



New Testament Exegesis: Acts (Greek) (NTGK9435)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division—Spring 2017

Dr. Gerald L. Stevens, PhD (gstevens@nobts.edu)

Professor of New Testament and Greek

Office: Hardin 262; Phone: (504) 282-4455 ext. 3734

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 deployment.
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.

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 seminar sessions.
- Class units presented are: two units on introductory material, three units on special essays, and twelve units on the text of Acts.

VIII. BOOK REVIEWS:

- **Gasque:** W. Ward Gasque, *A History of the Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles*, 2d ed. (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1989)
- **Hemer:** Colin J. Hemer, *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*, WUNT 49, Conrad H. Gempf, ed. (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990)
- **Maddox:** Robert Maddox, *The Purpose of Luke-Acts*, SNTW, John Riches, ed. (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1982)
- **Smith/Tyson:** Dennis E. Smith and Joseph B. Tyson, eds., *Acts and Christian Beginnings: The Acts Seminar Report* (Salem, OR: Polebridge, 2013)
- **Strange:** W. A. Strange, *The Problem of the Text of Acts in Society for New Testament Studies, Monograph Series*, G. N. Stanton, gen. ed., Vol. 71 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992)
- **Tannehill:** Robert C. Tannehill, *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts: A Literary Interpretation*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986–1989)

IX. COMMENTARIES:

- **Keener:** Craig Keener, *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary*. 4 vols. (Ada, MI: Baker Academic, 2015)
- **Peterson:** David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*, PNTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)
- **Stevens:** Gerald L. Stevens, *Acts: A New Vision of the People of God* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016)

X. OTHER RESOURCES:

- *Dr. Stevens's 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.
- 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/
 - 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:

- **Book reviews:** Read the assigned books and be prepared to discuss them on the designated days. Write a review. State the thesis or main idea of the book in two words. Expand the two words into a concise sentence. Then, write a two-page review that summarizes and critiques the book. Include at least two journal reviews of each book.
- **Translation/commentary:** Translate the Book of Acts according to the syllabus schedule. All will read the Peterson commentary and Stevens book. The Keener commentary will be divided among seminar participants and a composite summary for future reference compiled as a group project.
- **Periodical research:** Prepare an annotated bibliography of two significant periodical articles in your research, (ideally, related to your paper topic). One article must be in a modern foreign language for which you qualified for the doctoral program.
- **Research paper:** Write a paper on a topic for which you have received approval from the professor. Use Turabian/SBL style, as supplemented by the ReDoc manual. *Provide copies for all seminar participants.* All papers are due at the same time, as indicated on the seminar schedule.
- **Research presentation:** Prepare a 15-minute PowerPoint/Keynote presentation of your research paper. Summarize your research question, methodology, state of research, and results/conclusions.
- **Paper critique:** Lead a 15-minute discussion of a critique of an assigned seminar paper on the assigned date. Prepare a typed, single-spaced, 2–3 page critique of the assigned seminar paper, with *copies for all seminar participants.*
- **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.

- **Class Participation:** The attendance, interest, and participation of students in class will be observed and included in the assessment of the final grade.
- **Final Average**
 - participation/critique = 10%
 - translation/exegesis = 10%
 - map exams = 10%
 - periodical reviews = 10%
 - book reviews = 30%
 - paper/presentation = 30%

XI. COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** Class attendance is required. Consult the NOBTS Student Handbook carefully about seminary policy on doctoral seminar session absence.
- **Etiquette:** Cell phone use is disruptive and discourteous. Silence cell phones before seminar. Wait for extremely important calls outside seminar. Do not leave the seminar to take a cell phone call, except for emergency. 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: (P = Peterson, S = Stevens. K = Keener)

WEEK	Tuesday (2:30–5:00)	Keener, Book Reviews, Videos
Week 1: Jan. 24	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Class and Acts • P: 1–97; S: 1–34; K: 1:3–638 	Strange: <i>The Problem of the Text of Acts</i>
Week 2: Jan. 31	Beginnings/Empowerment (Acts 1–2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Translate Acts 1–2</i> • P: 99–165; S: 37–71; 147–83 	Gasque: <i>A History of the Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles</i> Keener: _____
Week 3: Feb. 7	Renewal Witness (Acts 3–5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Translate Acts 3, 5</i> • P: 165–228; S: 185–210 	Hemer: <i>The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History</i> Keener: _____

Week 4: Feb. 14	Hellenists/Stephen (Acts 6–7) • <i>Translate Acts 7</i> • P: 228–75; S: 73–111; 211–30; Keener	Maddox: <i>The Purpose of Luke-Acts</i> Keener: _____
Week 5: Feb. 21	Hellenist Mission/Saul (Acts 8–9) • <i>Translate Acts 9:1–31</i> • P: 275–318; S: 113–43; 231–53	• Watch Tarsus videos Keener: _____
Week 6: Feb. 28	MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY ALTERNATE MEETING: _____	Tannehill: <i>The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts</i> Smith/Tyson: <i>Acts and Christian Beginnings</i> Periodical Reviews
Week 7 Mar. 7	Hellenist Mission (Acts 10–12) • Acts 9:32–12:25 • <i>Translate Acts 11</i> • P: 319–71; S: 253–85	• Watch Early Church video • Watch Caesarea videos Keener: _____
Break Mar. 13–17	SPRING BREAK	
Week 8 Mar 21	1MJ/Jerusalem Conf. (Acts 13–15) • 1MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • <i>Translate Acts 13, 15</i> • P: 372–446; S: 289–336	• Watch Cyprus & South Galatia videos Keener: _____
Week 9 Mar. 28	2MJ (Acts 16–18:23) • 2MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • <i>Translate Acts 17</i> • B: 301–21; P: 446–522; S: 337–98	• Watch Asia and Europe to Philippi • Watch Amphipolis to Athens videos • Watch Corinth to Cenchreae videos Keener: _____
Week 10 Apr. 4	3MJ/Crisis (Acts 18:24–21:17) • 3MJ MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • <i>Translate Acts 19, 21:1–17</i> • P: 522–84; S: 399–449	• Watch Ephesus videos • Watch Macedonia, Greece, Asia vids. Keener: _____
Week 11 Apr. 11	Jerusa./Caesarea (Acts 21:18–26:32) • <i>Translate Acts 21:18–40; 25:1–27</i> • P: 584–677; S: 451–98	• Watch Rhodes and Jerusalem videos • Watch Roman Governors video Keener: _____
Week 12 Apr. 18	Voyage/Malta/Rome (Acts 27–28) • JR MAP EXAM (10 minutes) • <i>Translate Acts 27–28</i> • P: 677–725; S: 499–575	• Watch Caesarea, Crete, Malta videos • Watch Sicily and Italy videos Keener: _____
Week 13 Apr. 25	Seminar Papers	
Week 14 May 2	Seminar Papers	

XIV. Bibliography

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