



**New Testament Exegesis:
Acts (English) (NTEN5305)**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Fall 2019

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I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

II. CORE VALUE FOCUS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course supports these five core values of the seminary.

1. *Doctrinal Integrity:* We believe, teach, proclaim, and submit to the Bible as the Word of God. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by equipping students to understand and gain ability to articulate biblical, theological, and historical truths.
2. *Spiritual Vitality:* We emphasize both personal spirituality as a worshipping seminary family gathering together for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in his Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by challenging students to grow in spiritual and moral integrity through biblical study and spiritual and ethical practices.
3. *Mission Focus:* We purpose to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment.
4. *Characteristic Excellence:* We aim for characteristic excellence to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to understand and interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. *Servant Leadership:* We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment and lifestyle patterns.

The core value emphasis for this academic year is: Spiritual Vitality

III. COURSE PURPOSE

This purpose for this course is to introduce the book of Acts for purposes of teaching and preaching.

IV. CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

All ministers need to develop specific competencies to have effective ministries. The seminary has developed a competency-based curriculum centered on seven essential competencies for effective ministry: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses six competencies directly.

1. *Biblical Exposition*: by preparing students to understand, interpret, and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. *Christian and Theological Heritage*: by reminding students of the Christian theological heritage of the Old and New Testament and Baptist polity for the church
3. *Discipleship Making*: by stimulating church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth through modeling the principles of discipleship through classroom deportment.
4. *Interpersonal Skills*: by performing pastoral care effectively with skills in communication and conflict management through interaction among students in the class and in small group activities.
5. *Servant Leadership*: by serving churches effectively in team ministry through modeling and reflecting the attitude of Christ in the life of a disciple.
6. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: by providing moral leadership and modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion through discussion and modeling of spiritual disciplines as a normal part of class discussion and activity.

V. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a thorough study of the Book of Acts through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and consultation with major literature and commentaries. The course emphasizes proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying that meaning in teaching and preaching. This course has two prerequisites: *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics* and *Exploring the New Testament*. A video describing the course is here:

<https://drkoine.com/classes/exegesis/acts/index.html>

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Knowledge

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know a basic thematic outline for the Book of Acts
- Know the literary and thematic connections with the Gospel of Luke
- Know Luke's literary purpose for writing Acts
- Know the historical setting of the Book of Acts
- Know the critical and historical problems associated with a study of Acts
- Know the cities, provinces, territories and itineraries of the Pauline missions

Attitudes

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the richness of the Book of Acts for teaching and preaching
- Recognize the importance of Acts as a foundational document for the church

- Recognize the importance of historical-grammatical exegesis to interpreting Acts
- Be more confident in interpreting the Book of Acts

Skills

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Supply a summary analysis on any assigned section of Acts demonstrating interaction with historical-grammatical exegesis and narrative reading
- Incorporate the characters and plot in Acts within the global perspective of a literary connection with the Gospel of Luke
- Explain the significance of the character of Paul within the literary strategy of Acts
- Be able to access good critical commentaries on the book of Acts

VII. TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

- Class sessions will consist of presentations overviewing units of study followed by general discussion. Readings and lectures are central to covering the knowledge base needed for the course. Discussions allow for student interaction with the material presented. Multimedia technology, including video, audio, graphics, and presentation media, are incorporated into weekly activity to enhance the learning process. The combination of reading, lectures, multimedia, discussions, and exams should help build appreciation for sound exegesis of the Bible.
- Class preparation will consist of reading textbook assignments as outlined in the syllabus, viewing on-line videos, and preparing for daily quizzes and sectional exams.
- Class units presented are: two units on introductory material, three units on special essays, and twelve units on the text of Acts.

VIII. REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *The Holy Bible*, Revised Standard Version, with Apocrypha
- F. F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts, Revised Edition* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1988)
- Gerald L. Stevens, *Acts: A New Vision of the People of God*, 2nd ed. (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016)

IX. OTHER RESOURCES:

- *The course professor is Dr. Craig Price, but we are utilizing Dr. Gerald L. Stevens's personal website and his rich collection of video travel and scholarly resources. Visit his website at:*

<http://www.drkoine.com>

This website will introduce students to one of the authors of our textbooks--Dr. Gerald L. Stevens. You will discover personal information of his background, family, music and photography. You will also find there a collection of his publications, presentations, and sermons including his travel around the world of the biblical text and related museums. His personal videos are vital to our study of Acts because they enhance the textbook readings and the Biblical text.

- Use the following link to find the videos in the schedule below:

<http://drkoine.com/classes/index.html>

- To go straight to the Acts course page with a brief course description, introductory video, syllabus, textbooks used, and related course files, use this link:
<http://drkoine.com/classes/acts/index.html>
- For NOBTS assistance with technology issues, call ITC (504-816-8180) or consult the following websites.
 - For online registration, financial account, online transcript. etc.:
selfserve.nobts.edu (email: selfserve@nobts.edu)
 - For Blackboard Learning Management system:
nobts.blackboard.com (email: blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu)
 - For general technical questions and support requests:
www.nobts.edu/itc/ (email: itcsupport@nobts.edu)
 - For general NOBTS technical help information:
www.nobts.edu/itc/
- For help in writing papers, NOBTS maintains a Writing Center called “The Write Stuff” (HSC 290B, x8193) to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information towards becoming a better writer. Email writingcenter@nobts.edu

X. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION:

