

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**
Instructor: Kurz, William, S.J.
Course #: THEO 2110
Section: 102
Course Title: New Testament Select Books:
Course Sub-Title: **Pauline Writings**

Description:

The New Testament letters collected under the name of Paul (including the anonymous Letter to the Hebrews) are some of the most controversial, moving, and profound writings in the Bible. Since they are often misinterpreted or wrongly applied to contemporary issues, this course will emphasize how to understand each letter in its original context and situation, along with its use of the Old Testament. Then we will move beyond original meanings to theological interpretation of the letters as gathered into a Pauline collection and the complete Bible, and as interpreted by the Church, beginning with patristic writers to today. From careful reading of the texts, we shall look anew at what they tell us about religious and theological questions such as human life, God, salvation, Christ, Church, community, and moral topics, and how the letters relate to contemporary concerns.

Class preparation, attendance and contributions are especially important since the format involves heavy use of class analysis and discussion of texts more than lecture. No previous Scripture courses are presupposed or required.

COURSE EVALUATION WILL PROBABLY BE BASED ON

- [10%] contributions to class interpretation (quality vs. quantity)
- [10% = 5% + 5%] ten brief quizzes for class preparation
- [10%] Exegetical outlined argument for thesis: 1-2 pages
- [20%] Midterm test [25%] Final exam
- [25%] Paper, 8-10 pages (minimum 4 pp. exegesis & 4 pp. personal synthesis & application to contemporary experience)