

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. in Bible and Theology  
BNT 939 New Testament Studies: Luke-Acts  
December 10-14, 2012

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will focus upon a literary analysis of Luke-Acts. In recent years, the emphasis upon Luke as a historian and theologian has produced startling opportunities for fresh scholarship, particularly among Pentecostals. Given the emergence of new hermeneutical possibilities and challenges, students will be encouraged to experience Luke's literary artistry and utilize these conventions for personal and vocational application.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course students will:

1. Evaluate the various structural and literary proposals of the Lukan story.
2. Evaluate the history of interpretation and current trends of Lukan scholarship.
3. Identify and analyze various themes/motifs of Luke-Acts.
4. Evaluate the specific contributions of Pentecostal scholars concerning hermeneutics, select passages, and theology of the Lukan narrative.
5. Demonstrate confidence and precision for teaching and preaching Luke-Acts based upon newly developed/sharpened analytical skills.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (These text should be purchased and represent part of the reading for the course. See below for the full expectations.)**

- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Prophetic Jesus, Prophetic Church*. Eerdmans, 2011.
- Kurz, William. *Reading Luke-Acts: Dynamics of Biblical Narrative*. Westminster, 1993.
- Mittelstadt, Martin. *Reading Luke-Acts in the Pentecostal Tradition*. CPT Press, 2010.
- Stonstad, Roger. *Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Hendrickson, 1984.

I would recommend many of the pieces below and will encourage you to consider other works for personal collection along the way.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

See the requirements based upon and due throughout the three sections of the course.

1. Pre-December Reading and Assignments
2. Our Week Together (Dec 10-14)
3. Post-December Essay

**COURSE GRADES**

Reading Journal	20%	December 10
Class Presentation/Participation	15%	
Research Project	55%	March 31
Annotated Bibliography	10%	March 31
	100%	

## **1. PRE-DECEMBER READING SCHEDULE + ASSIGNMENTS**

- The following readings below must be completed prior to Dec. 10.
- Prepare a 3 page response for each of the first five sections below (Total 15 pages). You need not respond to every piece. Instead, try to capture the major themes, the big ideas offered by Luke.
- Be prepared to introduce/lead a discussion (a) for 1 or 2 of these sections.
- Topics/readings will be determined on the first day of class. Due: Dec. 10

NOTE: Ph.D. course requirements include 3000 pages of reading. Upon completion of the material below, you will have read 2500 pages! I encourage you to take notes for future teaching/preaching and/or in preparation of your final research project.

- You may also make a suggestion for an alternative reading ONLY if you have read a specific piece as part of previous study.

1. Getting Started – Reading the biblical text Priceless!
  - Read Luke-Acts (2X). If possible try to set aside 3-4 hours and do this in one sitting. If not, read the gospel and then Acts in single sittings. Imagine sitting down for a lengthy epic movie.
  - After the first reading of Luke-Acts offer your thoughts concerning its purpose(s) and theme(s). How do the two volumes function as a whole? Offer any other observations/insights that come from this reading.
  - For the second reading take note of plot development, characterization of major and minor figures, and flow of the narrative. Where is the narrative going? Begin to consider preliminary didactic purpose(s) that might be gleaned from the Lukan story?
  - This assignment is not meant to be technical but an entry into the primary literature. We don't want to read about or around the text and never engage the text. So don't fret but enjoy.
  - I would also suggest that at least one reading be from a translation that you do not normally use.
2. Narrative Criticism 450
  - a. Kurz, *Reading Luke-Acts* 200
  - b. Johnson, *Prophetic Jesus, Prophetic Church* 250
3. History of Interpretation 870
  - a. Penner 70
  - b. Bovon / Gasque – Choose selections from one or both texts. 200
  - c. Choose another 200 pages of Lukan scholarship cited/discussed by Bovon or Gasque. 200
  - d. Mittelstadt – *Reading Luke-Acts*. 200
  - e. Choose another 200 pages from sources addressed by Mittelstadt but not included in section four below. 200

