*****THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS*****

***Course Title*: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in the Pauline Letters**
***Course ID*: BTS-2495/BTS-5080**
CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Sunder John Boopalan, Ph.D. (Princeton Theological Seminary)
Email: JBoopalan@cmu.ca
Office: B324.1
Lecture times: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Some of the most contentious issues with respect to gender, class, and ethnicity are found in the Pauline letters. They are important to analyze because Paul's letters make up a third of the New Testament. The course dives into key biblical texts on these topics, allowing students to engage with wide-ranging debates regarding interpretation and application with attention to their historical and contemporary significance.

OBJECTIVES

- To undertake a reading of select texts from primary (biblical texts) and secondary sources from/on the Pauline Letters to understand gender, class, and ethnicity.
- To enable students to recognize how and why the Pauline Letters are some of the most contentious biblical texts that affect (Christian) communities and their interpretations.
- To allow students to enter words and worlds of debate and dialogue with respect to interpretation and application of biblical texts.
- To be curious about and appreciate the relationship between historical and contemporary worlds.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Joseph A. Marchal, *Bodies on the Verge: Queering Pauline Epistles* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019).

Love L. Sechrest, "Identity and the Embodiment of Privilege in Corinth" in *1 and 2 Corinthians: Texts @ Contexts*, Yung Suk Kim ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013), 9-30.

Love L. Sechrest, "Race, Ethnicity and Biblical Criticism," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Biblical Interpretation*, Stephen McKenzie, et al. eds. (London: Oxford Press, 2013).

Lisa M. Bowens, "Spirit-Shift: Paul, the Poor, and The Holy Spirit's Ethic of Love and Impartiality in the Eucharist Celebration," in *The Holy Spirit and Social Justice Interdisciplinary Global Perspectives: Scripture and Theology*, eds. Antipas Harris and Michael Palmer (Lanham, MD: Seymour Press, 2019).

Lisa M. Bowens, *African American Readings of Paul: Reception, Resistance, and Transformation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020).

Pamela Eisenbaum, *Paul Was Not a Christian: The Original Message of a Misunderstood Apostle* (New York: HarperOne, 2009).

Denise Kimber Buell and Caroline Johnson Hodge, "The Politics of Interpretation: The Rhetoric of Race and Ethnicity in Paul," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 123, no. 2 (2004): 235–51.

Laura Nasrallah and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, eds. *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Investigating Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Early Christianity* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009).

Mitzi J Smith and Jin Young Choi, eds. *Minoritized Women Reading Race and Ethnicity: Intersectional Approaches to Constructed Identity and Early Christian (Con)Texts* (Lanham: Lexington, 2020).

Select Chapters from Randall C. Bailey, Tat-Siong Benny Liew, and Fernando F. Segovia, eds., *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009).

Cynthia Long Westfall, *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016).

Kristopher Norris, "Race and Resurrection: Contesting Colorblind White Supremacy with Biblical Resources," *Theology Today* 77, no. 1 (April 1, 2020): 33–46.

Brian J. Robinson, *Being Subordinate Men: Paul's Rhetoric of Gender and Power in 1 Corinthians* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2018).

Amy-Jill Levine, ed., *A Feminist Companion To Paul* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2004).

Adela Yarbro Collins, "The Leadership of Women in Early Christianity," in *Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender, and Violence*, ed. Monica J. Melanchthon and Robyn J. Whitaker (SBL Press: Atlanta, 2021), 121–37.

Stephen J. Patterson, *The Forgotten Creed: Christianity's Original Struggle against Bigotry, Slavery, and Sexism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Davina Lopez, *The Apostle to the Conquered: Reimagining Paul's Mission* (Fortress Press, 2010).

Sze-kar Wan and Benny Liew, *Romans: An Introduction and Study Guide: Empire and Resistance* (New York: T&T Clark, 2021).

Matthew V. 1961- Johnson, James A. 1948- Noel, and Demetrius K. Williams, *Onesimus, Our Brother: Reading Religion, Race, and Culture in Philemon*, Paul in Critical Contexts (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012).

Cavan W. Concannon, *Profaning Paul* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021).

Efraín Agosto, "Islands, Borders, and Migration: Reading Paul in Light of the Crisis in Puerto Rico," in *Latinxs, the Bible, and Migration*, ed. Jacqueline Hidalgo and Efraín Agosto (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 149–70.

Select Chapters from Osvaldo D. Vena and Leticia A. Guardiola-Sáenz, eds., *Latinx Perspectives on the New Testament* (New York: Fortress Academic, 2022).

Select Chapters from Uriah Y. Kim and Seung Ai Yang, eds., *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019).