- **Reading Quiz:** Will be given at the beginning of each class session on the reading assignment. The four lowest are dropped, minus tardy and absences. Taking a daily quiz then cutting class counts as a zero for that daily quiz. NO MAKE-UPS.
- **Sectional Exams:** Will be given on the days scheduled based on class lecture and reading assignments. The material covered on each exam is indicated in the syllabus.
- **Map Exams:** Ten-minute map exams on geography related to the Pauline missions will be given on the assigned dates in the syllabus. Map content:
 - (1)**What is included:** The maps are issued in two sets. One set is the supplied map *with* geographical names included for study purposes. The other set is the map *without* the names included, that is, exactly as the maps will appear on the exam.
 - (2)**What is on the exam:** The map exams will have two units. One unit is a set of blanks that you are to fill out related to facts about the missionary journey, including listing the cities in their correct order in which Paul visited them. The other unit is a blank map onto which you are to put the area, province, and city names in their proper geographical location. *Map exam documents are located on the class website.*
- **Final Exam:** The final exam is not comprehensive.
- **Class Participation:** The attendance, interest, and participation of students in class will be observed and included in the assessment of the final grade.

- **Extra Credit:** Dr. Stevens has coordinated syllabus assignments with his own on-location Acts videos on his website. These videos integrate into his textbook and enhance key narrative concepts of Acts and its first-century world. For each video watched, the student will earn 1/3 point added to a sectional exam grade.
- **Final Average**
 daily quiz = 20%
 sectional exams = 25%
 map exams = 40%
 final exam = 15%
 extra credit = 1/3 point/per video watched from Dr. Stevens’s website

XI. COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** Class attendance for all sessions is expected. In a three-hour semester class, you are allowed to miss a total of nine classroom hours, which is less than six 80-minute class periods. Class periods missed because of late enrollment are counted as absences. Three tardies equals one absence.
- **Etiquette:** Please silence cell phones before class begins. Otherwise, you may disrupt the entire class. If you expect an extremely important call, wait for that call outside class. Also, please do not disrupt class by leaving to take a cell phone call. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a positive learning environment.

XII. PLAGIARISM:

- **Plagiarism:** NOBTS has a *no tolerance policy* for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

XIII. ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: Aug. 20, 22	Introduction to Class and Luke • Introduction to Class • Stevens: 1–23	Introduction to Acts • Bruce: 3–17 • Stevens: 23–34
Week 2: Aug. 27, 29	Renewal Beginnings (Acts 1) • Bruce: 28–48 • Stevens: 147–63	Pentecost as Thematic • Stevens: 37–71
Week 3: Sept. 3, 5	Renewal Empowerment (Acts 2) • Bruce: 49–75 • Stevens: 165–83	Renewal Witness 1 (Acts 3–4, Lame) • Bruce: 76–100 • Stevens: 185–95

Week 4: Sept. 10, 12	Renewal Witness 2 (Acts 4–5, Sanhe.) • Bruce: 100–118 • Stevens: 195–210	Hellenists and Antioch • Stevens: 73–111
Week 5: Sept. 17, 20	Hellenist Leaders (Acts 6–7, Stephen) • Bruce: 119–60 • Stevens: 211–30	Hellenist Mission (Acts 8, Philip) • Bruce: 161–79 • Stevens: 231–44
Week 6: Sept. 25, 26	The Character Saul-Paul • Stevens: 113–43 • Watch Tarsus videos	Hellenist Mission (Acts 9, Saul) • Bruce: 180–97 • Stevens: 244–53
Week 7 Oct. 1, 3	□ SECTIONAL EXAM 1	Hellenist Mission (Acts 10–11, Corn.) • Bruce: 197–223 • Stevens: 253–67 • Watch Early Church video
Week 8 Oct. 8, 10	Hellenist Center (Acts 11–12, Antioch) • Bruce: 223–43 • Stevens: 269–85 • Watch Caesarea videos	1MJ (Acts 13–14, Cyprus, S. Galatia) • 1MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Bruce: 244–81 • Stevens: 289–327 • Watch Cyprus & South Galatia videos
Break Oct. 13-19	FALL BREAK	
Week 9 Oct. 22, 24	Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15) • Bruce: 282–300 • Stevens: 328–36	2MJ (Acts 16, Philippi) • 2MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Bruce: 301–21 • Stevens: 337–57 • Watch Asia and Europe to Philippi
Week 10 Oct. 29, 31	2MJ (Acts 17, Athens) • Bruce: 322–44 • Stevens: 357–78 • Watch Amphipolis to Athens videos	2MJ (Acts 18, Corinth) • Bruce: 345–58 • Stevens: 379–98 • Watch Corinth to Cenchreae videos
Week 11 Nov. 5, 7	□ SECTIONAL EXAM 2	3MJ (Acts 18–19, Ephesus) • 3MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Bruce: 358–70 • Stevens: 399–412 • Watch Ephesus videos
Week 12 Nov. 12, 14	3MJ (Acts 19–20, Crisis) • Bruce: 370–86 • Stevens: 412–31	3MJ (Acts 20–21, Miletus) • Bruce: 387–403 • Stevens: 431–49 • Watch Macedonia , Greece , Asia vids.

Week 13 Nov. 19, 21	Jerusalem (Acts 21–23, Des. Denied) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce: 403–37 • Stevens: 451–68 • Watch Rhodes and Jerusalem videos 	Caesarea (Acts 24–26, Des. Delayed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce: 438–73 • Stevens: 469–98 • Watch Roman Governors video
Break Nov. 24-30	THANKSGIVING	
Week 14 Dec. 3, 5	Voyage (Acts 27, Shipwreck) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce: 474–95 • Stevens: 499–524 • Watch Caesarea, Crete, Malta videos 	Rome (Acts 28, Des. Achieved) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce: 496–511 • Stevens: 524–75 • Watch Sicily and Italy videos
Week 15	FINAL EXAM Time & Day to Be Determined	

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