

PROSPECTUS

NETE 95093– Seminar in New Testament Literature:
Slavery in Pauline Literature and in the World of Paul
Three Semester Hours

Instructor: Shelly Matthews

Prerequisites: Entry into the Advanced Programs at Brite.

Description of Content:

This course will provide an introduction to slavery in Pauline literature and in the Social World in which Paul's letters were preserved, studied and elaborated. We will focus both on passages in which slavery functions as a metaphor for some larger truth the epistle would communicate (e.g. Gal 4:24: "Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery"; 1 Cor 9:19 "I have made myself a slave to all") and on passages concerning human slaves within the *ekklēsia* (e.g. Onesimus in Paul's letter to Philemon). Methods and approaches from recent feminist, queer, and race-critical studies will be considered for the possibilities they offer to illuminate these slavery passages. Some attention will be given to recent scholarship on slavery in Classical Studies, and to scholarship on slavery within the epistles attributed to Paul but written pseudonymously (Colossians, Ephesians, the Pastoral Epistles).

Class Procedures:

The course is a seminar—requiring active participation in discussion of primary and secondary sources.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Occasional presentations and written responses to reading
3. Final paper employing original research (20-30 pages)
4. Final Take home exam

Required Texts:

1) Demetrius Williams, *Onesimus our Brother: Reading Religion Race and Slavery in Philemon*. Fortress, 2012. 978-0800663414. \$39

2) Caroline Johnson Hodge: *If Sons, Then Heirs: A Study of Kinship and Ethnicity in the Letters of Paul*. Oxford, 2007. ISBN: 987-19518216387. \$87.

3) Katherine Shaner, *Enslaved Leadership in Early Christianity*. Oxford University Press, 2018. 9780190775068. \$99.

Recommended Texts: (we'll read portions of these texts, but owing to costs we'll rely on library copies- and PDFS)

1) Marianne Kartzow, *The Slave Metaphor and Gendered Enslavement in Early Christian Discourse: Double Trouble Embodied*. Routledge, 2018. ISBN 9780815374657. \$140.

2) Michael Flexsenhar III, *Christians in Caesar's Household: The Emperor's Slaves in the Making of Christianity*. Penn State University Press, 2019. 978-0-271-08-233-2. \$89.95.

Several articles and book chapters will be made available as shared PDFS

Grading Procedures:

Class Participation: 20%

Research Paper: 60%

Final Exam: 20%