BN3733W Romans: Suffering and Justice (Online)

Offered: 2016: Semester 2

This unit explores Paul’s letter to the Roman house churches in the context of mid-first century life in the Imperial Capital. It focuses on Paul’s theology of suffering and how his rhetoric addresses the situation of the urban population of Rome, generating hope for those from many nations enslaved in the service of the powerful. The Gospel of the righteousness (justice) of God revealed through Jesus Christ for Jews and Gentiles will be read and interpreted in the context of recent reconstructions of life in Imperial Rome.

Upon successful completion of the unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Articulate the major interpretations of Romans in Pauline scholarship, especially in relation to suffering and justice.
2. Describe and defend a plausible socio-political and cultural setting for the Roman house ekklesiai.
3. Outline a reasonable rhetorical structure and strategy for Paul’s letter to Rome.
4. Exegete selected texts from Romans competently (with a focus on chapters 5–8 and 12–16), employing a range of appropriate exegetical methodologies to write an exegetical essay in an appropriate form.
5. Give a critical account of Pauline theology in Romans, including its christological, ecclesiological, pneumatological, missiological, and eschatological dimensions.

Prerequisites: First-level introductory unit in New Testament (BN1001W or equivalent)

Class Time: Online

Assessment: Online tutorial participation (at least five entries of approximately 200 words each) responding to set readings and peer interaction (20%)
One 1,500 word thematic essay (30%)
One 2,500 word exegetical essay (50%)

Faculty: Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase