

**Seminari Theoloji Malaysia**  
**Exegesis of Romans**  
**Semester 1, 2017**  
**Course Instructor: Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong**  
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**Course Description**

Does the New Perspective on Paul nullify the doctrine of justification by faith? Does Paul talk about homosexuality in Romans 1? What about submission to authorities in Romans 13 and the status of God's chosen people in Romans 9-11? Does Paul talk about ethnic reconciliation in Romans? What is so significant about the list of names in Romans 16?

More than any other New Testament document, Romans shapes the thought of key leaders like Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Barth, and our understanding of Christian faith today. In this course, we will examine the social historical context, the purpose, literary structure, major themes and theological arguments of Romans. Along the way we will explore the radical theological and ethical vision Paul developed for his Gentile mission. We will also examine some of the current debates in the interpretation of Romans. Finally, we will also be reflecting on how Romans remains relevant for the Church's mission today.

**Objectives of the Course**

1. Overview: Able to outline Paul's argument and progression of thought in Romans.
2. Theology: Understand the major doctrines developed in Romans, and the recent debates about these issues.
3. Controversial and Problematic passages: Aware of the difficult passages in Romans and discuss the issues involved.
4. Literature: Familiarised with some the major commentaries on Romans.
5. Application: Learn and apply some of the major spiritual lessons of Romans and how they relate to us today in your preaching and teaching.

**Textbooks**

Choose either one of the following:

Colin G. Kruse, *Paul's Letters to the Romans*, Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

**OR**

Richard N. Longenecker, *The Epistle to the Romans*, New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Additional reading for Mdiv/MCS Students:

Kent L. Yinger, *The New Perspective on Paul: An Introduction*. Eugene: Cascade, 2011.

## **Course Requirements**

### **1. Exegetical Paper (60%)**

Write an exegesis paper of on any passage in Romans. Attached to the paper should be an additional 1-2 page outline of a Bible study or expository sermon. Please consult the instructor concerning your passage before you begin working on your paper. For those who have taken Greek, they are expected to demonstrate some degree of familiarity with Greek in their exegesis paper. Word length: approximately 2,500 words excluding bibliography, footnotes, and the additional 1-2 page outline or sermon. Due date: April 25 before the beginning of class. NO extension is allowed. Please do not approach me asking for extension unless it is a valid emergency case – you have been warned!

### **2. Short Essay: (30%)**

Select one of the following topics and write an essay giving a succinct summary of the issue, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses, and your fair assessment of the issue. You are expected to interact with the proponents of the issue and those who responded to it. The length of the essay should be approximately 1,500 words.

- a) The New Perspective on Paul
- b) The Faithfulness of Christ/Faith in Christ debate
- c) NT Wright and his view on Justification

Due date: May 2, 4pm. No extension is allowed. Please do not approach me asking for extension unless it is a valid emergency case – you have been warned!

### **3. Reading (10%)**

Please indicate your reading requirement according to your programme of studies when you submit your papers.

## **WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM**

Your attention is drawn to the serious offence of plagiarism, and if caught, you will be failed for the course without further recourse.

## **Course Schedule (only as a guide)**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Schedule</i></b>
Jan 10	Introduction to the course, Introduction to Romans
Jan 17	Romans 16
Jan 24	Romans 1-4
Jan 31	No class – CNY break
Feb 7	Romans 1-4
Feb 14	Romans 1-4
Feb 21	Romans 1-4
Feb 28	Romans 5-8
Mar 7	No class – reading week
Mar 14	Romans 5-8
Mar 21	Romans 5-8
Mar 28	Romans 9-11

Apr 4	Romans 9-11
Apr 11	Romans 12-15
Apr 18	Romans 12-15
Apr 25	Romans 12-15

### Select Bibliography

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- Hultgren, Arland J. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
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- Morris, Leon. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
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- Witherington, Ben, III, and Darlene Hyatt. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Wright, N. T. "The Letter to the Romans." In *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Vol. 10. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.