I. Course Description

The Pauline Letters present various statements on women, men, and male-female relations, all of which have been extremely influential. Some of them have even posed particular problems for many contemporary churches, informed the formation of societal gender roles, and served as ammunition in debates on issues such as marriage and homosexuality. This class will explore these texts in detail including, but not limited to, the historical context, rhetorical analysis, and Paul’s first century audience. We will also engage secondary literature (monographs, articles, essays, etc.), and discuss the consequences (both positive and negative) of the contemporary application of these passages.

II. Required Texts

Students are expected to read the assigned readings in preparation for the first day of class. (Class schedule will be available one week before start date.) We will read and discuss the following texts during the week. Additional articles and essays will also be distributed.


Please be sure to bring a Bible to every class. We will use the New Revised Standard Version. Students are encouraged to use Harold W. Attridge, ed. The Harper Collins Study Bible. New Revised Standard Version (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006). However, other acceptable NRS translations that provide study notes developed for the academic study of the Bible, such as the Oxford Annotated Study Bible or the New Interpreter’s Study Bible, are acceptable.
III. Recommended Texts

The following books are recommended. Students may wish to purchase them for their personal libraries.


IV. Course Requirements and Assessments

A. Presence, Participation, and Preparation (10% of Final Grade)

This is a one-week intensive course. Regular attendance at all class sessions and active participation in discussions are expected. If you are unable to attend a class session, please notify the professor in advance or at the earliest opportunity. Please plan to arrive promptly to class, and stay for its duration. It is also important that students return promptly after class breaks. Your presence is necessary and important for maximal learning for everyone. Missing one day of class will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by a full letter grade (A to B; A- to B-; B+ to C+; B, B-, or C+ to C; and C to F). Missing two or more days of class will result in automatic failure of the course.

Be ready to ask questions and participate in discussions in a positive and constructive way. Rich, critical dialogue occurs when we discuss, debate, and consider the texts and various issues as a collective. Care should be taken when speaking; however, to make sure that everyone (including the less talkative ones) gets an opportunity to engage.

B. Five Presentations (30% of Final Grade)

Students will do four 5-7 minute presentations (at 5% each), and one 10-15 minute presentation (at 10%).
The first three will be based on the reading assignments. Each student will write (three) two-page critical reflection papers which illustrate her/his engagement with the reading materials. A recapitulation of the author’s arguments, the student’s assessment of the work, and the formulation of three questions to further discussion are required. Reflection papers are not to be read, but can be used to guide your thoughts. (Students not presenting do not have to write a reflection paper; however, they will be assessed for their constructive participation in the dialogue and knowledge of the reading material.)

The last presentation (15-20 minutes) will provide students with an opportunity to share their final paper topics with one another. Students will present a working thesis, a preliminary outline for how their paper will develop, and major sources to be incorporated. Presenters will not only be questioned about their work, but will also have the opportunity to ask questions concerning its development.

A sign-up sheet will be distributed on the first day of class.

C. Book Review (20% of Final Grade)

Students will submit a three-page book review on a book approved by the instructor. This book will also be one of the sources used for the student’s final paper.

D. Final Paper (40% of Final Grade)

For the final, students will write a 7-9 page research paper on a topic or biblical passage related to this course. In addition to some of the readings from the course, the paper must also incorporate at least five works which were not assigned. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor.

All papers should be formatted as Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, and emailed as a Word document to the instructor.