

Saint Louis Christian College
BNT202 ACTS
Professor: Stacy Garner
3 Credit Hours

Spring, 2012

Course Prerequisite: None

Wednesdays & Fridays

7:30-8:45a

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 RATIONAL

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

Upon conclusion 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 REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance.** Each student is expected to attend all scheduled classes. Realizing that sickness or emergency may occur, each student is afforded two absences without penalty; however, the student is still responsible for any work that is missed and/or due on the day(s) the student was absent for any reason. Students should use these two absences wisely. Personal emergencies that require the student to miss more than two class sessions will be handled on an individual basis through consultation between the student and Professor Garner. The reason for the absence(s) will determine the nature and number of additional assignments that will be required. Should a student be absent for seven class sessions (including institutional walks), Professor Garner will submit that student's name to the Academic Dean, and he/she will be automatically withdrawn from the course, having earned a final grade of F. **Please note** that three tardies equal one absence. (The student will be considered tardy when he/she arrives after class has begun or leaves before class has ended. It is possible to receive two tardies for one class session.)
2. **Textbooks.** The textbooks for this course are:
 - ESV Student Study Bible: English Standard Version.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2011. Print.
 - Green, Michael. *Thirty Years that Changed the World: The Book of Acts for Today.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. Print.
 - Larkin, William J. *Acts. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series.* 5. Downers Grove: IVP, 1995. Print.Course Pack (available for purchase in the Bookstore)
3. **Reading.** Each student is expected to come prepared for class, having read each assignment according to its due date. Please consult the course schedule for reading assignments.
4. **Quizzes.**
 - 1) **MV Quizzes.** Each Wednesday when you come to class you will write out from memory the assigned verses for that week. You may only use the *English Standard Version* for this course. Please consult the course schedule for memory verse assignments.
 - 2) **CI Quizzes.** There will be four chapter identification quizzes to assess the extent to which you are familiar with the location of the events of Acts. Please consult the course schedule for the dates of the CI Quizzes.
 - 3) **Map Quiz.** There will be a map quiz to evaluate your knowledge of key locations mentioned in Acts. A detailed map has been provided in your course pack. Please consult the course schedule for the date of the Map Quiz.
5. **Midterm Exam.** There will be a midterm exam in this course. This exam will be over material covered in class (including the content from the quizzes above). Please consult the course schedule for the date of the exam.

6. **Christological Analysis.** The book of Acts clearly teaches that salvation is found in Christ alone. Make an analysis of all the passages in Acts which assert specifically the unique and indispensable role of Jesus Christ as Savior of all people.

Guidelines:

Search for passages which specifically state that Christ is the indispensable key in God's plan of salvation. These texts use a variety of words and concepts to declare that Jesus is Savior of all. Chief among them are (1) Savior, salvation; (2) deliverer, deliverance; (3) repentance and faith in Jesus; (4) forgiveness; (5) healing [spiritual NOT physical]. Some of these affirmations are found in Old Testament quotations cited in Acts. Some passages are linked to Jews and others to Gentiles, some both. Specific statements occur in at least 14 chapters of Acts. In a few cases there is more than one reference in a chapter. Enjoy your search of this core truth of our faith!

Paper format. Simply cover the passages as they occur, starting with Acts 1:8 and moving through the book, discussing only the relevant texts. (Typed and double spaced, size 12 font)

Paper content. Explain what each text says about this crucial issue using the 3 headings below. See the MODEL in the course pack.

Circumstances. Set the stage by summarizing the circumstances (1) who was speaking, (2) to whom, (3) where, and (4) what was happening.

Core Content. Then explain the key verses that assert that Jesus is Savior of all. You will want to quote the key words and phrases from these passages BUT DO NOT QUOTE THE ENTIRE TEXT.

Conclusion. After analyzing all relevant texts, write 2 substantial paragraphs as follows:

The unique and indispensable role of Jesus Christ as Savior of all people
The implications of this for your own sharing of the gospel with others

7. **Conversion Chart.** Follow the instructions in the chart provided in the course pack.
8. **Final Exam.** This exam will be comprehensive, covering major people, places and events. A study guide will be provided.

