UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2014
Instructor: Dr. Michael Cover
Course #: THEO 2110
Section: 101
Course Title: New Testament Selected Books:
Topic: The Prison Letters of Paul the Apostle

Description:

“Remember my chains”: thus writes Paul the Apostle at the end of the letter to the Colossians. Among the hardships endured by Paul in his mission to spread the message of Jesus Christ among the nations, none is more iconic than his frequent imprisonment. The aim of this second-level undergraduate course is to look more closely into Paul’s theology through the prism of the so-called “Prison Letters,” in particular, the Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, the Ephesians, and the Philippians. Students will learn various methods of interpreting the letters of Paul, including both historical and canonical approaches to his writings, and will gain an appreciation of Paul’s role in the spread of the early Christian movement. Using the prison letters as a lens will allow us not only to consider afresh the resistance Paul encountered from the Roman imperial order, but will also provide the opportunity to reflect on modern Christian responses to incarceration, including those of Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Helen Prejean, C.S.J.