COURSE NUMBER: REL323
COURSE NAME: Paul and His Letters (New Testament Scriptures)
Spring 2016, Session I, Clanton, JSCC Room 216
Dates: 1/13, 20, 27, 2/3, 10
Time: 5:30-9:30

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. John Brannon

CONTACT INFORMATION: john.brannon@hawks.huntingdon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an examination of the letters of Paul, his world, and the various ways one may begin to interpret these documents. The class will also explore the continuing significance of these writings for our understanding of the variety of Christian expression in the modern era.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student, upon completion of this course, should be able to:
1) define various terminology used in the academic study of the Pauline epistles
2) understand certain themes that appear throughout the Pauline epistles
3) understand first-century cultural values that impact the Epistles' ideological perspectives and the modern readers' interpretive processes;
4) interpret various Pauline texts
5) research a Pauline text or topic by constructing an argument, articulating a thesis, and developing a conclusion in an acceptable format.

The instructor, in addition to the assigned texts, should be able to help students achieve these goals through constructive criticism and encouragement, class lectures and discussion, and availability for student consultation. This module is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1) Class preparation and participation (10%) Students should complete all readings and assignments scheduled for that class, before coming to class. Students are expected to arrive for
class on time. Students are expected to provide adequate notification of expected absences, and to make up missed work or examinations if excused.

2) Mid-term exam (20%) A mid-term exam will be given week three of this course. The exam will cover material in the assigned readings through that class as well as lecture material and class discussions.

3) Final Exam (20%) A final exam will be given on the last night of class. The exam will be comprehensive and will be in essay form.

4) Journal Reflections (25%) Each week you must write a 1-2 page theological reflection paper in which you reflect upon the readings for the week. There are many ways to do this. You might ask questions that need clarification in class. You might talk about something you found interesting or compelling. You may wish to criticize the readings in some fashion. You may wish to relate the readings to your own experience. You might engage in some exegesis of a Biblical passage that relates to the readings. In some way, engage the readings. You may wish to argue for or against one of the views expressed in one of the texts. The grade will be based upon the amount of thought and effort that went into the entries, the quality of the writing, and the degree to which you read and engaged the readings.

5) Research Project (25%) The research project will require that the student construct an argument, articulate a thesis, and develop a conclusion through appropriate research on a particular Pauline text or theme. It should be five to seven pages. It should be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins and a 12 point font like Times New Roman. It should contain appropriate footnotes and bibliography. All matters of style should follow the SBL Handbook of Style (located in the Huntingdon Library). Your paper should refer to at least three additional sources (other than your texts), and/or journal articles. Your sources, both books and articles, must come from reputable, scholarly publishers or journals. The paper should contain a cover page including the title of your paper, the class for which it is prepared, date, and your name, in any style you prefer. The paper should be stapled in the top left hand corner, and, of course, content, presentation, grammar, and spelling will be graded.

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<th>GRADING ELEMENTS</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE:</th>
<th>GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>A = 90-100</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B = 80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>C = 70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Reflections</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>D = 60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
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**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

Participation – Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation
is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

**Late Assignments** – *No shows* fail the assignment. It is expected that the students fulfill their assignments on the date they are scheduled to do so. Students with illness or other problems that prevent them from attending class on the day a presentation or written assignment (including a test and/or exam) is due must contact their instructors PRIOR to the deadline via Huntingdon College email with supporting documentation to request an extension or a make-up. In most cases, missed assignments are logistically difficult to make-up while maintaining the integrity of the module. In rare cases, approval to make-up an assignment may be granted at the discretion of the faculty member based on the seriousness of the circumstance and on the supporting evidence provided by the student. Contacting a fellow class member does not substitute for contacting the instructor.

**Accommodation of Special Needs**– Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee’s decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4577 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

**Medical Considerations** - If you have a medical condition that may preclude participation in this course or any aspect of this course, the College suggests you consult your physician. The College will work with you based upon physician recommendations to find the best means to address any concerns.

**Title IX Statement** - Huntingdon faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the College's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the College the faculty member MUST report to the college's Title IX Coordinator what you share. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may refer to Huntingdon's Sexual Misconduct Policy at http://www.huntingdon.edu/student-life/student-service/misconduct. You do not have to go through the experience alone.

**Academic Honesty** – Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas *which are not your own creation* is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

**Huntingdon College Library:** As an EB student you have access to the full-range of electronic resources provided by the Library of Huntingdon College. Your first step upon enrollment at Huntingdon should be to register for a library account. You can do this by going to the Library’s web site at http://library.huntingdon.edu/ and under “EB Services” complete the “Library Card Application” form and submit it. You will receive shortly your personal library account information, which will then allow you to access a variety of resources including databases. Should you ever have a problem accessing the Library’s electronic resources, please contact the Library (specifically, Systems Librarian Brenda Kerwin at bkerwin@huntingdon.edu <mailto:bkerwin@huntingdon.edu>).*
* Among the Library’s electronic resources, you will find a number of databases specific to the area of business administration and its allied fields of study (e.g. databases within /EbscoHost/, /Gale/, and /ProQuest/, as well as /Oxford Journals/). You will also find databases that support your core courses in such fields as English, history, communications, the arts, and the sciences. You may be familiar with the AVL (the /Alabama Virtual Library/) and have your own AVL card. As a student at Huntingdon College, you no longer need to maintain your own AVL card, if you access the AVL through our web site. Simply click on “Campus &Library” rather than “Home Access” within the AVL. A few other mentions: /Countess/ is the name of the Library’s online catalogue and among its holdings you will find electronic books. If you want to know what full-text electronic journals are available to you through the Library’s databases, you can use the /Serials Solutions/ link on our web site. You can limit your search by discipline (such as “Business & Economic”). If you use Google for any of your research, we greatly encourage you to use /Google Scholar/ and /Google Books/. These features of Google will direct you to resources appropriate for academic research.*

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Week One:**

Topics: Course Introduction; Paul, Faith, Hope, Love

Readings: Gorman, *Reading Paul*. Pages 1-64; 1 Thessalonians


**Week Two:**

Topics: Covenant and Grace; The Cross


**Week Three:**

Topics: Reconciliation, The Slave is my Brother, God's politics, The Gospel of Paul

Readings: 2 Corinthians; Philemon; Philippians; Romans; Gorman, *Reading Paul*, p. 111-144;


**Week Four:**

Topics: The Gospel of Paul continued

Readings: Gorman, *Reading Paul*, 145-180, Romans; Winthrup, *101 Questions & Answers on Paul,*
Week Five:

Topics: God's Household, The Good Fight, Church Polity

Readings: Gorman, *Reading Paul*, 181-188, 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Titus