

Seminari Theoloji Malaysia
Centre for Theological Education for Extension
Course: The Acts of the Apostles
Time: 7.45-10.15pm, Wednesday
Semester 1, 2017.
Instructor: Lim Kar Yong

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the book of Acts as a literary and theological document by paying attention to the intended purpose of Acts, the historical context of the Greco-Roman world, and insights from archaeology. We will also explore the expansion of the church and the various themes in Acts that include the Holy Spirit, persecution and suffering, conflicts in ministry, Pauline mission to the Gentiles, speeches, journey motifs, and recent emerging critical methodologies, amongst others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the structural and literary dynamics of the book of Acts.
2. demonstrate familiarity with the discussion of the purpose and central message of Acts and ability to trace selective themes/motifs in Acts.
3. demonstrate an awareness of how contemporary scholarship and emerging methodologies view and interpret Acts.
4. demonstrate skills necessary for teaching and preaching Acts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Choose one of the following:

1. D. G. Peterson. *The Acts of the Apostles*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
2. E. J. Schnabel. *Acts*. ZECNT. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Exegesis Paper. Write an exegesis paper of approximately 2,500-words on any passage or theme in Acts. Attached to the paper should be an additional 1-2 page outline of a Bible study or expository sermon. Please consult the instructor concerning your passage or theme before beginning to work on your paper. 60% of the grade.
2. Mapping. Acts records numerous journeys taken by the apostles, highlighting different geographical locations and events in these places. By using one of the journey motifs, construct a map that illustrates events related to these locations in a creative manner that highlights themes related to ideological, epistemological, and political powers; critical geography; and space. Your map should tell the story of the journey motif

you selected, and visualise the networks of growth/expansion of the gospel in ways that are multi-dimensional, multi-scale and multi-media, and that depict a wider range of actors (human and nonhuman), events, and lessons contemporary readers could appreciate and apply. More information and examples will be provided in the class. 30% of the grade.

3. Reading Acts. Read Acts right through a total of five times by using a translation of your choice before the start of the course. Write the following brief responses:
 - a. What do you notice and what impression does the book as a whole leave with you?
 - b. What are some of the repeated themes, or major turning points in Acts?
 - c. What do you think are the purposes of Acts?
 - d. What could possibly be an outline of the book of Acts?
 - e. List 5 questions you may have on reading Acts that you hope to find answers in the class.

Total length is approximately 5-6 pages in length. Your paper is due on the first day of class. 10%

Important Notes:

1. **Refer to the *SBL Handbook of Style* or *Chicago Manual/Turabian* if you are uncertain of proper citation of footnotes, bibliography and writing style.** Please note that I pay serious attention to proper citation of references.
2. Assignment 1 is due on 10 May 2017 (Wednesday), 4PM, while assignment 2 is due on 5 April 2017 (Wednesday). There will be opportunity for a brief presentation of Assignment 2 on the last day of class (not more than 5 minutes). Assignment 3 is due on 11 Jan 2017 (Wednesday) at the beginning of class.
3. Note that no extension for all the papers will be entertained. Any delay in submitting your assignments will result in automatic grade penalty, except in emergency cases only. Please note that ministerial or church duty (such as last minute preaching on a Sunday or Youth Camp does not constitute an emergency), mission trips, and encountering spiritual warfare in not completing assignments are not valid reasons for late submission. Every 24-hour delay in submission after the deadline will attract a 1/3 grade penalty.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Sessions
11 Jan	Session 1: Introduction
18 Jan	Session 2: Acts 1-2
25 Jan	Session 3: Acts 3-5
1 Feb	No class
8 Feb	Session 4: Acts 6-9
15 Feb	Session 5: Acts 10-12

22 Feb	Session 6: Acts 12-14
1 Mar	No class
8 Mar	No class
15 Mar	Session 7: Acts 15-17
22 Mar	Session 8: Acts 18-21
29 Mar	Session 9: Acts 22-26
5 Apr	Session 10: Acts 27-28; presentation of Assignment 2.

SELECT COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, L. C. D. *Acts in its Ancient Literary Context: A Classicist Looks at the Acts of the Apostles*. LNTS 298. London: T&T Clark, 2007.

Barrett, C. K. *The Acts of the Apostles*. ICC. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.

Bock, D. L. *Acts*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Bruce, F. F. *The Acts of the Apostles*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans: 1990.

Bruce, F. F. *The Book of the Acts*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Chance, J. *Acts*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2007.

Conzelmann, H. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

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Dunn, J. D. G. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Epworth Commentaries. London: Epworth Press, 1996.

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- Kostenberger, A. J. *A Theology of Luke and Acts: God's Promised Program, Realized for All Nations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Larkin, W. J., Jr. *Acts*. IVPNTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.
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- Malina, B. J. *Social Commentary on the Book of Acts*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2008.
- Parsons, M. C. *Luke: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Pelikan, J. *Acts*. SCMTCB. London: SCM, 2006.
- Pervo, R. I. *Acts*. Hermenia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009.
- Peterson, D. G. *The Acts of the Apostles*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Polhill, J. B. *Acts*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.
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- Talbert C. H. *Reading Acts: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*. New York: Crossroad, 2007.
- Tannehill, R. C. *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts*. Vol 2. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
- Willimon, W. H. *Acts*. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox, 1988.
- Witherington, Ben, III. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.