



# FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

## SYLLABUS

### FOR

COURSE NUMBER & NAME: BI 5325 Seminar in Elective New Testament Text  
(Baptism in the Pauline Letters)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Like BI 5324, research and discussion on a selected New Testament book(s) or type(s) of New Testament literature, but with the choice of different New Testament selections.

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the MABS

NUMBER HOURS CREDIT: 3

MODE OF DELIVERY:  Online  On Ground  Hybrid

*J. David Stark*

Dr. J. David Stark, Professor  
Kearley Graduate School of Theology

*Randall C. Bailey (approval on file)*

Dr. Randall C. Bailey, Chair  
Kearley Graduate School of Theology

*Todd Brenneman (approval on file)*

Dr. Todd Brenneman, Dean  
V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies

#### **Disability Services**

Center for Disability Services serves as the central contact point for all students with disabilities at Faulkner University including Alabama Christian College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, Harris College of Business, V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies, College of Health Sciences, Jones School of Law, and all extended campuses. Students are responsible for informing the University of their needs for services and accommodations. Contact Disability Services at 334-386-7185, 1-800-879-9816, x7185, email Nichole Fussell at [nfussell@faulkner.edu](mailto:nfussell@faulkner.edu), or visit <https://www.faulkner.edu/academic-resources/center-for-disability-services/>.

#### **Student Access to Faculty and Administration**

Students may contact the appropriate director, dean, department chair, or the Vice President for Academic Affairs as needed; contact information is posted on the web and available at <http://www.faulkner.edu/studentlife/documents/FacultyandAdministration.pdf>.

#### **The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)**

The ACE provides academic support to all Faulkner students in all disciplines. To learn about ACE services, schedule a face-to-face appointment with a tutor, or learn more about TutorMe (24/7 online tutoring) please visit the ACE website [www.faulkner.edu/ace](http://www.faulkner.edu/ace). You are welcome to drop by the ACE in Brooks Hall 405. If you have questions after reading the website, please email them to [ace@faulkner.edu](mailto:ace@faulkner.edu).

## SYLLABUS

### I. PURPOSE:

In Christian history, few authors have been as influential as Paul. Several times, Paul reflects on baptism. In so doing, he never sets out a fully orbbed “theology of baptism” but rather appeals to this foundational practice within the early Jesus movement and explores how it should inform ongoing faith and practice within the movement. This seminar explores Paul’s reflections on these themes and considers their implications for contemporary Christian faith and practice.

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the historical context for baptism in the early Jesus movement.
2. Interpret Pauline reflections on baptism.
3. Discuss how Paul’s reflections on baptism might inform ongoing Christian faith and practice.

### III. COURSE PREMISE, PHILOSOPHY, and METHODOLOGY:

This course reaches its instructional goals by our cooperation together. The *course premise* is that you learn this material best through written assignments, class discussion, assigned readings, class presentations and research that integrate every aspect of your learning process. The *course philosophy* is those of you who participate to the best of your ability in all of these areas will tend to have greater success than those who do not. The *course methodology* involves lectures, reading assignments, discussion forums, and written assignments. The reading assignments will prepare you for participation in class discussions. The written assignments will assist you in integrating your learning experience and developing your scholarly writing skills. As with any scholarly pursuit, each of you should also take personal initiative to go beyond these assignments in seeking other available data that will, when added to the assignments, give the class a breadth and depth not otherwise available.

### IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

Module 1: Historical background for baptism in the early Jesus movement

Module 2: Baptism in Pauline thought

Module 3: Pauline baptism and the contemporary church’s faith and practice

### V. RESOURCES:

1. **REQUIRED MATERIALS:** It is your decision as an independent moral agent whether or not to procure these required materials, or whether to consult them by some other means (e.g., library). If you elect not to procure any materials here listed as required, you are solely responsible for that decision and any consequences (foreseeable or otherwise) that may follow from it.

