

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Spring 2022**

Thursday 6:00-8:30

Dr. Michael J. Gorman

BS733 Romans: Paul's Gospel Then and Now

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.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to read no more than 900 pages and write no more than 16 pages.

1. Careful study of the text of Romans, including "manuscript analysis" of a specific translation (or the Greek text, for students who know Greek). This involves marking up of, and notes on, each passage to create an exegetical notebook. Marked-up texts should be brought to class well marked-up as the basis for discussion. (20%)
2. Reading and study of two commentaries, one collection of essays, and any class handouts or articles posted on Canvas.
3. Consistent and intelligent class contributions based on study of the text and secondary reading. (15%)
4. One exegetical overview as a discussion starter. This will focus on the assigned text for the day, or a portion of it indicated by the instructor. 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. The paper will be presented to the class. (15%)
5. One major paper (4,000 words; 40%). This paper may take one of two basic forms:
 - a. A paper on an exegetical, social/historical, thematic, or theological/hermeneutical topic in Romans. Topics must be approved by the instructor in advance. Note: exegetical papers may be on an entire passage (e.g., 5:1-11) or on a small but significant text (e.g., 8:3-4).
 - b. A paper reviewing one or two (depending on length) books or commentaries on Romans not used in this course but approved by the instructor. Books with a special focus are especially encouraged (e.g., Paul and ecology, Paul and the resurrection, Paul and justice).
6. A brief class presentation on the major paper. (10%)

Required Texts

1. Gorman, Michael J. *Romans: A Theological and Pastoral Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022. 978-0802877628. (300 pages; NOTE: this will not be available until about March 1; a pdf will be supplied until that time for anyone who agrees to purchase the book upon its publication.)

2. Sumney, Jerry L. *Reading Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012. 978-1-58983-717-1. (222 pages)
3. One of the following:
 - 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 evangelical 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. Jewett, Robert. *Romans: A Short Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2013. 978-0800699383. The condensation of a massive commentary by this late Protestant/United Methodist scholar that pays close attention to the social and political dynamics of the letter. (248 pages)
 - e. 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)

Primary Degree Learning Outcomes

- MAT graduates will be able—wisely, faithfully, and responsibly—to interpret biblical texts and articulate Scripture's major theological themes.
- MACM graduates will be able to integrate Scripture in ministerial identity and practice.
- CAS graduates will be able to demonstrate, orally and in writing, advanced skill in scriptural interpretation.