COURSE ASSESSMENT (EVALUATION)

1. Grading.	Reading	15%
	MV Quizzes	15%
	CI Quizzes	10%
	Map Quiz	10%
	Midterm Exam	10%
	Christological Analysis	20%
	Conversion Chart	5%
	Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
		100%

2. **Grading Scale.** The student's final grade will be determined according to the Saint Louis Christian College grading scale, located in the College Catalog.
3. **Attendance.** (Please refer to the course requirements section above.)
4. **Reading.** This portion of the student's grade is based upon the honor system. At the beginning of each class period each student will be asked to indicate the percentage of reading that has been completed. These percentages will be used to determine the student's grade for reading.
5. **Quizzes.**
 - 1) **MV Quizzes.** At the beginning of each class session, you will be required to write the day's memory verses on paper that your professor will provide. You may only use the *ESV* translation of the Bible for this course. While punctuation is important, exact wording for each of the verses will be emphasized. Depending on the length of the memory verses, 1-3 points will be deducted for each word missed.
 - 2) **CI Quizzes.** At the beginning of four scheduled sessions, you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge of the location of significant people, places or events in the book of Acts.
 - 3) **Map Quiz.** You will be required to locate the geographic locations mentioned throughout the book of Acts.
6. **Midterm Exam.** This exam may include material covered in class lectures, reading materials and the content from the above quizzes.
7. **Christological Analysis Scoring Guide.**

	F (60%)	D (74%)	C (82%)	B (90%)	A (100%)
Content 60%	The analysis contains significant errors.	The analysis is superficial or somewhat erroneous.	The analysis is accurate but somewhat superficial.	The analysis is biblically accurate.	The analysis is insightful and profoundly biblical.
Depth of Research 20%	The analysis makes use of no scripture or other resource.	The analysis makes adequate use of scripture and one other resource.	The analysis makes adequate use of scripture and two other resources.	The analysis makes adequate use of scripture and three other resources.	The analysis makes critical use of scripture and four or more other resources.
Grammar and Spelling 10%	The analysis contains seven or more errors.	The analysis contains five or six errors.	The analysis contains three or four errors.	The analysis contains one or two errors.	The analysis contains no errors.
Format 10%	The analysis does not demonstrate the proper usage of MLA style.	The analysis barely demonstrates proper usage of MLA style.	The analysis partly demonstrates proper usage of MLA style.	The analysis mostly demonstrates the proper usage of MLA style.	The analysis consistently demonstrates the proper usage of MLA style.

8. **Conversion Chart.** The grade for this assignment will be assessed by the completeness and biblical defense of your answers.
9. **Final Exam.** The final exam will be comprehensive.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January	11	Read: Acts (in one sitting); Green, pp. 5-24; Orientation & Introduction; Discussion: The role of Acts in life and ministry
	13	Read: Acts 1; Larkin, pp. 13-48a; Green, pp. 25-41
	18	MV Quiz: Acts 1:6-8; Read: Acts 2; Larkin, pp. 48b-63a
	20	Read: Green, pp. 42-56
	25	MV Quiz: Acts 2:36-39; Read: Acts 3; Larkin, pp. 63b-70a; Green, pp. 57-72
27	CI Quiz: Acts 1-4; Read: Acts 4; Larkin, pp. 70b-84a; Green, pp. 73-96	
February	1	Boatman Leadership Intensive (No Class)
	3	Read: Acts 5; Larkin, pp. 84b-98a; Green, pp. 97-115
	8	MV Quiz: Acts 3:17-21; Read: Acts 6-7; Larkin, pp. 98b-123a
	10	Read: Acts 8; Larkin, pp. 123b-137a; Green, pp. 116-139
	15	MV Quiz: Acts 4:18-20; Read: Acts 9; Larkin, pp. 137b-153a
17	Read: Acts 10-11; Larkin, pp. 153b-181a	
22	MV Quiz: Acts 5:38-42; Read: Acts 12; Larkin, pp. 181b-189a	
24	CI Quiz: Acts 1-13; Read: Acts 13; Larkin, pp. 189b-208a; Green, pp. 140-164	
March	29	Midterm Exam
	2	Read: Acts 14; Larkin, pp. 208b-218a; Green, pp. 165-189
	7	MV Quiz: Acts 8:36-38; Read: Acts 15; Larkin, pp. 218b-231a
	9	Read: Acts 16; Larkin, pp. 231b-244a; Green, pp. 190-206
	14	MV Quiz: Acts 16:28-34; Read: Acts 17; Larkin, pp. 244b-261a
16	Read: Acts 18; Larkin, pp. 261b-274a	
21	Lab Week (No Class)	
23	Lab Week (No Class)	
28	Map Quiz; Read: Acts 19; Larkin, pp. 274b-287a; Green, pp. 207-225	
30	CI Quiz: Acts 1-20; Read: Acts 20; Larkin, pp. 287b-300a	
April	4	MV Quiz: Acts 17:22-23; Read: Acts 21; Larkin, pp. 300b-317a
	6	Good Friday (No Class)
	11	MV Quiz: Acts 20:35-38; Read: Acts 22; Larkin, pp. 317b-328a; Green, pp. 226-246
	13	Read: Acts 23-24; Larkin, pp. 328b-345a
	18	MV Quiz: Acts 26:19-23; Read: Acts 25; Larkin, pp. 345b-354
20	Read: Acts 26; Larkin, pp. 355-365a; Due: Christological Analysis;	
25	MV Quiz: Acts 28:25-31; Read: Acts 27; Larkin, pp. 365b-378a; Green, pp. 247-267	

