

Course Outline

Objectives:

- To provide an overview of the geographical, social and cultural setting of Paul's ministry.
- To identify key ingredients in Paul's missionary strategies.
- To become acquainted with the key issues in Pauline studies.
- To become acquainted with contemporary mission issues.
- To become acquainted with the concept of contextualization in missionary theory.
- To understand the meaning of mission in the context of modern Greece.
- To study Paul's letters with an interest in learning the ingredients of community building for today's churches: harmony in spite of differences, unity with diversity, managing diversity.

Suggested reading:

1. Balch, David L. and John E. Stambaugh. *The New Testament in its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: the Westminster Press, 1986.
2. Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
3. Fredriksen, Paula. *Paul: The Pagan's Apostle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.
4. Gill, David W.J., Trebilco, Paul R., Walton, Steve, eds. *The Urban World and the First Christians*. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2017.
5. Meeks, Wayne A. *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
6. Miano, Peter J. *The Word of God and the World of the Bible: an Introduction to the Cultural Backgrounds of the New Testament*. London: Melisende, 2001.
7. Murphy-O'Connor. *Paul the Letter Writer: His World, His Options, His Skills*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1995.
8. Sanders, E.P. *Paul*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: Depart Chicago, USA
15.10, F

Day 2: Arrive Thessaloniki, touring as time permits
16.10, Sa Old City walls, Citadel, St. Demetrius Church, Arch of Galerius (Acts 17: 4, 12), transfer to hotel for dinner, introductions and group building overnight in Thessaloniki

- Day 3: Theme: Introduction to Classical Greece
17.10, Su Field trip: Pella (birthplace of Alexander the Great), Vergina, Royal Macedonian tombs
overnight in Thessaloniki
- Day 4: Theme: Introduction to Hellenism
18.10, M AM forum: From Alexander to Jesus
Field trip: Thessaloniki, Via Ignatia, Philippi, Kavala/Neapolis (Acts 16: 9-33).
overnight in Thessaloniki
- Day 5: Theme: Classical Athens
19.10, Tu AM forum: The Perils of Pauline Studies
Fieldtrip: transfer to airport, flight to Athens, driving tour of Athens, Acropolis, Parthenon, Erechtheum, Mars Hill/Areopagus, (Acts 17). Dinner on your own.
overnight in Athens
- Day 6: Theme: Classical I Hellenistic Athens
20.10, W Field trip: The Athenian agora: the Stoa of Attalos, Hephaestion, The Roman agora: Tower of the Winds, Library of Hadrian, Plaka, Acropolis Museum, Dinner on your own.
overnight in Athens
- Day 7: Theme: Free day
21.10, Th Dinner on your own.
overnight in Athens
- Day 8: Theme: Paul in Corinth
22.10, F Field trip: Corinthian Canal, Corinth excavations, museum, view Acro-Corinth, Mycenae. Dinner on your own.
overnight in Peloponessus
- Day 9: Theme: Religious Cults in Paul's World
23.10, Sa Field trip: Paleo Epidauros, Theatre, Asklepion, Propylaia, Museum, Nafplio, optional: Palamidi Castle. Dinner on your own.
overnight in Peloponessus
- Day 10
24.10, Su transfer to Venezelos Airport, return to USA

5 Day Elective: Paul's Journeys in Asia & the Churches of the Apocalypse

- Day 10 Theme: East Meets West
24.10, Su Field trip: flight to Izmir. Dinner on your own.

Overnight Kusadasi

- Day 12
25.10, M Theme: Anatolian Adventure
Field trip: full day excursion to the heart of the Anatolian Plateau, explore the exquisite archaeological ruins of Aphrodisias. Dinner on your own.
Overnight in Kusadasi
- Day 11
26.10, Tu Theme: Empire, Paul and the Early Churches
Field trip: Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7), visit the State Agora, the Great Theatre (Acts 19), Library of Celsus, the agora, Arcadia Street, Curetes Street, State Agora, optional visit to the slope houses (additional cost)
Overnight in Kusadasi, Dinner on your own.
- Day 13
27.10, W Theme: Hidden in Plain Sight
Field trip: Field trip: the Artemision, Selcuk Museum, St. John's Basilica, Pollio Aqueduct, the Issa Bey Mosque. Dinner included.
Overnight in Sarimsakli
- Day 14
28.10, Th Theme: John and the Book of Revelation
Field trip: Bergama/Pergamum (Rev. 2:12), acropolis, Temple of Trajan (Rev 2:13-17), Altar of Zeus, theatre, Asclepeion. Dinner included.
Overnight in Sarimsakli
- Day 15
29.10, F Transfer to airport, return to USA

5 day elective: Adventure and Archaeology in Sicily, returning 30 April 2027

- Day 10
24.10, Su Theme: Italy's Best Kept Secret?
Field trip: flight to Palermo, Walking tour of Palermo: Piazza Pretoria, four corners, Ballaro Market, Monreale/Duomo, afternoon with free time in Palermo
Dinner is on your own, overnight Palermo.
- Day 11
25.10, M Theme: Graeca Magna
Field trip: Depart Palermo, visit excavations of Selenunte, continue to Agrigento, visit archaeological excavations (Valley of Temples).
Dinner is on your own, overnight in San Leone
- Day 12
26.10, Tu Theme: Late Imperial Roman
Field trip: Excursion to villa Romana del Casale, Drive to Taormina with stops along the way, including a winery in Catania. (possible excursion Mt. Etna?)
Dinner is on your own, overnight in Taormina

- Day 14 Theme: Goethe's Taormina
27.10, W Field trip: free day, self directed touring, many options to consider.
 Dinner is on your own, overnight in Taormina
- Day 15 Theme:
28.10, Th Field trip:
 Dinner is on your own, overnight in Taormina
- Day 16 Return to USA
29.10, F

Lectures: (the following topics can be addressed in morning and evening fora. Topics may be covered in more than one session)

- “From Alexander to Paul: The Influence of Hellenism on Paul’s Writings”
- “The Search for the Historical Paul”: What do we know about Paul and how do we know it?
- “The Social Setting of Paul’s Churches”: Textual and extra textual clues of the social dynamics in Paul’s churches.
- “The Cult of Asclepius and its Influence on Christianity”
- “Models of Modern Mission”
- “Ingredients of Effective Mission”