

Note:

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.**

BI4406 Interpreting Romans for Teaching

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI4406 Interpreting Romans for Teaching, 3 credit hours

Course Description

Evaluates the book of Romans utilizing a variety of interpretive techniques. Specific passages and theological issues will also be addressed. Emphasis placed on the development of interpretations of the book that will be utilized to create teaching and/or preaching outlines that will serve as the foundation for your work in BI4402 Teaching the Scriptures and/or PS3330 Communication of Biblical Truth.

Prerequisite: BI2201 Interpreting Scripture

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Explain and engage with the purpose, content, the development of Paul's message and the theological thought that influences our understanding of Romans
2. Explain how Paul interprets the Old Testament Scripture and applies its continuity and fulfillment in Christ and his mission
3. Produce exegetical analysis of selected passages and themes within the book of Romans that formulate the basic teaching of the book
4. Develop ways to communicate, teach and apply the lessons of Romans
5. Discuss the literary styles and rhetorical techniques Paul uses to communicate his message and persuade his readers to apply it effectively
6. Explain the "new perspective" on Pauline epistles and evaluate the possible influence of Second Temple Hermeneutics on the writing of Paul

Content Expectations

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation** accounts for between 25% and 40% of final course grade.
 - a. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Resources section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least TWO of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).
 - b. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.

2. **ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be several projects in this course requiring skills learned that include work with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The assignments in the course are:
- a. **Assignment 1-1: Browsing a Book Worksheet**
While completing the Lesson 1 study assignments, record and organize your observations about the message, the focus, and structure of Romans. Using the worksheet titled “Browsing a Book Worksheet” you will wrestle with four basic questions about Romans.
 - b. **Assignment 1-2: Two-part Reflection Essay**

You will write and submit a two-part reflection essay in one (1) word document. Each part will be a separate short reflection essay. For this assignment, your essay will reflect and respond to the questions posed by the professor.
 - c. **Assignment 2-1: Bible Study Romans 1 Worksheet**
Using the “Bible Study Romans 1 Worksheet” you will observe, probe, and ask questions of Romans 1:16-17. This exercise will allow you to explore more deeply this important passage. The goal of this assignment is that you will sharpen your observation skills and appreciate how important biblical study is to interpretation.
 - d. **Assignment 2-2: “Righteousness” in Romans Evaluative Essay**
Having completed **Assignment 2-1: Bible Study Romans 1 Worksheet**, you will undertake a thematic study on Paul’s concept of righteousness in Romans.

Submit a three (3) page double-spaced essay on how **Paul defines and uses “righteousness” in Romans.**

At the end of your essay, you will include an appendix that lists and categorizes the usage of every occurrence of righteousness in Romans. You **may** use study helps to find a full list of uses (concordance, study Bible, lexicon, etc.) but must categorize the uses yourself.
 - e. **Assignment 3-1: Paul’s Concept of “Law” Evaluative Essay**
You will complete a thematic study on Paul’s concept of law in Romans.

Submit a two (2) page double-spaced essay on how Paul defines and uses “law” in Romans. Pay careful attention to any differing uses or development in the use of the term throughout the book and also attempt to relate his use to its function in Old Testament theology.

At the end of your essay, you will include an appendix that lists and categorizes the usage of every occurrence of “law” in Romans. You **may** make use of study helps for a full list (concordance, study Bible, lexicon, etc.) but must categorize the uses yourself.
 - f. **Assignment 4-1: Understanding the Metaphor Project**
For this assignment you will research slavery in the first century Greco-Roman world and apply what you have learned to how **you** interpret this passage. You must make use of (and cite!) your readings, and also **one additional** academically credible resource (a book, monograph, article, commentary, Bible dictionary, etc.). You may present your

research in a variety of formats and for any audience you choose. Your options are listed below:

1. A two to three (2-3) minute video recording of a presentation
 2. A four to five (4-5) minute recorded audio lecture
 3. A One (1) page single spaced brief
 4. A seven to eight (7-8) slide PowerPoint presentation or Prezi with 50 words of presentation notes per slide (either in the presentation OR in a separate Word document).
 5. An infographic, or otherwise artistic presentation of your choice
- g. **Assignment 4-2: Rhetoric Reflection Essay**
Write a 250-350-word response paper reflecting upon what you have discovered in the reading in week 4 and how it helps you to understand Romans better. You may go any direction you wish within the scope of how what you have learned impacts your understanding of Scripture in general and Romans in particular.
- h. **Assignment 5-1: Dichotomy Between the “Flesh” and the “Spirit” Project**
You can choose to write **either** a three to four (3-4) page paper **OR** a 30-40 line poem. Whether you choose to write the paper or the poem, each must **review, examine, and apply** Paul’s argument in this passage.
- i. **Assignment 5-2: “New Perspective” on Pauline Justification Essay**
What were the real issues being addressed in Romans concerning the Jews and “works of the law?” To answer this question today, we must inevitably reevaluate classical Lutheran readings of Romans by inquiring once again how Paul is speaking to and about Jewish tradition from the Second Temple period.
- What is your initial reaction to this week’s reading? After considering this “new perspective” on Pauline justification, write a one to two (1-2) page double-spaced essay identifying what you believe the real issue was in Romans, as pertaining to what Paul means when he says “works of the law.” Feel free to go any direction you wish, so long as you provide ample support for your view. As a conclusion for your paper, provide a brief summary of what you believe are the **theological and/or ecclesial consequences** of your view and the consequences of **one other**.
- j. **Assignment 6-1: “Personal Salvation” Reflection Essay**
This assignment requires you to consider all of the views you read about in Lesson 6 and write a two to three (2-3) page double-spaced paper reacting to the theological positions of these men.
- Please note that this is not a research paper aimed at determining your ability to argue a theological position. Instead, it is intended to create a space to reflect theologically upon **how** and **why** you believe what you do about these questions. Allow it to be a space to work out your personal views in dialogue with personal, biblical, theological, and historical influences.
- k. **Assignment 6-2: What does It Mean? Message Script**
Your assignment is to research Romans 9:11-12 and write a two (2) page double-spaced short sermon/message script. This script must be something that you could read or

