

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute**  
**Spring 2018**

**Class Day & Time**     Thursday, 6-8:30 p.m.

**Course Name & Number**     BS733 Romans

**Instructor:**     Dr. Michael J. Gorman

**Course Description**

A careful historical/social, literary/rhetorical, and especially theological analysis of Paul's letter to the Romans, with attention to the significance of Paul's theology in Romans for contemporary Christian life and theology.

**Prerequisites:** BS622, a basic course on Paul, or permission of instructor

**Required Texts (note choices)**

1. **One** of the following mid—level commentaries:
  - a. Matera, Frank J. *Romans*. Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. 978-0-8010-3189-2. Attentive to social / historical and literary / rhetorical dimensions of the text, but with primary interest in its theology, from a prominent Catholic biblical scholar. (400 pages)
  - b. Keener, Craig S. *Romans*. New Covenant Commentary Series. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2009. 978-1-60608-156-3. Theologically interested and interesting, but with primary emphasis on the social / historical and literary / rhetorical dimensions of the text, from a prominent Protestant/Pentecostal biblical scholar. (300 pages)
  - c. Hahn, Scott. *Romans*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. 978-0-8010-36781. Theological and pastoral focus from a Catholic biblical scholar's perspective (a convert), with references to Catholic tradition and documents. (336 pages)
  - d. Lancaster, Sarah Heaner. *Romans*. Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015. 978-0664232610. Theological in focus, by a theologian, with attention to the history of interpretation, from a Protestant/Methodist perspective. (272 pages)
2. Blackwell, Ben C., John K. Goodrich, and Jason Maston, eds. *Reading Romans in Context: Paul and Second Temple Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015. 978-0310517955. (192 pages)
3. Sumney, Jerry L. *Reading Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012. 978-1-58983-717-1. (222 pages; not all will be read)
4. Beverly Roberts Gaventa. *When in Romans: An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. 978-0801097386. (128 pages)
5. An academic study Bible (either *The Catholic Study Bible* [3<sup>rd</sup>. ed.], *The HarperCollins Study Bible* [2<sup>nd</sup> ed.], or *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*) or a parallel Bible with several translations (e.g., *The Complete Parallel Bible*). Students who already own an academic study Bible should consult the instructor before making a purchase.

6. Photocopied text of an approved translation of Romans for exegesis (NRSV, NAB, or NIV), or the Greek text, in narrow-column, wide-margin format (NRSV and NAB available from instructor). These may be downloaded from various sites. See instructor for guidance before deciding.

### **Requirements**

**Students will be required to read no more than 900 pages and write no more than 18 pages.**

1. Careful study of the text of Romans, including “manuscript analysis” of a specific translation (or the Greek text)—notes on each passage to create an exegetical notebook. (20%)
2. Reading and study of one commentary, any class handouts or articles posted on Canvas, and one collection of essays.
3. Consistent and intelligent class contributions based on study of the text and commentary reading. Photocopied texts should be brought to class well marked-up as the basis for discussion. (15%)
4. One exegetical overview as a discussion starter. This overview should be one page single-spaced, briefly addressing (a) the context of the passage, (b) the structure of the passage, (c) two or three of the interpretive challenges of the passage, and (d) two or three of the most significant theological claims in the passage. Copies for all members of the class should be brought to class. (15%)
5. One major paper (4,000-5,000 words). This paper may be on an exegetical, social/historical, thematic, investigative, or theological/hermeneutical topic in Romans. Topics must be approved by the instructor in advance. (40%)
6. A class presentation on the major paper. (10%)