



River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for
BIB 105 The Book of Romans
Fall 2024

Professor
Dr. Steve Stells
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of the epistle with emphasis on the central theological themes and their relevance and application to issues of the contemporary church.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

1. Understand Romans in its historical context and apply the truth it teaches to the contemporary church and society.
2. Develop a clear understanding of the letter to the Romans and its importance in the theology of Paul.
3. Discover the central theological issues and themes treated in the text, i.e., Christology, Soteriology, Holy Spirit, Law and Gospel, Eschatology.

III. OUTCOMES

As a result of successfully completing this course the student will be able to do the following:

1. Relate either orally or in writing, the form and content of the letter to the ministry of Paul and the context of the readers.
2. Understand and communicate theological themes and issues in the letter and discuss, either orally or in writing.
3. Explain major theological themes developed in the text.

4. Discuss the importance of appreciation of the authority and guidance of Scripture and the Spirit in the pursuit and practice of faith.

IV. TEXTBOOK(S)

Required reading:

Holy Bible, several reliable modern versions, (instructor will most often refer to NIV).

Ollerton, Andrew. *Romans: A Letter that Makes Sense of Life*. 50 Victory Embankment, Long EC4Y 0DZ: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. Carmelite House. ISBN 978 1 399 80642 8.

Suggested reading:

Wright, N.T. *Into the Heart of Romans, A Deep Dive into Paul's Greatest Letter*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2023. ISBN 9780310157748.

V. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

A. Online Discussion (20%), Every other Tuesday

On every other Tuesday, a class discussion question will be posted by the professor under the “Discussions” portion of the online class portal. Provide a six to eight sentence response to that question by the following Tuesday. Additionally, read and review the comments of your classmates. This weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables student to glean from one another.

B. Personal Statement of Faith (15%), Monday, October 7th

Summarize how if any reading, discussion, or lecture in this class has caused you to re-examine or strengthen your personal statement, position of faith, or core beliefs up to this date in the course, with Biblical reference support. This should be a minimum of three pages, maximum of four pages long.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

C. Reading and Class Participation (15%), Monday, December 2nd

Each student is required to complete the reading assignments listed under the Course Content and Schedule portion of the syllabus. In addition, each student must complete The reading log that is located under the “Resources” section of the course portal. The reading log will need to be submitted as a Word or PDF document under “Assessment” portion of the online class portal. This is on the honor system.

D. Exams (50%)

Mid-Term Exam (25%), Monday, October 14th

All questions will be objective: multiple choice, matching, true/false (no essays to write). This exam will be available October 7th-14th.

Final Exam (25%), Friday, December 6th

All questions will be objective: multiple choice, matching, true/false (no essays to write). This exam will be available December 4th-6th.

Both exams are **closed book**. This means that, while taking the exam, you may not refer to any notes or study guides.

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Grades and Assessments

1. Grading Scale

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 89%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F 59% and below

2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date

- a) Online Discussion (25%) Every other Tuesday, Due the next Monday before midnight
- b) Personal Statement of Faith (25%) Monday, October 7th
- c) Reading and Class Participation (15%), Monday, December 2nd
- d) Mid-Term Exam (25%), Monday, October 14th
- e) Final Exam (25%), Friday, December 6th

B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

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C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own, which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resources used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g. writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be the student's.

D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

- 1-7 Days Late – Maximum Grade 90
- 8-14 Days Late – Maximum Grade 80
- 15-21 Days Late – Maximum Grade 70
- 22-28 Days Late – Maximum Grade 60
- 29+ Days Late – Maximum Grade 59

E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed to miss a **maximum** of three absences total per course in each semester. If a student misses more than three classes, they will be given an “I” (Incomplete) for the course. These three absences can be made up if a student watches/listens to the full video/audio content of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and sends the notification and the response to River City by email (info@rivercityschool.com) that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, in order for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to info@rivercityschool.com notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed.

VII. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (To be read by date)	CLASS DATE
Introduction of Professor and Students, review syllabus, go over expectations for class and homework	Andrew Ollerton: Read Introduction to Book including Basecamp	Sep 10 th
The Route of the Gospel	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Basecamp and Chapter 1, The Route of the Gospel Bible: Read Romans 1:1-17; 16:1-27</p> <p>Discussion Board 1: Write a paragraph (not more than 250 words) about where you would assess yourself on the scale on page 18, answering the question, “<i>How confident are we in the power of the Gospel today?</i>”. Post your response on the white board by Thursday midnight and respond to two of your classmates in the discussion module no later than Monday, September 23rd, midnight.</p>	Sep 17 th
The Valley of Sin	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 2, The Valley of Sin, pp 31-53 Bible: Read Romans 1:18-3:20</p>	Sep 24 th
The Crux of Salvation	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 3, pp 56-77 Bible: Read Romans 3:21-4:25</p> <p>Discussion Board 2: Personally respond to the question, “<i>How to follow Abraham’s footsteps?</i>” on page 74. Post your response on the white board by Thursday midnight and respond to two of your classmates in the discussion module no later Monday October 7th, midnight.</p>	Oct 1 st
The Place of Peace	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 4, The Place of Peace, pp 80-101 Bible: Read Romans 5:1-21</p> <p>Personal Statement of Faith: Due by</p>	Oct 8 th

	midnight, Monday, October 7 th	
The Ridge of Freedom	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 5, pp 102-124 Bible: Read Romans 6:1-7:25</p> <p>Discussion Board 3: Personally respond to the statement on page 110, "... <i>true freedom is not just freedom from living in sin but also freedom to serve Christ.</i>" Post your response on the white board by Thursday midnight and respond to two of your classmates in the discussion module no later Monday, October 21st, midnight.</p> <p>Midterm Exam will be posted online by Monday, October 7th, midnight. Closed Book. Due by midnight October 14th.</p>	Oct 15 th
The Summit of Hope	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 6, The Summit of Hope, pp 125-150 Bible: Read Romans 8:1-39</p>	Oct 22 nd
The Cloud of Mystery	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 7, The Cloud of Mystery, pp 151-176 Bible: Read Romans 9:1-11:36</p> <p>Discussion Board 4: Respond to the section in the top paragraph of page 156, starting with <i>Romans 9-11 therefore shows us how to hold both truths in tension: to live with revelation and mystery while trusting in the sovereignty of God and taking our responsibilities seriously.</i> Post your response on the white board by Thursday midnight and respond to two of your classmates in the discussion module no later Monday, November 4th, midnight.</p>	Oct 29 th
The Decent of Devotion	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 8, The Decent of Devotion, pp 177-200 Bible: Read Romans 12:1-21</p>	Nov 5 th
The Return to Community	Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 9, The	Nov 12 th

	<p>Return to Community, pp 201-226 Bible: Read Romans 13:1-14:23</p> <p>Discussion Board 5: Personally respond to the quote on page 224, “<i>LOVE LIMITS ITS OWN LIBERTY OUT OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS</i>” John Stott. Post your response on the white board by Thursday midnight and respond to two of your classmates in the discussion module no later than Monday, November 18th, midnight.</p>	
The Onward Medium	<p>Andrew Ollerton: Read Chapter 10, The Onward Mission, pp 227-251 Bible: Read Romans 15-16</p>	Nov 19 th
Break	Break	Nov 26 th
Wrap and review	<p>Reading log is due Monday, December 2nd, midnight.</p> <p>Final exam will be posted by midnight Dec 4th and must be completed by midnight, Friday, December 6th.</p>	Dec 3 rd

VIII. CHANGES

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.