

Saint Louis Christian College
BNT205n Acts (3 Credit Hours)
Professor Jim Claycomb

Spring, 2012

Monday, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Course Prerequisites: BNT105n; BBI215n; GEN125n

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Luke's account of the inception and growth of the church of Christ and doctrine of the first century church are considered in context.

COURSE RATIONALE

Acts provides accurate and powerful testimony of the divine establishment and growth of the church as God's Spirit filled and guided the early disciples. It traces the church's development from its narrow Jewish roots to its fearless and unhindered witness to all in the very heart of the Roman Empire. It answers that most crucial of all questions, "What must I do to be saved?" This course also contributes to student achievement of the following Division of Biblical Education objectives:

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole. (SLO 2, 8, 9)
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply, and communicate Scripture. (SLO 1)
3. Presented the biblical mandates for worldwide evangelism, the student will communicate the imperative that every person needs Jesus Christ as Savior. (SLO 1, 7)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Understand the introductory issues of Acts and how Paul's letters fit into its history.
2. Grasp the structure and essential message of Acts in its historical and geographical setting.
3. Understand the major theological themes of Acts and their implications for today.
4. Comprehend and appreciate the dynamic interaction between God and his people in the establishment and expansion of the church.
5. Appreciate the positive models of believers and churches in Acts and imitate their faithfulness and bold witness.
6. Explain the unique role of Christ as Savior in God's redemptive plan seen in Acts.

COURSE TEXTS

Larkin, William. *Acts*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Moore, Mark E., ed. *Fanning the Flame*. Joplin: College Press, 2003.

Green, Michael, *Thirty Years that changed the world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publ. Co, 2004.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Memorization Assignments

Students will memorize assigned Scripture passages from Acts

Use only the English Standard Version (ESV). *At the beginning of each session students will write legibly from memory the assigned passages for that session.* The first question on your Final Exam will be to write from memory the total 23 verses assigned. This will represent 10% of your Final Exam grade.

Session 1	2:22-23
Session 2	2:22-25
Session 3	2:22-27
Session 4	2:22-29
Session 5	2:22-31
Session 6	2:22-33
Session 7	2:22-36
Session 8	4:24-25
Session 9	4:24-27
Session 10	4:24-29
Session 11	4:24-31

Students will memorize the outline of Acts (Syllabus pg 7). Students will be quizzed on this Sessions 6 & 8. Furthermore this will be the first question on the Final Exam.

Reading & Written Assignments

Read the book of Acts

Students will read through the book of Acts one time prior to the first session. The reading must be through the book as a whole, at one sitting, or broken into three sittings (chapters 1–10, 11-20 & 21–28). Again, the translation used should be guided by the above stated criteria.

A HHH Reflection is due each session

Students will turn in a Head Heart & Hand Reflection per session based on the readings assigned for that session. Each is due on the session they are named. Exactly one is due for each session; not one for each book assigned, but only one per session for the readings of that session.

How were you impacted at a **head level**; intellectual? How has your understanding or knowledge level changed or been more firmly rooted? How were you impacted at a **heart level**? Was there new conviction in your life, family or your church? How have your affections toward God intensified if any? How were you impacted on a **hand level**; in other words, what behavioral change will you pursue as a result of this session's reading? Be specific.

A HHH Reflection is between 2 to 4 pages in length. **All assignments to be typed using MLA style, single spaced, Times New Roman, font 12, black ink.** They are to be turned in on the due date before the start of class. A 10% reduction in grade is applied thereafter for each week late.

Sermon/Lesson Outlines

Four (4) typed Doctrinal Outlines, in either “sermon” or “lesson” form, are assigned & due on the scheduled dates. The outlines must heavily take into account what you are learning through the readings & lectures. Listed below are the topics & sessions due:

- Session Three – *Missiology in the book of Acts*
- Session Five – *Christology in the book of Acts*
- Session Seven - *Pneumatology in the book of Acts*
- Session Nine - *What we must learn from the persecuted Church*

A Doctrinal Study is due the Session Eleven

The typed study shall have as its focus one of two possible topics:

- (1) *The Divinely appointed convergence between the Church as a missional community & persecution*
- (2) *Christology in the book of Acts*

In either choice of topics, your primary Biblical source is the book of Acts. This does not mean other Scriptural passages may not be used. But Acts is the primary source for this doctrinal study. Provide prayerfully pondered application that is both personal and corporate. The paper shall be 8–12 pages in length, using MLA style, single spaced, Times New Roman, font 12, black ink.

