

Syllabus for
GBIB 626-OCT—The Book of Acts
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

Modular and Distance Education Program, Blended B Course
On campus component: October 7-9, 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical study of the book of Acts with emphasis on major historical developments and theological themes contained in the text. Considers the composition, structure, and historical milieu of the book in preparation for the exegesis. Includes application and assessment of the exegetical insights for the contemporary church.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study and compare diverse hypotheses concerning the composition of the Book of Acts and defend one's personal position.
- B. Study the literary, historical, and theological relationship between the Gospel according to Luke and the Book of Acts.
- C. Learn to interpret thoroughly the English text of the Book of Acts.
- D. Explore the development of the church from Jerusalem to Rome and understand the role of the Spirit in the Church and in believers.
- E. Discover prominent theological issues that arose in the early Church.
- F. Learn to apply and evaluate the meaning of passages and themes in Acts to parallel situations in the Church and the world today.
- G. Gain an appreciation of the struggle of the early Church to survive; sense the excitement and magnitude of its mission and task; give gratitude for its contribution to us today; and seek to recapture its vitality and power in worship and service.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- 1. Explain different hypotheses concerning the composition of Acts and defend personal position with specific reasons.
- 2. State the literary, historical, and theological relationships between the Gospel according to Luke and Acts.
- 3. Exegete any passage in the English text of the Book of Acts.
- 4. Trace the spread of the church from Jerusalem to Rome.

5. Explain the basic beliefs and theological issues of the early Church contained in Acts.
6. Write a paper explaining in detail one central belief of the early Church and applying it to the contemporary Church and personal life and ministry.
7. Express orally and in action the purpose and mission of the church.
8. Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural context to selected contemporary contexts.

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing each of these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Unit A:
 - State the requirements and objectives of the course.
2. Unit B:
 - a. Identify the author, date, provenance, and sources involved in the composition of Acts.
 - b. Explain the literary, historical, and theological relationship between Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts.
 - c. Explain the literary, historical, and theological relationship between Luke-Acts and Paul's Letters.
3. Unit C:
 - a. Explain and compare different hermeneutical perspectives advocated by scholars in interpreting Acts.
 - b. Define and utilize the methods and tools of modern biblical criticism (analysis) in interpreting the text.
4. Unit D:
 - a. Explain the relationship between structure and purpose in the composition of Acts.
 - b. State the major theological themes running throughout the book.
 - c. Identify different "forms" of literature in the book and explain how "form" affects interpretation.
5. Unit E:
 - a. Exegete the Book of Acts.
 - b. Define key theological terms.
 - c. State the central meaning of each section to relate passages treating identical or similar topics.
 - d. Compare different or contrasting ideas.
 - e. Explain the unifying factors and themes of the book.
6. Unit F: Based upon the exegesis
 - a. Apply pertinently the topics and religious themes in Acts to parallel situations in the Church today, either orally or in writing.
 - b. Explain how the instruction provided by Acts enables us to respond to the mission and opportunity of the contemporary Church more effectively.
7. Unit G:
 - a. Summarize the contents of Acts, historical, literary, and theological.
 - b. Assess the adequacy of the counsel in Acts for the Church's ministry today.
 - c. Assess the Church's ability to utilize the information and guidance given by Acts.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Peterson, David G. *The Acts of the Apostles (The Pillar N.T. Commentary)*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN: 9780802837318

Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994. ISBN: 9780830812363

2. Other

None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Bruce, F. F. *The Book of the Acts*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988. ISBN: 9780802825056

Marshall, I. H. *Acts of the Apostles*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN : 9780830842353

Polhill, John B. *The New American Commentary Vol. 26-Acts*. Nashville, TN : B & H Publishing, 2004. ISBN : 9780805401264

2. Other

None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
- b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
- c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
- d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
- e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or

failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

2. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures-Modular/Distance Education Program

