BCRE15  Pauline Letters in Context

Semester: B  
ECTS: 5  
Duration: 11 weeks  
Contact hours: 22  
Quota: Maximum of 10  
Prerequisite subjects: None

Module Description:

In this module we explore Paul’s letters within their literary and historical contexts. Significant attention is given to the study of ancient genres, especially the practice of letter writing in the Hellenistic and Mediterranean world, before assessing Paul’s (and Pseudo-Pauline) epistles. Paul’s use of Jewish scripture and the study of intertextuality are studied in order to appreciate key theological themes. Paul’s letters are analysed alongside contemporary writings (e.g. Philo of Alexandria, Greek philosophical schools, Dead Sea Scrolls) in order to assess influences, continuities, and discontinuities.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss key themes in Paul’s letters within multiple ancient contexts;
2. Outline the practice of ancient letter writing;
3. Assess Paul’s intellectual contributions in reference to specific passages and compositions from the first century C.E.;
4. Evaluate intellectual influences on Pauline epistles;
5. Critically assess authorship of documents;
6. Articulate how the study of intertextuality may enhance one’s appreciation for Pauline letters.

Indicative Reading:


1990]

**Assessment:** One 3,000 word essay

**Name of Lecturer:**
Professor Ben Wold