4. <u>Lukan Themes / Motifs</u>	930
a. Luke and the Spirit – Stronstad, <i>Charismatic Theology</i> , Fee (Separability and Subsequence), Edwards	130
b. Healing, Miracles, Magic – Combination from Gaventa, Keener, Ruthven,	200
c. Hospitality/Food - Combination from Arlandson, Byrne, Finger,	200
d. Social Justice – Dempster, Hittenberger/Mittelstadt, Pilgrim, Wenk	150
e. Suffering/Peace - Combination from Bradley, Cunningham, Mittelstadt ( <i>Spirit and Suffering</i> )	150
f. Women - Arlandson, Powers,	100
5. <u>Emerging Issues</u>	250
a. Gospel and Empire – *Gilbert and combination from Kilgallen, Mittelstadt (Spirit and Peace), Reid, Swartley,	100
b. Oneness Theology - Bass / Zampino	50
c. Postcolonial / Global Readings – Massey, Muñoz-Larrondo	50
d. Canonical Criticism - Parsons/Pervo, Robinson/Wall, Smith	50

## **2. OUR WEEK TOGETHER**

- In order to meet the objectives above, the following outline will be employed.
  - The instructor has full latitude based on time and student preparation, and interest.

### Monday

Syllabus + Introduction  
 Reading Luke-Acts + Genre  
 History of Interpretation

### Tuesday

Literary Criticism  
 Journey Motif  
 Landscape  
 Hospitality

### Wednesday

Pneumatology  
 Healing  
 Luke-Acts and the Pentecostal Tradition  
 Social Justice

### Thursday

Persecution / Suffering  
 Birth Narrative  
 Passion / Resurrection  
 Pauline Mission  
 Women  
 Poetry (Kilian McDonnell)

Friday

Recent and Emerging Critical Methodologies  
Empire, Peace, Canonical, Post-Colonial  
Preaching and Teaching Luke-Acts

### **3. POST SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Produce a final annotated bibliography of approximately 15 sources you discovered during our time together and/or in the midst of research. 5 /15 must be less than 5 years old and not included in your final research paper (3 pages).
  
- B. Final Paper: write a 30 page research paper. Approaches may include: exegetical (pick a passage and run with it), thematic (preferably not a major theme), or methodological (address hermeneutical, critical questions in contemporary Lukan scholarship). Your topic MUST receive approval from the instructor roughly one week after our week together. Formatting, design, structure, etc. will be addressed during our time together.

### **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Bass, Kenneth. 'Baptism in the Canon: Can/Should We Still Harmonize the Baptismal Formulae in Matthew and Acts?' Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Cleveland, TN, March 2007.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 'The Normativity of Acts'. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Virginia Beach, VA, March 10-12, 2005.
- Bovon, François. *Luke The Theologian: Fifty-five Years of Research (1950-2005)*. 3rd Rev. Ed. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2006.
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- Dempster, Murray W. 'Christian Social Concern in Pentecostal Perspective: Reformulating Pentecostal Eschatology'. *JPT* 2 (1993), pp. 51 -64.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 'Pentecostal Social Concern and the Biblical Mandate of Social Justice'. *Pneuma* 9 (Fall 1987), pp. 129-53.
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- Elbert, Paul. 'Pentecostal/Charismatic Themes in Luke–Acts at the Evangelical Theological Society: The Battle of Interpretative Method'. *JPT* 12 (2004), pp. 181-215.
- Fee, Gordon D. 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Issue of Separability and Subsequence'. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. South Hamilton, MA, November 15-17, 1984. Later published in *Pneuma* 7 (Fall 1985), pp. 87-99.
- Ford, J. Massyngbaerde. *My Enemy is My Guest: Jesus and Violence in Luke*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1984.
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- Gasque, Ward. *A History of the Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles*. Rev. ed. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1989.
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. "To Speak Thy Word with all boldness" Faith and Mission 3 (1986) 76-82.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Toward a Theology of Acts - Reading and Rereading" Int 42 (1988) 146-157.
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- Hittenberger, Jeff and Martin William Mittelstadt. 'Power and Powerlessness in Pentecostal Theology' (review of Amos Yong, *Theology and Down Syndrome: Reimagining Disability in Late Modernity*). *Pneuma* 30 (2008), pp. 137-45.
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- Karris, Robert. "Missionary Communities: A New Paradigm for the Study of Luke-Acts." CBQ 41 (1979) 80-97.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. "Persecution in the Acts of the Apostles" Luke and Acts. Eds. Gerald O'Collins and Gilberto Marconi. Translated by Matthew J. O'Connell. Paulist Press, NY, 1993, 143-160.
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PREPARED BY MARTIN MITTELSTADT (August 2012)