

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**  
Instructor: Rev. Thomas Stegman, S.J.  
Course #: THEO 2110  
Section: 104  
Course Title: **New Testament Selected Books:**  
Course Sub-Title: Paul's Great Letters

#### Description:

The Apostle Paul is a seminal figure of the early Christian movement. A zealous Pharisee who once persecuted followers of the Jesus-movement, Paul's energetic commitment to the God of Israel was redirected after his encounter with the risen Christ: he now tirelessly labored to proclaim the gospel as the power of salvation available for all peoples, Jews and Gentiles. This course begins by looking closely at Paul's symbolic world (i.e., the various cultural, ethnic, and religious features that gave meaning to his life). We will next take a close look at his life and career (using Jerome Murphy O'Connor's biography), and then look at some overarching themes in his theological outlook. With these building blocks in place, we will be in position to analyze what have become known as Paul's "great letters": Galatians (where he defends his version of the gospel); First Corinthians (where he sets forth what "life in Christ" looks like in community); Second Corinthians (where he posits his vision of authentic apostleship/discipleship); and Romans (where he lays out his mature understanding of God's saving actions through Christ and the Spirit). Throughout the analysis of the letters, we will raise questions for present day relevance and appropriation. No previous Scripture course is presupposed or required. Regular attendance and participation will be necessary, as we will engage in careful reading and discussion of the biblical texts.

#### Course Evaluation (tentative)

10% Class Participation  
20% Examination #1 (covering the first third of the course)  
10% Short paper (1000 words)  
20% Examination #2 (covering the second third of the course)  
20% Long paper (2000 words)  
20% Examination #3 (covering the final third of the course)