- a. Standard resources: Some [hardware, software](#), and [writing resources](#) you will need across the whole curriculum at KGST. You should, therefore, ensure that you have ready access to *all* of these tools and resources.
- b. Course-specific resources
  - i. Biblical text. Choice of one in descending order of recommended preference:
    1. Nestle, Eberhard, et al., eds. *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-61970-030-7, or choice of another printing of the same text
    2. Aland, Barbara, et al., ed., *The Greek New Testament*, 5th ed. (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2014). ISBN: 978-3-438-05116-5, or choice of another printing of the same text
    3. Choice of a Greek-English bilingual or interlinear version
  - ii. Historical background for baptism in the early Jesus movement
    1. Beasley-Murray, George Raymond. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 1973. ISBN: 978-0-8028-1493-7 (pp. 1–92)
    2. Cullmann, Oscar. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Translated by J. K. S. Reid. SBT 1. London: SCM, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-334-00068-6 (pp. 9–22)
    3. DiFransico, Lesley. *Washing Away Sin: An Analysis of the Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible and Its Influence*. Biblical Tools and Studies 23. Leuven: Peeters, 2016. ISBN: 978-90-429-3342-2
    4. Ferguson, Everett. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8028-2748-7 (pp. 23–145)
    5. Porter, Stanley E., and Anthony R. Cross, eds. *Dimensions of Baptism: Biblical and Theological Studies*. LNTS/JSNTSup 234. London: Sheffield Academic, 2002. Choice of ISBN: 978-0-567-58326-0 or [EBSCO](#). (pp. 8–71)
    6. Snyder, Benjamin J. “Technical Term or Technical Foul? Βαπτίζω (*Baptizō*) and the Problem of Transliteration as Translation.” *SCJ* 21.1 (2018): 91–113. [EBSCO](#)
    7. Stark, J. David, ed. *Seminar in the Pauline Letters: Supplementary Reader*. Winona, MN: Professor’s Choice, 2020. The reader is available from [Anselm Academic](#) and contains Wright, N. T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God 2. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996. ISBN: 0-8006-2682-6 (pp. 160–62, 495–98, 572–73)
    8. Taylor, Nicholas. *Paul on Baptism: Theology, Mission and Ministry in Context*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4982-4362-9 (pp. 1–20, 107–23)

9. Wedderburn, A. J. M. *Baptism and Resurrection: Studies in Pauline Theology against Its Graeco-Roman Background*. WUNT 44. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1987; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-61097-087-7 (pp. 1–232)
- iii. Baptism in Pauline thought
1. Beasley-Murray, George Raymond. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 1973. ISBN: 978-0-8028-1493-7 (pp. 127–192, 199–216)
  2. Cullmann, Oscar. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Translated by J. K. S. Reid. SBT 1. London: SCM, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-334-00068-6 (pp. 23–70)
  3. Ferguson, Everett. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8028-2748-7 (pp. 146–65)
  4. Porter, Stanley E., and Anthony R. Cross, eds. *Dimensions of Baptism: Biblical and Theological Studies*. LNTS/JSNTSup 234. London: Sheffield Academic, 2002. Choice of ISBN: 978-0-567-58326-0 or [EBSCO](#) (pp. 91–148)
  5. Stanley, David Michael. *Christ's Resurrection in Pauline Soteriology*. AnBib 13. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1961. (pp. 115–17, 181–86, 211–14)
  6. Stark, J. David, ed. *Seminar in the Pauline Letters: Supplementary Reader*. Winona, MN: Professor's Choice, 2020. The reader is available from [Anselm Academic](#) and contains:
    - a. Betz, Hans Dieter. "Transferring a Ritual: Paul's Interpretation of Baptism in Romans 6." Pages 84–118 in *Paul in His Hellenistic Context*. Edited by Troels Engberg-Pedersen. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995. ISBN: 978-0-8006-2648-8
    - b. Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. ISBN: 978-0-8028-4423-1 (pp. 442–60)
    - c. Ridderbos, Herman N. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. ISBN: 0-8028-4469-3 (pp. 396–414)
    - d. Wright, N. T. "New Inheritance, New Exodus: The Narrative Substructure of Romans 3–8." Pages 160–68 in *Pauline Perspectives: Essays on Paul, 1978–2013*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8006-9963-5
    - e. Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God 1. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992. ISBN: 0-8006-2681-8 (pp. 359–70, 444–64)