present in front of an audience as a short message or blessing from Romans 9:11-12. Do not worry too much about style. Write as you would speak: first person, personal, a short greeting, meaningful applications, etc. MLA Citations are encouraged but not required.

l. Assignment 7-1: Teaching Romans Presentation – Steps 1 and 2

You will create a Bible study plan that you can use in a ministry context of your choice. Creating this Bible study will be completed in three (3) steps:

Step 1: Exegetical Paper

Complete an in depth study on Romans. Write a two (2) page (+/- ½ a page is acceptable) single-spaced page personal verse-by-verse commentary on the verses in this passage.

Step 2: Bible Study Outline: After completing your exegetical paper, you will also plan a Bible study teaching outline using the “**Bible Study Outline Worksheet.**” This worksheet will require you to summarize a target audience (who you will be teaching the lesson to), an exegetical and pedagogical summary, lesson aims, methods used, and a step-by-step outline of the lesson content. **Your goal** in this step is to **find a creative and effective way to apply** Romans for your **target audience**.

m. Assignment 7-2: Teaching Romans Presentation – Step 3

Step 3: Presentation

Based upon your work in Step 2, you will produce a presentation that you could easily give in a ministry setting. Preferred presentation formats are PowerPoint or Prezi, but you may also try to work out another option with your instructor’s permission. Whether or not this is possible will depend entirely on your instructor. This Presentation will be submitted using a PowerPoint document, a PDF, or a working Prezi link (no more than 10 slides). **Your goal** in this step is to **use technology to powerfully present your lesson** from Step 2 to your target audience.

n. Assignment 8-1: Paul’s Vision For, and Challenge to, the Church Essay

After viewing the video lecture, write a two (2) page essay about how **Romans illustrates** Paul’s vision for the church and **reinforces** his challenge given to them elsewhere in Romans. In other words, how does **Chapter 16** fit in with the broader argument of the letter. Is Paul merely wishing people well and giving final details, or is his goal for the letter still at work, even below the surface?

Writing Style

Undergraduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow MLA guidelines. Assignments not in proper MLA format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

At a minimum, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point font (limited to Time New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook fonts), 8½ x 11 page size, and double-spaced and are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). Papers that cite other works should include a Works Cited page.

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Students should follow the latest version of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (currently the 7th edition) or use the OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Assessments

Class Participation (Discussion 15% + Reading 5%)	20%
Assignment 1-1: Browsing a Book Worksheet	3%
Assignment 1-2: Two-part Reflection Essay	7%
Assignment 2-1: Bible Study Romans 1 Worksheet	3%
Assignment 2-2: "Righteousness" in Romans Evaluative Essay	7%
Assignment 3-1: Paul's Concept of "Law" Evaluative Essay	7%
Assignment 4-1: Understanding the Metaphor Project	6%
Assignment 4-2: Rhetoric Reflection Essay	4%
Assignment 5-1: Dichotomy Between the "Flesh" and the "Spirit" Project	6%
Assignment 5-2: "New Perspective" on Pauline Justification Essay	5%
Assignment 6-1: "Personal Salvation" Reaction Essay	6%
Assignment 6-2: What does It Mean? Research Essay	6%
Assignment 7-1: Teaching Romans Presentation	15%
Assignment 8-1: Paul's Vision For, and Challenge to, the Church Essay	5%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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ADA Compliance Statement

Moody Bible Institute complies with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by providing appropriate accommodations to qualified students with

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disabilities. We value diversity and inclusion and recognize disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive. If you anticipate barriers related to the format, requirements, or assessment of this course, you are invited to address the professor with your concerns; additionally, you are encouraged to contact Gayla Gates, our disability services provider, at the Student Resource Center to discuss possible environmental modifications or adaptations. Please note, accommodations are not retroactive, therefore we encourage you to contact our service provider within the first two weeks of the semester. Contact Gayla Gates at ggates@moody.edu or 312-329-2177.