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**WBU Online**

**School of Christian Studies**

**UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

## COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

THST 4322 Life and Letters of Paul

## TERM:

Summer Term 2025 (June 2- July 26, 2025)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Jeff Anderson

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Directed Study.

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Directed Study

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The life of Paul and an interpretation of the letters with particular attention to their historical settings, and with an emphasis on the problem of the relationship of Acts to the canonical letters.

## PREREQUISITE:

RLGN 1301, 1302.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Required:

| Title | Editor/Author | Publisher | Ed | Year | ISBN |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible | Walton and Keener | Zondervan | 1 | 2016 | 978-0-310-43158-9 |

Recommended but not required:

| Title | Editor/Author | Publisher | Ed | Year | ISBN |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Paul Apostle of the Heart Set Free | F.F. Bruce | Eerdmans | Pdf open access | 1977 |  |

Important message about Automatic Ebook: If your course is using an E-textbook, please note that Wayland Baptist University has partnered with VitalSource to bring Inclusive Access, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard. You can access your textbook approximately one week before class begins. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the VitalSource system, once you access the textbook on Blackboard you will be asked if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the VitalSource provided textbook version, you MUST opt-out by the second week of class/census date or you will be charged (and refunds are not available). The price of the textbook will be billed automatically to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material in Blackboard or go to your student services financial area.

Please keep in mind that VitalSource has to work with publishers to get your copy so check your Wayland email daily. A link may be provided in just a few hours, or it may take a few days.

For student access:

1. Every Course in Blackboard has a link to eTextbook [Vital Source] embedded in the course menu, with basic instructions.

2. Please encourage use of this textbook. Printed copies will NOT be available through our bookstore. Students can purchase via Amazon or similar vendor but the cost is usually substantially more expensive.

3. Student will “register”, just like you, to access their library, and opt out if desired.

4. They will be able to read and interact with their textbook from that location.

5. Some Cengage textbooks are just eTextbooks and will have direct Vital Source access in the classroom. Ask us if you are not sure.

6. IF your course is a Cengage, or Pearson with “access” to special courseware materials [MyLab, Mindtap with special assignments, accounting, etc.] you will need to set up the links to that in your Blackboard Classroom by Day 1 of the term. Students pay for the textbook and access via VitalSource, and be given a code in most cases, and will need that special link to the special materials you want them to access. WBUonline can assist you with this if you need help.

One final note on books: In an 8-week term, we must begin immediately. If you don’t have the textbooks prior to the start of the term, you will need to consider seriously whether you should drop the class. No special arrangements for those who don’t have a text.

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

WBU Library Resources: The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students via BlackBoard. Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the outline (outward course) of Paul’s Life as revealed in the Letters of Paul and the Book of Acts.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the main teachings of Paul in his letters in light of their original context, and how to apply those teachings to the lives of believers and unbelievers living in the twenty-first century.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the textual and interpretive problems involved in understanding Paul’s Life and Letters.

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

## WBU STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND GENERATIVE AI

<https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf>

i. Use of generative AI tools is actively encouraged and incorporated in to specific assignments for this course.

ii. Use of generative AI tools for assignments in brainstorming, content understanding, or revision to work is perfectly acceptable if cited and referenced properly in any submitted work for the course.

iii. Use of generative AI is encouraged as long as students understand the use of generative AI in the course is to be an assistance tool and not the generator of assignments and submitted work. Ultimately, all submitted work must still reflect student’s own work, understanding, and analysis.

iv. Specific parameters for generative AI usage provided by the instructor.

v. Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

## DISABILITY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

1. Read all Acts and all of Paul’s letters. Submit a reading journal that includes the following:
   1. Date and Authorship
   2. General Theme
   3. Simple outline
   4. Key theological teachings
2. Four quizzes over the readings in the textbook provided by the instructor.
3. A 5-7 page book review over an approved book on Paul by N.T. Wright. Student responsibility to choose and obtain a copy of the text.
4. Face to face meetings as scheduled by the instructor (Wasilla).

GRADING: (All grades will be on a ten-point scale. 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.)

Final: 100 points

Treasure Hunts: 90 points

Discussion Board: 30 points

Face to Face Class Attendance 35 points [10 points each week]

**Grade Appeal Statement**: “Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OUTLINE

**Week One**

Sources for the Study of Paul

Possible Chronology of Paul’s life and Ministry

Read Acts 1-9

**Week Two**

Paul’s Background and Conversion

Strategy for Missions

First Missionary Journey: Turkey

Jerusalem Council

Read Acts 10-15

**Week Three**

Second Missionary Journey: Greece

Characteristics of Paul’s Correspondence

1-2 Thessalonians

Read Acts 16-18:22, 1 and 2 ThessalonianS

Galatians

Read Galatians

**Week Four**

Third Missionary Journey: Ephesus

1 Corinthians

Read Acts 18:23-21:14

Romans

**Week Five**

Read Acts 21:15-23:35

2 Corinthians

**Week Six**

Read Acts 24:1-26:32

Prison Letters

Journey to Rome

Read Acts 27:1-28:31

**Week Seven**

Paul’s final years

1 and 2 Timothy, Titus

Read the Pastoral Letters

**Week Eight**

Book Review Due