- f. Wright, N. T. *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God 4. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8006-2683-9 (pp. 384–455, 962–64, 1333–38)
- g. Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God 3. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2003. ISBN: 0-8006-2679-6 (pp. 248–59, 338–40)
7. Taylor, Nicholas. *Paul on Baptism: Theology, Mission and Ministry in Context*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4982-4362-9 (pp. 25–50, 55–76, 82–88, 90–92, 102–7, 132–38)
8. Wedderburn, A. J. M. *Baptism and Resurrection: Studies in Pauline Theology against Its Graeco-Roman Background*. WUNT 44. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1987; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-61097-087-7 (pp. 233–396)
- iv. Reception of Pauline thought about baptism
  1. Beasley-Murray, George Raymond. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 1973. ISBN: 978-0-8028-1493-7 (pp. 216–395)
  2. Lakey, Michael. “The Ritual World of Paul’s Early Interpreters: Baptism as a Case Study.” Pages 153–78 in *The Ritual World of Paul the Apostle: Metaphysics, Community and Symbol in 1 Corinthians 10–11*. Library of New Testament Studies. London: T&T Clark, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-567-12034-2
  3. Peterson, Jeffrey. “‘The Circumcision of the Christ’: The Significance of Baptism in Colossians and the Churches of the Restoration.” *ResQ* 43.2 (2001): 65–77. [EBSCO](#)
  4. Porter, Stanley E., and Anthony R. Cross, eds. *Dimensions of Baptism: Biblical and Theological Studies*. LNTS/JSNTSup 234. London: Sheffield Academic, 2002. Choice of ISBN: 978-0-567-58326-0 or [EBSCO](#) (pp. 253–67, 280–303, 333–53)
  5. Soyars, Jonathan E. *The Shepherd of Hermas and the Pauline Legacy*. NovTSup 176. Leiden: Brill, 2019. ISBN: 978-90-04-40258-4 (pp. 172–87, 193–200)
  6. Taylor, Nicholas. *Paul on Baptism: Theology, Mission and Ministry in Context*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4982-4362-9 (pp. 124–32, 144–64)
- v. At least 250 pages of additional reading relevant to understanding baptism in Paul from our course’s [extended bibliography](#), the supplementary or suggested materials listed below, or other scholarly literature within the last ten years.

## V. SUPPLEMENTARY/SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

1. Any additional texts from [this bibliography](#).
2. If you are taking this course based on the Greek New Testament, you should also consider having ready access to resources like:
  - a. Bauer, Walter, et al., eds. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Translated by Frederick W. Danker. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. ISBN: 0-226-03933-1
  - b. Blass, Friedrich, and Albert Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Edited and translated by Robert Walter Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961. ISBN: 978-0-226-27110-1
  - c. Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN: 0-310-37340-9
3. Batibuka, Pontien Ndagijimana, *Baptism as an Event of Taking Responsibility: A New Reading of Romans 5:12 to 6:23*, Langham Monographs (Carlisle: Langham, 2022). ISBN: 978-1-83973-234-8
4. Harrill, J. Albert. "Coming of Age and Putting on Christ: The Toga Virilis Ceremony, Its Paraenesis, and Paul's Interpretation of Baptism in Galatians." *NovT* 44.3 (2002): 252–77. [EBSCO](#)
5. Hunn, Debbie. "The Baptism of Galatians 3:27: A Contextual Approach." *ExpTim* 115.11 (2004): 372–75. [EBSCO](#)
6. Meeks, Wayne A. *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. 2nd ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-300-09861-8 (pp. 150–57)
7. Ostrov, Rick. *Power Reading*. 3rd. ed. North San Juan, CA: Education, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-9601706-1-6
8. Schnelle, Udo. *Apostle Paul: His Life and Theology*. Translated by M. Eugene Boring. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-8010-2796-3 (pp. 300–1, 326–33)
9. Siikavirta, Samuli. *Baptism and Cognition in Romans 6–8: Paul's Ethics beyond "Indicative" and "Imperative."* WUNT 2/407. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2015. ISBN: 978-3-16-154014-1
10. Research help from [24/7 Ask-A-Librarian](#).

