

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** 1 and 2 Thessalonians **TERM:** Fall 2024–2025

**PROFESSOR:** Rafael Rodriguez **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_ **UNLIMITED** X

# AUDITORS: instructor permission required **NO AUDITORS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

The apostle Paul and his letters dominate our understanding and reconstruction of the earliest generation of the Christian movement. Paul’s influence over Christian theology, especially in Reformed traditions, is rivaled only by the influence of Jesus himself, though quests for Paul’s theology focus particularly on the letters to the Romans and the Galatians. This course examines what are probably Paul’s earliest letters, moving beyond “Pauline theology” to explore exegetical, historical, and social aspects of 1–2 Thessalonians as well as Christianity at its origins and in twenty-first-century contexts.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- to introduce the Thessalonian correspondence (author, audience, occasion, purpose, etc.);
- to examine and interpret the content of the Thessalonian correspondence;
- to evaluate the Thessalonian correspondence within the context of late-Second Temple Judaism;
- to locate the Thessalonian assembly within the broader context of Christian origins;
- to integrate the theology and ethics of the Thessalonian correspondence within 21st-century Christianity.

**PREREQUISITES:**

NT120, or permission of instructor

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:****Required:**

- Richard S. Ascough, *1 and 2 Thessalonians: Encountering the Christ Group at Thessalonike* (London: T&T Clark, 2014). ISBN: 978-0-5676-7127-1; \$26.95
- an appropriate commentary; options will be discussed at the start of class
- additional materials TBD

**Recommended:**

- Nijay K. Gupta, *1 and 2 Thessalonians* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019). ISBN: 978-0-3105-1871-6; \$44.99
- Rafael Rodríguez, *The First Christian Letters: Reading 1 and 2 Thessalonians* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2024). ISBN: 978-1-6667-4869-7; \$25.00
- additional materials TBD

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

Final research essay/project and presentation

**ATTENDANCE:** Required. In-person