BN9031W  First Corinthians

Offered:  2017: Semester 1

This unit explores Paul’s interaction with the Corinthian community, with a focus on First Corinthians and on the social and historical background to that interaction. Students will become more aware of the complexities of Paul’s relationship with the Corinthian house churches; the dialogical and rhetorical structure of the letters; the underlying social, political and cultural factors shaping the exchanges; and the christological, ethical, ecclesiological pneumatological, and eschatological themes that emerge.

The unit will build on the skills of exegesis (historical-critical and socio-rhetorical methods) and encourage students in the task of applying their findings to the life and mission of the church today.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Give an informed account of the history of interpretation of First Corinthians.
2. Describe and discuss the socio-political and rhetorical context in which the letter first circulated.
3. Analyse the christological, ethical, ecclesiological, pneumatological, missiological and eschatological themes and understandings in First Corinthians.
4. Demonstrate a capacity to exegate selected texts in First Corinthians by employing a range of appropriate exegetical methods and resources.
5. Discuss the interpretation and application of Paul’s ethics and ecclesiology in meaningful ways in today’s world.
6. Demonstrate an ability to undertake independent research at Graduate level.

Prerequisites:  45 points in New Testament

Class Time:  Three hours per week

Assessment:  One 1,500 word seminar paper (25%)
One 1,500 word critical review of readings (25%)
One 3,000 word exegetical paper (50%)

Faculty:  Oh-Young Kwon

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

Collins, Raymond F. First Corinthians (SP), Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999
De Vos, Craig S. Church and community conflicts: The relationships of the Thessalonian, Corinthian and Philippian churches with their wider civic communities (SBLDS 168), Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999
Fee, Gordon D. The first epistle to the Corinthians (NICNT), Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987
Hays, Richard B. First Corinthians (Interpretation), Louisville: John Knox Press, 1997
Horrell, David G. Solidarity and difference: A contemporary reading of Paul’s ethics. London: T&T Clark, 2005
Thistlethwaite, Anthony C. The first epistle to the Corinthians: A commentary on the Greek text. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000