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SYLLABUS

I. Mission of this Course

This New Testament course aims at aiding the student in interacting with the biblical text, learning the key themes, message, structure and distinctive features of the New Testament epistle written by the Apostle Paul to the Romans.

II. Catalog Description of the Course

A critical study through the book of Romans, emphasizing the central themes of the love and grace of God, His sovereignty, the finished work of Jesus Christ, depravity of man, justification by faith, sanctification through unity with Christ, and life in the Holy Spirit.

III. Educational Objectives of the Course

A. *Cognitive Objectives:*

1. The student will gain a basic understanding of the content, structure, background, purpose, and theme of Romans.
2. The student will develop an ability to interpret the various texts and theological concepts found in Romans.
3. The student will be able to memorize key verses in the book of Romans as chosen by the instructor.

B. *Affective Objectives:*

1. The student will grow in appreciation of the value of the key truths revealed in Romans and the relevance they have in life and ministry for God.
2. The student will broaden his/her view of God as His sovereignty, holiness, love, justice, patience, compassion, and faithfulness (and so much more!) are realized in the study of the book of Romans.
3. The student will be awakened to and experience the primary purpose of the Christian life, namely, that we would know, love and enjoy the Triune God through Jesus the Christ above all else.

C. *Behavioral Objectives:*

1. The student will deepen his/her walk with the Lord Jesus Christ in light of the spiritual principles taught by God in Romans, by becoming more Christ-like in personal character and sanctification.

2. The student will acquire the skill to appropriately and accurately apply the teachings of Romans to one's life and, in turn, be able to confidently teach them to others in ministry, both formally and informally.

IV. Requirements of the Course (315 pts total)

Note: In addition to the required reading the student should plan on one activity due each week of the term (whether a response paper, memorization quiz, exam or term project). There shall be no surprises as the coursework is spaced out and can be adequately planned for. Enjoy!

A. Reading Assignments (97 points)

1. *Scriptures Reading* (48 pts)

During the course of the term, the student is required to read through the book of Romans at least twice, ideally at least once before the lectures on a specific chapter.

- Reading Log 1 will be due Thursday, May 1st will not be graded, and will serve as a progress report on your reading to date.
- Reading Log 2 will be due Thursday, June 12th and must be turned in before the Final Exam.

Note: one cannot pass this class without fulfilling this requirement. Because familiarity and interaction with the biblical text is so vital to a healthy Christian life, this requirement is essential to the course. Full credit will be given to those who complete this requirement on-time. Partial credit will be given to those who do not complete it on-time; however, an Incomplete grade will be given until this biblical reading requirement is fulfilled. Reading and interacting with the biblical text is a foundational component of CSOM, and thus, of this course.

2. Other Required Readings (49 pts)

Students will receive various short reading handouts, which will partly comprise the required extra-biblical readings for the course. These readings will serve as a course textbook alongside the biblical text, and the book listed below. These additional readings will be handed out at least one week prior to the date they must be read by.

Each student is encouraged to reading these commentary writings in advance of the lectures for that specific chapter in Romans. Full credit will be earned for readings completed on-time; half credit for late readings. (24 pts)

Additionally, each student will read John Piper's book *The Passion of Jesus Christ: Fifty Reasons Why He Came to Die* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004 or newer). (25 pts)

This book will be the basis, along with the biblical text, for the Devotional Response assignments.

Recording of progress and final grading for these readings will be recorded on Reading Logs 1 & 2, the second one being graded and due before the Final Exam, Thursday, June 12th.

B. Examinations (105 points)

There will be **three exams** (two quizzes and a final exam) during the course of the term (see term calendar/schedule, page 6). They will cover all the materials covered in the class, including the lectures, the class notes, and the assigned readings, especially emphasizing truths and facts from the biblical text. The exams will consist of mostly multiple-choice questions, with some short answer, some short essay questions, and perhaps some longer essay questions. Quizzes 1 & 2 will be worth 30 points each, the Final Exam 45 points.

Scripture memorization of key passages as chosen by your teacher will also be part of both the first and second quiz, and the final exam.

C. Assignments (99 points)

1. *Devotional Response Papers* (36 points)

- i. Three papers aimed at bringing about personal reflection and spiritual formation. All three will be on themes and truths from Romans, and particularly those as expounded upon in *The Passion of Jesus Christ: Fifty Reasons Why He Came To Die* by John Piper. Questions for these responses will be handed out starting the second week of class.
- ii. See the course schedule for due dates for each of these three devotional response papers. (12 pts each)

2. Reading Summaries (48 pts)

- i. Turn in at least four (of a possible six) summaries of the reading handouts. The summaries will consist of three parts, about a half-page for each part (1-2 pages total for each summary):
 1. Summary of article
 2. Interaction with one key point or theme, noting what struck you about it and/or if you agree/disagree or any other reactions.
 3. What specifically from this article do you plan to apply to your life, and how?
- ii. See the course syllabus for due dates for the reading summaries. (12 pts each)

3. *Spiritual Gift assessment* (15 points)

- i. Take the provided spiritual gift assessment, and summarize the findings.
 1. Which NT spiritual gifts scored highest for you? Does this match what you anticipated?
 2. How have you seen (or hope to see) God developing in you the top four spiritual gifts; in opportunities, in relation to your other skills and abilities; related to your personality?
 3. Turn in your scoresheet with your summary paper (1-2 pages approx.)

D. Attendance & Class Participation (14 points)

CSOM Attendance requirements govern this course.

The student is expected to attend class regularly and participate in the classroom discussions. To facilitate a meaningful learning experience, the teacher reserves the option to direct the content of the lecture times and allow for questions and student interaction towards that end. The student is also expected to show common courtesy to the professor and to fellow students by being punctual to class, as well as coming prepared (i.e., having done the assigned reading) for classroom input. The overall conduct and attitude of the student will be factored into this subjectively-assessed part of the grade, by the teacher, at the end of the term. (11 points)

E. Extra Credit

- a. Read Romans once every week for eight consecutive weeks (10 pts). Students can instead read Romans once a week for five weeks total, not necessarily consecutively (5 pts), or any number in between five and eight (for 6, 7, respectively). This extra credit assignment is on your honor, and a record should be kept and recorded on the Reading Log.
- b. Students can also write an optional position paper on a topic selected with the teacher's help. See your teacher during office hours for more information (up to 25 pts extra).

V. Grading for the Course, Summary (315 points total)

- A. Reading Assignments (97 points)
 1. Scriptures (48 pts)
 2. Reading Handouts (24 pts)
 3. *The Passion of Jesus Christ* (25 pts)
- B. Exams (105 points)
- C. Assignments (99 points)
 1. Reading Summaries (48 pts)
 2. Devotional Response Papers (36 pts)
 3. Spiritual Gift Assessment (15 pts)
- D. Class Attendance & Participation (14 points)
- E. Extra Credit

VI. Grading Scale for the Course

Standard CSOM grading scale.

A	100-94
A-	93-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D+	69-67
D	66-64
D-	63-60
F	59 and below

VII. Textbooks for the Course

A. *Required:*

The Holy Bible. Written by God, through human agents.

*English Standard Version, New International Version, New American Standard, and New King James Version are acceptable. Paraphrase versions/translations are often helpful for devotional reading, but for the purposes of this course at least one reading through Romans shall be done with one of the above translations.

Patterson, Jeffrey S., *NT 134 Course Notes (Romans)*, 2008. These will be handed out each week of lectures as the course progresses.

NT 134 Course Reading Handouts. Given at various times in the course.

Piper, John, *The Passion of Jesus Christ: Fifty Reasons Why He Came to Die* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004). Or newer printing. Available free online as PDF; see course webpage.

B. *Recommended:**

Moo, Douglas J. *Encountering the Book of Romans: A Theological Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006).

* Other books and authors as noted in the footnotes of the *Course Notes*.