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

### 1. ASSIGNMENTS:

- a. (S/U, COs 1–3<sup>1</sup>) [Course requirements quiz](#)
- b. (S/U, COs 1–3) [Introductory discussion](#)
- c. (10%, COs 1, 3) [MA tutorial discussion](#)
- d. (5%, COs 1–2) Major essay proposal: By the end of Week 2, you must submit a written proposal for your term's major essay. You will present this proposal at the designated time during our Week 3 live seminar meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> The abbreviation "CO[s]" refers to "course objective[s]," and the accompanying numbering indicates which assignments produce the learning outcomes identified above under §II.

For details about this assignment, please see its [instructions](#). For topic guidance, see below under “Major essay.”

- e. (S/U, COs 1–3) [Live seminar meetings](#)
  - f. (S/U, COs 1–2) Major essay response signup: By the end of Week 4, you will sign up for the classmate whose essay you would like to review later in the term.<sup>2</sup> If you do not sign up to review a classmate’s essay by the end of Week 4, I will assign the classmate whose essay you will review.
  - g. (10%, COs 1–3) Annotated bibliography: By the Tuesday of Week 7, you must post your elective reading annotated bibliography in the appropriate discussion forum. By the end of Week 7, you must review and reply to one classmate’s annotated bibliography. For this bibliography, you may use any work listed that is (1) in the course’s extended bibliography or is another scholarly treatment published within the last ten years, (2) relevant to understanding baptism in Paul, and (3) not already itemized in the required materials list above. For additional details, please see this assignment’s [instructions](#).
  - h. (10%, COs 1–2) Classmate’s major essay first draft response: By the end of Week 9, you must submit your written response to your classmate’s essay. You will present this response at the designated time during our second live seminar meeting. For details about this assignment, please see its [instructions](#).
  - i. (20%, CO 3) Topical essay: On [the topic addressed in Module 3](#), you will produce [one essay and one evaluation for each of your classmates’ essays](#).
  - j. (5%, COs 1–2) [Major essay first draft presentation](#)
  - k. (40%, COs 1–2) Major essay: The essay may focus on any aspect of Paul’s thought about baptism as expressed in the letters that name him as their author. If you wish, you may treat a Pauline text not assigned in the reading list below if you demonstrate why that text alludes to baptism. For more information about this assignment, please see its [instructions](#).
  - l. (S/U, COs 1–3) [Daily lection reflection](#)
  - m. (S/U, COs 1–3) [Course evaluation](#)
2. OTHER INFORMATION: The term’s final course grades will be submitted by 12:00 pm, 6 Aug. For further details, see this course’s [other standard information](#).

## VII. COURSE GRADING

A = 90–100%      B = 80–89%      C = 70–79%      D = 60–69%      F = 59% and below

For more information about grading, please see also this course’s [expanded grade scale](#). Per the MA section of the KGST catalog, “No more than 6 hours applicable credit [may be given] for courses with a grade of C.”

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<sup>2</sup> For clarity’s sake, references to “classmates” refer to anyone else in the course, irrespective of whether that person is in the MA or the PhD section.

## VIII. COURSE CALENDAR:

Where particular sections of a given resource are cited for readings below, you are expected only to read those sections. Where only an author's name (or name and work title) are noted, you are expected to read the entire piece indicated. The order of the readings indicates what seems the best suggested reading order (e.g., less to more advanced, earlier to later). In some or all cases, it may be beneficial for you to try to begin the reading indicated below before the unit in which that reading is scheduled.