27 **CI Quiz:** Acts 1-28; **Read:** Acts 28; Larkin, pp. 378b-393; Green, pp. 268-287
Due: Conversion Chart

May TBA **Read:** Acts (in one sitting); **Final Exam**

COURSE LEARNING RESOURCES (Bibliography)

- Barclay, William. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1955. Print.
- 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. Print.
- Bruce, F.F. *Commentary on the Book of Acts*. Rev. ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. Print.
- Campbell, Alexander. *Acts of the Apostles*. Joplin: College Press, 1858. Print.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. Print.
- Green, Michael. *Thirty Years That Changed the World: The Book of Acts for Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. Print.
- Larkin, Jr., William J. *Acts*. *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series*. 5. Downers Grove: IVP, 1995. Print.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles*. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980. Print.
- Polhill, John B. *Acts*. *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman, 1992. Print.
- Reese, Gareth L. *New Testament History: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Acts*. Joplin: College Press, 1976. Print.
- Sherwin-White, A. *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991. Print.
- Stott, John. *The Spirit, the Church and the World: The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1990. Print.
- Winter, Bruce, ed. *The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting*. 6 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993-97. Print.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. Print.

See also the select bibliography for further reading at the end of the textbooks.

Websites: www.bible.org (NET Bible)
 www.ntgateway.com
 www.ntimages.com

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Late Work.** Should a student miss a class period for any reason, the assignment(s) due on the date missed must be turned in on or before its due date. No unexcused late work will be accepted. If, however, you have experienced a personal emergency, please speak with Professor Garner as soon as possible in order to determine whether special leniency may be in order.
2. **Missed Exams or Quizzes.** Exams or quizzes missed due to an excused absence (extenuating circumstances) may be made up with the professor's permission. The exam or quiz should be taken within one week. Exams or quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence may NOT be made up and will receive a grade of F (zero).
3. **Classroom Decorum:** To promote a productive learning environment students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner--showing respect to the professor and other students. Failure to act maturely may result in a warning, a grade demotion, or failure/dismissal from the class.
4. **Academic Honesty:** Any cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F (zero) for that quiz/assignment. Please refer to the College Catalog for further information about plagiarism.
5. **Keep all papers.** It's essential that you keep all returned papers in case a question arises regarding their submission/grade or the accuracy of your final grade.
6. **Computers and Cell Phones.** Using a computer is allowed during class sessions for the purpose of note taking ONLY. Using a cell phone/texting is not permitted during class sessions.
7. **Learning Disability Statement.** If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see the Director of the Hundred (Center for Student Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance your ability to learn. Professor Garner cannot implement any special accommodations without authorization from The Hundred.
8. **Disclaimer Statement.** Please understand that Professor Garner reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the students' work load.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Professor Garner is available by appointment.
2. Phone: 314-540-4482 (c)
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