Course Description:

This course is designed as a historical and exegetical exploration of I and II Timothy and Titus which will pay special attention to this literature as a catalyst of the situation of certain Christian communities by the end of the first and beginning of the second century C.E. Some of the themes that will be investigated are: ecclesiastical organization, relationship between orthodoxy and heresy, role of the family in society and of women in the household and in the church, relations between church and society, place given to eschatological thinking, etc.

Required Textbooks:


Supplemental Reading:


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1 Please notice that this syllabus can change. The final version will be handed in the first day of classes. The textbooks, though, will remain the same.


**Requirements:**

1. Write a book review: *Struggles for Power in Early Christianity* (15%)
2. Write by-weekly responses to assigned readings. See schedule (15%)
3. Write an exegesis of one of the passages being studied. Make a 20 minutes presentation in class (20%)
4. Write a final paper, limit 20 pages double space, on a theme chosen in consultation with the instructor. Due date: 12/9 (40%)
5. Be present and participate in class having read the assigned materials for the day (10%)

**Some helpful web pages:**

[http://www.pastoralepistles.com/CategoryView,category,Pastoral%2BEpistles.aspx](http://www.pastoralepistles.com/CategoryView,category,Pastoral%2BEpistles.aspx)

[http://depts.drew.edu/jhc/pervope.html](http://depts.drew.edu/jhc/pervope.html)


[http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Paul-Pastorals.htm](http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Paul-Pastorals.htm)

[http://people.uncw.edu/zervosg/Pr236/Ehrman23.htm](http://people.uncw.edu/zervosg/Pr236/Ehrman23.htm)

[http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/Index.htm#BibleNet](http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/Index.htm#BibleNet)

[http://virtualreligion.net/vri/nt.html](http://virtualreligion.net/vri/nt.html)

Course outline:

9/6
Introduction to the course
The Pastoral Epistles: Scripture or Script? Divine revelation or human Rhetoric? Archetype or prototype?
*Ideas based on In Memory of Her, pp.26-36, and The Power of the Word, pp.35-68, both by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (on reserve)

9/13
The authenticity of the Pastoral Epistles: author and audience
Pauline authority: internal and external evidence
Texts: 1 Tim 1:1-2; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Titus 1:1-4

Support reading:
a) “Revisiting the Pastoral Epistles” by Michael Prior, C.M. (Write a critical evaluation. On reserve).
b) What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles? Chapters 1 and 2.

9/20
The polemic against false teachers: the nature of the “heresy” and the character of the “heretics”
Texts: 1 Tim 1:3-7; 4:1-7; 6:3-10, 20
2 Tim 2:17-18; 3:1-9; 4:3-4
Titus 1:10-16; 3:9-11

Support reading:
Chapter 5 of What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?

9/27
The role of women in church and society
Texts: 1 Tim 2:9-15; 3:11; 5:3-16
2 Tim 3:6-7; 4:19
Titus 2:3-5

Support reading:
a) Pertinent passages in “1 Timothy,” “2 Timothy,” and “Titus,” in The Women’s Bible Commentary, pp.353-56.

10/4
The sound teaching: content, provenance and transmission
Texts: 1 Tim 1:8-17; 2:3-7; 4:9-10
2 Tim 1:9-11; 2:1-10; 3:14-17
Titus 2:1-15; 3:4-7

10/11
Ecclesiastical organization: the ministries in the church of the Pastorals
Texts: 1 Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-25
Titus 1:5-9


10/18
Social provenance of the church of the Pastorals: the Christian family
Titus 2:1-10; 3:1-2

Support reading: Chapter 3 of What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?

10/25
Christology, liturgy and worship in the church of the Pastorals
   2 Tim 1:9-10; 2:8, 11-13; 4:1, 18
   Titus 3:4-7


11/1
On being a first century pastor: gender, character and ministry
Texts: 1 Tim 1:18-20; 4:12-16; 5:1-22; 6:11-14, 20-21
   2 Tim 1:8; 2:1-10, 14-16, 22-26; 4:1-2, 5
   Titus 1:5, 11, 13; 2:1, 6-8, 15

Support reading: In Memory of Her, pp.285-315

11/8
Eschatology in the Pastorals
Texts: 1 Tim 1:1; 4:8, 10; 6:14-15
   2 Tim 1:18; 2:10; 4:1, 8, 18
   Titus 2:13

Book review due today: Struggles for Power in Early Christianity

11/15
Social ethics in the Pastorals
   Titus 2:8-14; 3:1-2, 8, 14

Support reading: Chapter 4 of What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles

11/29
The permanent value of the Pastoral Epistles: Problems and solutions
Support reading: Chapter 6 of *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?*

12/6 Course wrap-up. Sharing of research.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