Week	Readings and content	Assignments
<p>Module 1: Historical background for baptism in the early Jesus movement – By the end of this unit, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Confirm your willingness to comply with this course's stated requirements.</li> <li>➤ Identify and connect with the other participants in this course.</li> <li>➤ Analyze and discuss the historical background for baptism in the early Jesus movement.</li> </ul>		
1 (13 May–19 May)	Syllabus, <a href="#">standard course information</a> , and other introductory and instruction documents; daily lections; classmates' introductory posts; Beasley-Murray (1–92); Cullmann (9–22); DiFrancisco; Snyder; Taylor (1–20, 107–23)	Course requirements quiz (Thursday), introductory discussion (Thursday) and responses
2 (20 May–26 May)	Daily lections, Ferguson (23–145), Porter and Cross (8–71), Wedderburn (1–232), Wright ( <i>Jesus</i> , 160–62, 495–501, 572–73)	Major essay proposal
3 (27 May–2 Jun)	Daily lections, live seminar meetings (Tuesday, Thursday–Friday)	Live discussions
<p>Module 2: Baptism in Pauline thought – By the end of this unit, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Interpret the text of Paul's discussions of baptism.</li> <li>➤ Interpret and discuss Paul's theology of baptism in particular texts and in general.</li> </ul>		
4 (3 Jun–9 Jun)	Daily lections, Rom 6, Gal 3, Beasley-Murray (127–51), Betz, Cullmann (23–70), Dunn (442–60), Ferguson (146–48, 155–58, 164–65), Porter and Cross (91–119), Stanley (181–86), Taylor (25–33, 55–64, 102–7), Wright ("New Inheritance"; <i>Resurrection</i> , 248–59), elective reading for annotated bibliography	MA tutorial discussion 1 question, essay response signup
5 (10 Jun–16 Jun)	Daily lections; 1 Cor 1:10–17, 6:1–11; Col 1:24–2:15; Tit 3:1–11; Beasley-Murray (152–167, 177–81, 209–16); Ferguson (149–155, 158–160, 162–64); Ridderbos (396–414); Stanley (211–14); Taylor (33–42, 65–76, 90–92); elective reading for annotated bibliography	MA tutorial discussion 2 question



Week	Readings and content	Assignments
6 (17 Jun–23 Jun)	Daily lections; 1 Cor 10:1–11:1, 12:4–31; Beasley-Murray (167–71, 181–85); Porter and Cross (120–48); Stanley (115–17); Taylor (42–50); Wright ( <i>New Testament</i> , 359–70, 444–64; <i>Paul</i> , 384–455, 962–64, 1333–38); elective reading for annotated bibliography	MA tutorial discussion 3 question
7 (24 Jun–30 Jun)	Daily lections; 1 Cor 15:12–34; Eph 4:1–16, 5:25–33; elective reading for annotated bibliography	Annotated bibliography (Tuesday) and reply
8 (1 Jul–7 Jul)	Daily lections, Beasley-Murray (171–77, 185–92, 199–204), Ferguson (161–62), Taylor (82–88, 132–38), Wedderburn (233–96), Wright ( <i>Resurrection</i> , 338–40)	Major essay first draft for reviewer
<p>Module 3: Reception of Pauline thought about baptism – By the end of this unit, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discuss the history of reception for Paul’s thought about baptism.</li> <li>➤ Discuss how Paul’s thought about baptism might inform ongoing Christian faith and practice.</li> </ul>		
9 (8 Jul–14 Jul)	Daily lections, classmate’s major essay first draft, Beasley-Murray (216–395)	Classmate’s major essay first draft written response
10 (15 Jul–21 Jul)	Daily lections, live seminar meetings (Thursday–Friday), Lakey, Peterson, Porter and Cross (253–67, 280–303, 333–53), Sovars (172–87, 193–200), Taylor (124–32, 144–64)	Topical essay (Wednesday); live discussions; major essay first draft presentations, oral responses, and discussion
11 (22 Jul–28 Jul)	Daily lections	Classmate topical essay evaluations (Monday), major essay final draft
12 (29 Jul–2 Aug)	None	Daily lections reflection, course evaluation

## IX. INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: J. David Stark Email: [dstark@faulkner.edu](mailto:dstark@faulkner.edu)  
Office Location: Online and [Harris Parker 240](#) Phone: 334-386-7369  
Office Hours: By appointment request via Google Calendar or [Youcanbook.me](#). Due to how my schedule typically fills up, you will often find it necessary to schedule live meetings at least one week in advance.

Response Time to Grading: See my [standard course information](#).  
Response Time to Emails: See my [standard course information](#).  
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## X. ACADEMIC POLICIES

You are expected to comply with all applicable policies and procedures as outlined in this course and its materials, the [University Catalog](#), the [Graduate Catalog](#), the [student handbook](#), and the [online student handbook supplement](#). You are also expected to comply with my [general guidelines and expectations](#) and other instructional policies, including those about [academic bibliography](#), [assignment lengths](#), [late assignments](#), and [plagiarism](#).