

Paul: A Second Temple Jew (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 2nd cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Exegetical Theology)

Course ID: 2020

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in theology or religious studies. At least 15 ECTS credits in Classical or Koine Greek and at least 15 ECTS credits in Hebrew.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- be able to see how Paul fits into his own native Judaism, and be able to articulate how Paul was part of a Jewish conversation that took place in the nascent Jesus movement.
- exhibit an understanding of how recent scholarship have sought to place Paul within his native Judaism and what the consequences are of doing so when reading Paul's letters.
- show the ability to critically evaluate Paul's letters and how they can be read as an expression of ancient Judaism and evaluate the validity and credibility in how different strands of Pauline scholarship read Paul.

Course content

In this course, we will see how Paul can be read, understood, and approached as a Jew, and how he expressed himself in similar ways to other Jews of his time. We will study the Hebrew Bible background to some of the more important and interesting subjects Paul mentions in his letters (e.g. Torah and circumcision) and study how Paul approaches these subjects in a way that is both steeped in his own Judaism and that seeks to make sense of the arrival of the messiah and what that means for Jews and gentiles.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is conducted in the form of individual tutorials. Examination is in the form of a final essay of 10–12 pages. The grade of the course is given by the grade of the essay.

Bibliography

All readings will be available as PDFs.

Boccaccini, Gabriele. *Paul's Three Paths to Salvation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020.

Collman, Ryan D. *The Apostle to the Foreskin: Circumcision in the Letters of Paul*. BZNW 259. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023.

Fredriksen, Paula. "Judaizing the Nations: The Ritual Demands of Paul's Gospel." *NTS* 56 (2010): 232–252.

—. "How Jewish Is God? Divine Ethnicity in Paul's Theology." *JBL* 137 (2018): 193–212.

Hayes, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Hedner Zetterholm, Karin. "The Question of Assumptions: Torah Observance in the First Century." Pages 79–103 in *Paul within Judaism: Restoring the First-Century Context to the Apostle*. Edited by Mark D. Nanos and Magnus Zetterholm. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.

Sanfridson, Martin. "Are Circumcision and Foreskin Really Nothing? Re-Reading 1 Corinthians 7:19 and Galatians 5:6; 6:15." *SEÅ* 86 (2021): 130–47.

—. "Circumcision in Galatia: Why Did some Gentile Christ Followers Seek Circumcision in the Early Jesus Movement?" *JJMJS* 10 (2023): 67–88.

Thiessen, Matthew. *Contesting Conversion: Genealogy, Circumcision, & Identity in Ancient Judaism & Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Zoccali, Christopher. "What's the Problem with the Law? Jews, Gentiles, and Covenant Identity in Galatians 3:10–12." *Neot* 49 (2015): 377–415.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

Finalised 2024-10-08

Valid as 2024-10-15