



New Testament Exegesis: Acts (Greek) (NTEN6305)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division—Spring 2017

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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: Characteristic Excellence.

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 Greek translation, 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:

<http://drkoine.com/classes/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 Greek New Testament* (UBS or Nestle-Aland)
- F. F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts, Revised Edition* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988)
- David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*, PNTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)
- Gerald L. Stevens, *Acts: A New Vision of the People of God* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016)

IX. OTHER RESOURCES:

- *The course professor is Dr. Gerald L. Stevens, and his personal website is:*

<http://www.drkoine.com>

This website is for students in classes taught by Dr. Stevens. The site has a three-fold purpose: (1) to provide personal information to get to know the professor beyond the classroom in the areas of background, family, music and photography, (2) to provide professional information to get to know the professor within the academic guild in the areas of publications, presentations, and sermons, and (3) to provide educational information in support of his teaching career in the areas of classes, travel, and museums.

- To go straight to the Classes page for information about any of Dr. Stevens's classes, use the following link:

<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 see:
—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/

- NOBTS maintains “The Write Stuff” Center (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:** Given at the beginning of class 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.
- **Translation:** Greek translation units average about six verses per class, some more, often less. You will turn these in each class, using the handouts provided.
- **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 on-location Acts videos online coordinated with his textbook that 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%
Greek translation =	10%
sectional exams =	20%
map exams =	40%
final exam =	10%
extra credit =	1/3 point/per video watched from Dr. Stevens’s website

XI. COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** For a three-hour class, you are allowed nine hours of absence (less than six 80 minute class periods). *Please note: three tardies equals one absence.*
- **Etiquette:** Cell phone use is disruptive and discourteous. Silence cell phones before class. Wait for extremely important calls outside class. Do not leave class to take a cell phone call. Help maintain 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: (B = Bruce, P = Peterson, S = Stevens)

WEEK	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: Jan. 24, 26	Introduction to Class and Luke • Introduction to Class • Stevens: 1–23	Introduction to Acts • B: 3–17; P: 1–97; S: 23–34
Week 2: Jan. 31, Feb. 2	Renewal Beginnings (Acts 1) • Acts 1:1–26 • <i>Translate Acts 1:1–8</i> • B: 28–48; P: 99–129; S: 147–63	Pentecost as Thematic • <i>Translate Acts 2:1–4</i> • Stevens: 37–71
Week 3: Feb. 7, 9	Renewal Empowerment (Acts 2) • Acts 2:1–47 • <i>Translate Acts 2:41–47</i> • B: 49–75; P: 129–65; S: 165–83	Renewal Witness (Acts 3–5, Lame) • Acts 3:1–5:42 • <i>Translate Acts 3:17–21; 5:35–40</i> • B: 76–118; P: 165–228; S: 185–210
Week 4: Feb. 14, 16	Hellenists and Antioch • <i>Translate Acts 6:1–5</i> • Stevens: 73–111	Hellenist Leaders (Acts 6–7, Stephen) • Acts 6:1–7:60 • <i>Translate Acts 7:51–53</i> • B: 119–60; P: 228–75; S: 211–30
Week 5: Feb. 21, 23	Hellenist Mission (Acts 8, Philip) • Acts 8:1–40 • <i>Translate Acts 8:5–8</i> • B: 161–79; P: 275–98; S: 231–44	The Character Saul-Paul • <i>Translate Acts 9:1–7</i> • Stevens: 113–43 • Watch Tarsus videos
Week 6: Feb. 28, Mar. 2	MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY	Hellenist Mission (Acts 9, Saul) • Acts 9:1–31 • B: 180–97; P: 298–318; S: 244–53
Week 7 Mar. 7, 9	□ SECTIONAL EXAM I	Hellenist Mission (Acts 10–11, Corn.) • Acts 9:32–11:18 • <i>Translate Acts 10:1–4</i> • B: 197–223; P: 319–50; S: 253–67 • Watch Early Church video
Break Mar. 13–17	SPRING BREAK	

Week 8 Mar 21, 23	Hellenist Center (Acts 11–12, Antioch) • Acts 11:19—12:25 • <i>Translate Acts 11:19–21; 12:20–23</i> • B: 223–43; P: 350–71; S: 269–85 • Watch Caesarea videos	1MJ (Acts 13–14, Cyprus, S. Galatia) • 1MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Acts 13:1—14:28 • <i>Translate Acts 13:1–3, 17–18</i> • B: 244–81; P: 372–419; S: 289–327 • Watch Cyprus & South Galatia videos
Week 9 Mar. 28, 30	Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15) • Acts 15:1–35 • <i>Translate Acts 15:14–18</i> • B: 282–300; P: 419–46; S: 328–36	2MJ (Acts 16, Philippi) • 2MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Acts 16:1–40 • <i>Translate Acts 16:6–10</i> • B: 301–21; P: 446–75; S: 337–57 • Watch Asia and Europe to Philippi
Week 10 Apr. 4, 6	2MJ (Acts 17, Athens) • Acts 17:1–34 • <i>Translate Acts 17:6–7, 18–23</i> • B: 322–44; P: 475–505; S: 357–78 • Watch Amphipolis to Athens videos	2MJ (Acts 18, Corinth) • Acts 18:1–23 • <i>Translate Acts 18:1–3</i> • B: 345–58; P: 505–22; S: 379–98 • Watch Corinth to Cenchreae videos
Week 11 Apr. 11, 13	□ SECTIONAL EXAM 2	3MJ (Acts 18–19, Ephesus) • 3MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Acts 18:24—19:20 • <i>Translate Acts 19:18–20</i> • B: 358–70; P: 522–42; S: 399–412 • Watch Ephesus videos
Week 12 Apr. 18, 20	3MJ (Acts 19–20, Crisis) • Acts 19:21—20:14 • <i>Translate Acts 19:21–22; 20:22–23</i> • B: 370–86; P: 542–61; S: 412–31	3MJ (Acts 20–21, Miletus) • Acts 20:15—21:17 • <i>Translate Acts 21:3–4</i> • B: 387–403; P: 561–84; S: 431–49 • Watch Macedonia, Greece, Asia vids.
Week 13 Apr. 25, 27	Jerusalem (Acts 21–23, Des. Denied) • Acts 21:18—23:32 • <i>Translate Acts 22:17–21; 23:11</i> • B: 403–37; P: 584–627; S: 451–68 • Watch Rhodes and Jerusalem videos	Caesarea (Acts 24–26, Des. Delayed) • Acts 23:33—26:32 • <i>Translate Acts 25:10–11</i> • B: 438–73; P: 627–77; S: 469–98 • Watch Roman Governors video
Week 14 May 2, 4	Voyage (Acts 27, Shipwreck) • JR MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • Acts 27:1–44 • B: 474–95; P: 677–97; S: 499–524 • Watch Caesarea, Crete, Malta videos	Rome (Acts 28, Des. Achieved) • Acts 28:1–31 • <i>Translate Acts 28:24–31</i> • B: 496–511; P: 697–725; S: 524–75 • Watch Sicily and Italy videos
Week 15 May 8–12	FINAL EXAM Thurs., May 11, 1:00–3:00 pm	

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