

Syllabus for
GBIB 626—The Book of Acts
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2011

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical study of the book of Acts with emphasis on major historical developments and theological themes contained in the text. Considers the composition, structure, and historical milieu of the book in preparation for the exegesis. Includes application and assessment of the exegetical insights for the contemporary church.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study and compare diverse hypotheses concerning the composition of the Book of Acts and defend one's personal position.
- B. Study the literary, historical, and theological relationship between the Gospel according to Luke and the Book of Acts.
- C. Learn to interpret thoroughly the English text of the Book of Acts.
- D. Explore the development of the church from Jerusalem to Rome and understand the role of the Spirit in the Church and in believers.
- E. Discover prominent theological issues that arose in the early Church.
- F. Learn to apply and evaluate the meaning of passages and themes in Acts to parallel situations in the Church and the world today.
- G. Gain an appreciation of the struggle of the early Church to survive; sense the excitement and magnitude of its mission and task; give gratitude for its contribution to us today; and seek to recapture its vitality and power in worship and service.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- 1. Explain different hypotheses concerning the composition of Acts and defend personal position with specific reasons.
- 2. State the literary, historical, and theological relationships between the Gospel according to Luke and Acts.
- 3. Exegete any passage in the English text of the Book of Acts.
- 4. Trace the spread of the church from Jerusalem to Rome.
- 5. Explain the basic beliefs and theological issues of the early Church contained in Acts.
- 6. Write a paper explaining in detail one central belief of the early Church and applying it to the contemporary Church and personal life and ministry.

7. Express orally and in action the purpose and mission of the church.
8. Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural context to selected contemporary contexts.

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing each of these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Unit A:
 - State the requirements and objectives of the course.
2. Unit B:
 - a. Identify the author, date, provenance, and sources involved in the composition of Acts.
 - b. Explain the literary, historical, and theological relationship between Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts.
 - c. Explain the literary, historical, and theological relationship between Luke-Acts and Paul's Letters.
3. Unit C:
 - a. Explain and compare different hermeneutical perspectives advocated by scholars in interpreting Acts.
 - b. Define and utilize the methods and tools of modern biblical criticism (analysis) in interpreting the text.
4. Unit D:
 - a. Explain the relationship between structure and purpose in the composition of Acts.
 - b. State the major theological themes running throughout the book.
 - c. Identify different "forms" of literature in the book and explain how "form" affects interpretation.
5. Unit E:
 - a. Exegete the Book of Acts.
 - b. Define key theological terms.
 - c. State the central meaning of each section to relate passages treating identical or similar topics.
 - d. Compare different or contrasting ideas.
 - e. Explain the unifying factors and themes of the book.
6. Unit F: Based upon the exegesis
 - a. Apply pertinently the topics and religious themes in Acts to parallel situations in the Church today, either orally or in writing.
 - b. Explain how the instruction provided by Acts enables us to respond to the mission and opportunity of the contemporary Church more effectively.
7. Unit G:
 - a. Summarize the contents of Acts, historical, literary, and theological.
 - b. Assess the adequacy of the counsel in Acts for the Church's ministry today.
 - c. Assess the Church's ability to utilize the information and guidance given by Acts.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Polhill, John B. *The New American Commentary Vol. 26-Acts*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2004. ISBN: 9780805401264

Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994. ISBN: 9780830812363

2. Other
None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks
Bruce, F. F. *The Book of the Acts*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988. ISBN: 9780802825056

Marshall, I. H. *Acts of the Apostles*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN : 9780830842353
2. Other
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School of Theology and Missions Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
 - c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
 - d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
 - e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
 - f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Class Devotional	5%
Midterm	20%
Theological Paper	30%
Reading Report	15%
Final Examination	30%

Grading scale:

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-70%

D=69-60%

F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. Whole Person Assessment requirements for this class:
 - (1) The Theological paper for GBIB 626 must be uploaded to the student's ePortfolio.
 - (2) The Theological paper may be used as a required artifact for the M. A. Biblical literature degree program.

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. Course requirements:
 - (1) Read the Book of Acts and the commentaries.
 - (2) Submit 1- to 2-page outline covering Class Devotional and Prayer based upon Acts. Outline headings: Introduction, Exegesis, Exposition, Application, Prayer. Time—10 minutes maximum.
 - (3) Class attendance and participation in accordance with ORU policy. Unexcused absences result in the lowering of the course grade.
 - b. Theological paper: "A Basic Belief of the Church." Length: 10-page limit (excluding notes and bibliography); typewritten. Students follow these procedures:
 - (1) Select a belief, theme, or issue treated in Acts, and explain it thoroughly with exegetical support from relevant passages in Acts and other sources.
 - (2) Demonstrate the relevance or significance of the theme for the Church today. Be specific.
 - (3) Title page, notes, and bibliography are required. Follow university-approved format. No fewer than 10 sources must be consulted, at least 2 of which must be journals.
 - (4) Note: Students with proficiency in Greek are encouraged (not required) to translate and exegete passages from the Greek text in preparing the paper.
 - c. Reading Report:
 - (1) Four pages maximum
 - (2) Specific information is given in class on topics and reading materials in Longnecker and Stott.
 - d. Final Examination:
 - (1) Content, exegesis, and theological themes of Acts.
 - (2) Study guideline provided in class.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Unit	Week	Assignment
A	1	Introduction to Course
B		Historical Background and Composition
C	2	Introduction and Background to Acts Polhill
D		Structure, Text, and Theology of Acts J. Stott, pp. 5-37
E		Study the commentaries by Polhill and Stott on the assigned passages (other commentaries—optional)
	3	Acts 1:1-26 Acts 2:1-47
	4	Acts 3:1-26 Acts 4:1-37 Acts 5:1-42
	5	Acts 6:1-8:1a
	6	Acts 8:1b-40; Acts 9:1-43
	7	Acts 10:1-11:18; 11:19-12:25
	8	Acts 13:1-52; Acts 14:1-28; Reading Report Due
	9	Acts 15:1-16:40
	10	Acts 17:1-34 Acts 18:1-19:20
	11	Acts 19:21-20:36; Acts 21:1-23:11
	12	Acts 23:12-24:37
	13	Acts 25:1-26:32; Acts 27:1-44; Theological Paper Due
	14	Acts 28:1-31
F	14	The Spirit The Kerygma in Salvation History The Church Review
G	15	Final Examination

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
School of Theology and Missions**

Master of Arts Biblical Literature

**GBIB 626 The Book of Acts Dr. Trevor Grizzle, Instructor
Spring 2011**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the MA Biblical Literature degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Translation, Biblical Language			
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament			X	
2	Critical Methods of Exegesis			
Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective using biblical languages.	X			
3	Major Old Testament Themes			
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.				X
4	Major New Testament Themes			
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.		X		
5	Scripture in Cultural Context			
Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.		X		
6	Tools/Methods of Research			
Write an advanced research MA thesis in Old Testament/New Testament using biblical critical tools and methods.		X		