1. **Modular Intensive Week:** Each Modular Intensive Week, usually held in the CityPlex Towers on the 21st floor, has sessions Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - a. This week will be comprised of two 2 ½ day blended courses designated as Blended “A” and Blended “B”.
 - b. Blended “A” courses include 7 weeks of online instruction *prior to* the 2 ½ day modular intensive component.
 - c. Blended “B” courses include 7 weeks of online instruction *following* the 2 ½ day modular intensive component.
 - d. Students are to make travel arrangements that do not interfere with their involvement in all of these sessions, and confirm course location prior to arrival.
2. Instructions for the online portion of this course and designated assignments are to be found in the course management shell in Desire 2 Learn (D2L) and elsewhere in this syllabus.
3. Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10% for EACH WEEK it is late. After the third week, no credit will be given for the assignment.
4. Attendance
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions associated with the specific blended course designation during the modular intensive week.
 - b. All absences, late arrivals, and early departures receive a grade reduction equal to 2.5% for each classroom hour missed and **must be approved by the Modular Director.**
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Discussion Questions	8%
Teaching/Sermon Outline	6%
Theological Paper	32%
Quizzes	24%
Final Examination	30%

Grading scale:

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-70%

D=69-60%

F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. Whole Person Assessment requirements for this class:
 - (1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the theological paper for GBIB 626 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
 - (2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

a. **Modular Intensive Week Assignments:**

Before attending class the student should have

- (1) Read introductory material in both text books.
- (2) Read Acts chapters 1 -10
- (3) Read the commentary on Acts chapters 1 – 10 in both text books

b. **Online Assignments:**

- (1) Read through the Book of Acts and the commentaries.
- (2) Submit 1- to 2-page outline covering Class Devotional and Prayer based upon Acts. Outline headings: Introduction, Exegesis, Exposition, Application, Prayer. Time—10 minutes maximum.
- (3) Theological paper: "A Basic Belief of the Church." Length: 15-page limit (excluding notes and bibliography); typewritten. Students follow these procedures:
- (4) Select a belief, theme, or issue treated in Acts, and explain it thoroughly with exegetical support from relevant passages in Acts and other sources.
- (5) Demonstrate the relevance or significance of the theme for the Church today. Be specific.
- (6) Title page, notes, and bibliography are required. Follow university-approved format. No fewer than 10 sources must be consulted, at least 2 of which must be journals.
- (7) Note: Students with proficiency in Greek are encouraged (not required) to translate and exegete passages from the Greek text in preparing the paper.
- (8) Paper must follow the guidelines handed out and will be graded based on the rubric each student received in class.
- (9) Quizzes: 7 quizzes (4 points each)
- (10) Final Examination:

- i. Content, exegesis, and theological themes of Acts.
- (11) Study guideline provided in class.
- (12) Discussion Questions: 4 discussions (2 points each)
- (13) Teaching/Sermon Outline: Information for this assignment presented during the on campus class.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR – INTENSIVE WEEK AGENDA

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 BLENDED B

10:45 a.m.	12:00 noon	Chapel
12:00 noon	2:30 p.m.	Lunch/Welcome & Program Orientation – Dr. Ekblad
2:30 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	Course Introduction
3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
3:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10

Thursday, October 9, 2014 BLENDED B

8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
9:00 a.m.	10: 00 a.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
10:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	12:00 noon	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
12:00 noon	1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10

Friday, October 9, 2015 BLENDED B

8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
9:00 a.m.	10: 00 a.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
10:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	12:00 noon	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
12:00 noon	1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10
3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Dr. Grizzle’s Lecture material on Acts 1 -10 and concluding remarks

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
School of Theology and Missions**

Master of Arts Biblical Literature

**GBIB 626 The Book of Acts Dr. Trevor Grizzle, Instructor
Fall 2015**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the MA Biblical Literature degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Translation, Biblical Language			
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament			X	
2	Critical Methods of Exegesis			
Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective using biblical languages.	X			
3	Major Old Testament Themes			
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.				X
4	Major New Testament Themes			
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.		X		
5	Scripture in Cultural Context			
Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.		X		
6	Tools/Methods of Research			
Write an advanced research MA thesis in Old Testament/New Testament using biblical critical tools and methods.		X		