Final Exam

This will be a comprehensive essay exam. Whether ‘take-home’ or administered the 11th session is to be announced.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Readings, HHH Reflections, scheduled & pop Quizzes	10%
Scripture memory each session	10%
Outlines (sermon/lesson)	20%
Final Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Should four hours of absence occur the student will be given an additional assignment. Failure to complete the additional assignment will result in a reduction of the final grade by one letter. Students are allowed five maximum hours of absence. Hence anything beyond 5 hours will receive an “F” grade for the course.

Late Work: Assignments are due on stated dates at the beginning of the class period. Late work for extenuating circumstances (illness, emergency, etc...) will be accepted for full credit. Other late assignments will be accepted on the basis of a 10% reduction in grade per each week late. No late work will be accepted after 10 days. All extenuating circumstances will be explained in typed form.

Missed Quizzes: Exams missed due to an excused absence (extenuating circumstances) may be made up with the professor's permission. The Student is responsible to determine if there was a quiz and request permission to take it. Quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence receive a 0%. Make-up quizzes will be administered in "the 100".

Incompletes: See college catalog for the conditions under which an incomplete may be granted.

Special Circumstances – Students with a diagnosed learning disability will need to see The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance the learning experience.

Computers: Computers may be used in the classroom provided you secure permission from the professor and that you use the computer for note-taking only; both immediately before & during class. Any other use will result in the permanent loss of this privilege. The burden of proof is on the student.

The only electronic devices allowed are recording devices.

Honesty: Dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a 0% for the session & assignment involved. See the college catalog.

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to modify the course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even assignments so long as the change does not add to the student's work load.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session One

<i>Larkin</i>	pages 13-36
<i>Moore</i>	chapters 1:1 & 1:2
<i>Green</i>	preface, chapters 1 & 2

Session Two

<i>Acts</i>	chapters 1-2
<i>Larkin</i>	pages 37-63a
<i>Moore</i>	chapters 1:3 & 1:4
<i>Green</i>	chapters 3 & 4

Session Three

<i>Acts</i>	Outline due - <i>Missiology in the book of Acts</i>
<i>Larkin</i>	chapters 3-6a
<i>Moore</i>	pages 63b – 102
<i>Green</i>	chapters 1:5 & 1:6
	chapter 5

Session Four

Acts chapters 6b-8
Larkin pages 103-137a
Moore chapters 1:7 & 3:1
Green chapter 6

Session Five

Acts chapters 9 – 11a
Larkin pages 137b-174a
Moore chapters 3.2 & 3.3
Green chapter 7

Session Six

Acts chapters 11b-14
Larkin pages 174b-218a
Moore chapter 4.1
Green chapter 8

Session Seven

Acts chapters 15 - 18
Larkin pages 218b - 269a
Moore chapter 4.2
Green chapter 9

Session Eight

Acts chapters 19 - 20
Larkin pages 269b-300a
Moore chapter 4.3
Green chapter 12

Session Nine

Acts chapters 21 - 23
Larkin pages 300b - 336
Moore chapter 4.4
Green chapter 13

Session Ten

Acts chapters 24 - 26
Larkin pages 337 - 365a
Moore chapter 4.5
Green chapter 14

Session Eleven

Acts chapters 27 - 28
Larkin pages 365b - 393
Green chapter 15

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barrett, C.K. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*. 2 vols. International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994, 1997.
- Bock, Darrell. *Acts* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2007.
- Bruce, F.F. *Commentary on the Book of Acts*. Rev. ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- . *The Acts of the Apostle: The Greek Text with Introduction & Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1965.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Green, Michael. *Thirty Years That changed the World: The Book of Acts for Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Polhill, John B. *Acts*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.
- Sherwin-White, A. *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Winter, Bruce, ed. *The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting*. 6 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993-97.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Outline

- I. Preparation for Witness (1)**
- II. The Witness to Jerusalem (2 – 8:3)**
 - A. Founding of the Church (2)
 - B. Apostles preaching, healing & enduring persecution (3-5)
 - C. Deacons praying, teaching & enduring persecution (6-8)
- III. The Witness to Judea & Samaria (8:4 – 12)**
 - A. Witness in Samaria & to Africa (8)
 - B. Conversion of Saul (9a)
 - C. Witness to Judea (9b)
 - D. Witness to Gentiles (10-11)
 - E. Persecution by Herod (12)
- IV. The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13 – 28)**
 - A. Witness in Cyprus & southern Galatia (*Paul's 1st Missionary Journey*; 13-14)
 - B. Jerusalem Council (15a)
 - C. Witness in Greece (*Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey*; 15b-18a)
 - D. Witness in Ephesus (*Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey*; 18b-21a)
 - E. Witness in Jerusalem (Paul's arrest; 21b-23)
 - F. Witness in Caesarea (Paul under arrest; 24-26)
 - G. Witness in Rome by Paul (27-28)