Instructor
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I. Course Description
The Christian religion is inextricably bound up with contemporary culture not only in America but also around the globe. Yet, even after centuries of scholarly inquiry, numerous questions regarding its historical origins remain contested and unanswered. The Christian movement developed into a religion about Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. From a historical perspective, however, Jesus himself did not invent this religion. Rather, the most influential figure in establishing the Christian church as an institution is the Apostle Paul. This course will undertake an historical reconstruction of Paul’s mission and his distinctive achievements, the manner in which he founded new religious communities and articulated a distinctive intellectual and spiritual vision.

II. Textbooks


III. Schedule

Week 1 (May 5): Paul, the Man behind the Letters

Reading: 1 Thessalonians, Galatians

Week 2 (May 12): Paul between Paganism and Judaism

Reading: Romans

¹ Equivalent reading selections are given for both the 6th and 7th editions of Ehrman.
Week 3 (May 19): Beyond Paul: Letters, Legends, Legacies

Reading: Colossians, Ephesians, James ch. 2

Week 4 (May 26): With Liberty and Justice for *All*? Women, Slaves, and Others in Paul’s Churches

Reading: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy