student completes coursework before the new deadline approved by the professor and the student's college, the grade SDF will be changed to a letter and number grade. If the student does not complete the work by the deadline set by the professor and no further extension is granted, the professor will assign a zero for the unsubmitted work and submit a final grade (numerical or letter, including FZ) or, if the student successfully petitions for one, a permanent incomplete (INC). For late papers (with or without a course extension) students will receive a grade but minimal comments.

The form used to apply for an extension (Basic Degree Request for Extension) can be found at https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/sites/default/files/SDF%20form%20%28fillable%29.pdf

Late work (Graduate). The prima facie deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken. Students are expected to meet the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college Graduate Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college Graduate Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST on its website. See Section 7.11 of the Conjoint Graduate Degree Handbook.

**Course grades**. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <a href="https://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf">www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf</a>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

#### **Additional Policies**

**Attendance:** Missing 2 or more weeks of class meetings without prior authorization and/or medical documentation will be cause for a failing grade in the course as per 11.4.3 in the Basic Degree handbook.

**Accessibility**. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <a href="http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/">http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/</a>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism**. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <a href="http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks">http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks</a> and the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <a href="http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871">http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871</a>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges <a href="https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/">https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/</a>

**Other academic offences**. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <a href="http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm">http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm</a>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of all papers before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at <a href="https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca">www.utorid.utoronto.ca</a>. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor**. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address*. Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

**Course Evaluations.** At the end of the course students are expected to complete a course evaluation. The evaluation is done online, and instructions will be contained in an e-mal message that will be sent out by the Wycliffe College registrar.

#### **Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Translation	Assessments	Commentaries
1	Monday January 6	Romans 1:1-7		Students are
2	Monday January 13	Romans 1:8-17		expected to
3	Monday January 20	Romans 3:19-26		supplement the
4	Monday January 27	Romans 4:1-12		commentary
5	Monday February 3	Romans 4:13-25		they buy (see
6	Monday February 10	Romans 5:1-11	Mid-Term Exam: 2-3.30pm on February 10.	required texts) by also using a different historical-critical commentary and a different
7	Reading Week: No Class			
8	Monday February 24	Romans 5:12-21		
9	Monday March 3	Romans 6:1-11		item from the
10	Monday March 10	Romans 6:12-19		history of reception in their class preparation each week.  In the first two weeks of the semester
11	Monday March 17	Romans 6:20 – 7:6		
12	Monday March 24	Romans 7:7-13		
13	Monday March 31	Romans 7:14-25	Exegesis Papers (3000 and 6000 level) due April 7.	

		students are
		expected to read
		the discussion of
		the Greek text of
		Romans in
		Westerholm
		(see
		bibliography),
		part 1.

**Note:** There will be two additional one-hour seminars for 6000 level students at a mutually convenient time to discuss the relevance of the Greek exegesis of specific texts to different approaches to the interpretation of Romans:

1. Romans within Judaism: Rom 2:17

2. Romans and Protestant Identity: Rom 4:5

#### **Bibliography**

The available literature on Romans is vast. In the section "Other Literature" I have attempted to be deliberately eclectic, including items that represent diverse and often radically incommensurate approaches to interpreting Romans.

#### **Historical-Critical Commentaries on the Greek Text**

Cranfield, C.E.B. The Epistle to the Romans (ICC, rev.). 2 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. 1975–79.

Dunn, J.D.G. Romans (WBC). 2 vols. Dallas: Word, 1988.

Fitzmyer, J.A. Romans (AB). New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Gaventa, B.R. (NTL). Romans: A Commentary. Louisville: WJKP, 2024.

Jewett, R. Romans (Hermeneia). Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.

Käsemann, E. Romans. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Longenecker, R. The Epistle to the Romans (NITGC). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Moo, D.J. The Epistle to the Romans (NJCNT, rev.). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018. Second edition.

Sanday, W. and Headlam, A.C. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans (ICC). Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1896.

Schreiner, T. R. Romans (BECNT). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018. Second edition.

Thielman, Frank. Romans (ECNT). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

Note: The commentaries by Fitzmyer and Jewett contain particularly impressive bibliographies.

# The Text of Romans

Porter, Stanley. *Romans: A Handbook on the Greek Text.* Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2023. Westerholm, Stephen. *Romans: Text, Readers, and the History of Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022.

#### **Introductions to Romans**

Blackwell, Ben C., John K. Goodrich, and Jason Maston, eds. *Reading Romans in Context: Paul and Second Temple Judaism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

- Donfried, Karl P. ed. The Romans Debate. Revised and expanded edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Gaventa, Beverly R. When in Romans: An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Grieb, Katherine A. *The Story of Romans: A Narrative Defense of God's Righteousness.* Louisville: WJKP, 2002.
- Haacker, Klaus. *The Theology of Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Longenecker, Richard N. *Introducing Romans: Critical Issues in Paul's Most Famous Letter.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Discovering Romans: Content, Interpretation, Reception.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Westerholm, Stephen. *Romans: Text, Readers, and the History of Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022.

# **History of Reception: Individual Commentaries**

- Abelard, Peter. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. Fathers of the Church, medieval continuation, v.12. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2011.
- Ambrosiaster. *Ambrosiaster's Commentary on the Pauline Epistles: Romans.* Translated by Theodore De Bruyn. Atlanta: SBL, 2017.
- Aquinas, Thomas. *Commentary on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans*. Lander, Wyoming: Emmaus Academic, 2012.
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- Bengel, J.A. Gnomon of the New Testament. Vol. 2. Translated by A.R. Fausset. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1873.
- Calvin, John. *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Romans and to the Thessalonians*. Translated by R. Mackenzie, edited by D.W. and T.F. Torrance. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961.
- Chrysostom, John. *Homilies on the Epistle to the Romans*, trans. J.B. Morris and W.H. Simcox, rev. George B. Stevens, in vol. 11 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, Series 1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975 (1889).
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- Locke, John. A Paraphrase and Notes on the Epistles of St. Paul to the Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- Luther, Martin. *Lectures on Romans: Glosses and Scholia*. Luther's Works Vol. 25. Edited by H.C. Oswald. St Louis: Concordia, 1972.
- Origen. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans.* 2 vols. Fathers of the Church, vs. 103, 104. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2001-2002.
- Pelagius. Pelagius' Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

# **History of Reception: Series of Primary Sources**

- Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Edited by Thomas Oden. Volume VI on Romans. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1998.
- The Church's Bible. Edited by Robert Louis Wilken. Volume on Romans (J. Patout Burns Jr). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

- The Bible in Medieval Tradition. Volume on Romans (Philip Krey, I. Christopher Levy, Thomas Ryan) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.
- Reformation Commentary on Scripture. Edited by Timothy George. New Testament Volumes VIII IX on Romans. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2019 and 2016.

#### **History of Reception: Volumes of Essays**

- Campbell, William S., Peter S. Hawkins, and Brenda Schildgen, eds. *Medieval Readings of Romans*. New York: T & T Clark International, 2007.
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#### **Other Literature**

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- Tucker, Brian J. Reading Romans after Supersessionism: The Continuation of Jewish Covenantal Identity. Eugen, OR: Cascade, 2018.
- Wright, N.T. Pauline Perspectives: Essays on Paul 1978-2013. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.