CALVARY UNIVERSITY

Syllabus

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: **BI238 D(N) Acts**
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2027
Dates: January 11 – May 7
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-1:20 p.m.
Place: CABRE 100; Online Teams/Canvas
Professor: Joshua Paxton / Office: CABRE 108
Phone: Office: (816)322-5152 ext. 1353 / Cell: (816)679-9387
Email: Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu,

DESCRIPTION

An analytical study of the Book of Acts that examines the foundation and early development of Christianity. Particular attention is given to the transition from Israel to the Church and Paul's missionary journeys.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments, and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. **The student will:**

1. Become aware of the basic introductory issues relating to the Book of Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2)
2. Gain an understanding of the content, structure and argument of Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)
3. Recognize that the Book of Acts is a historical transitional book relating to the change from the dispensation of law/Israel to grace/Church. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Identify specific transitional aspects of the Book of Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 4)
2. State and trace the development of the argument of the Book of Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 4)
3. Relate the missiological value of the Book of Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
4. Describe significant personalities, events, and institutions in Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
5. Identify theological and practical values presented in Acts. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Assignments

1. **Reading**
   a. Read Acts: Read through the book of Acts eight times (once for every two weeks of class. This reading is to be reported in Canvas. Audio listening is also acceptable as well as a mixture of methods. More information on this assignment is in Canvas.
   b. Read through the portion of the textbook according to the tentative schedule. This reading is to be reported in Canvas. More information on this assignment is in Canvas.

2. **Study Questions**
   Each week student's will answer a set of study questions in preparation for class. The study questions are found in Canvas. More information is in Canvas along with due dates.

3. **Personal Application Paper**
   As you are reading through the Book of Acts, write a personal application for each chapter of the book. Each of these applications should be at least a half page in length and be directly tied to the text, including references. The completed assignment will be due at the end of the course and should be a minimum of 14, 15 pages long. See Canvas for more details.

4. **Outline**
   Utilizing Acts 1:8, create your own outline of the book. See Canvas for more details.

5. **Lesson Plan**
   Create a lesson plan for teaching a topic from the book of Acts.

   Examples include…
   a. Speaking in Tongues in Acts
   b. Missions in Acts
   c. The Creation of the Church
   d. Another topic of interest to the student

   The topic should be approved by the professor prior to beginning the assignment. See Canvas for more details.

6. **Research Paper**
   The student will use their lesson plan as an outline for a 10-page research paper. The research paper takes the place of a Final Exam and should be turned in by the end of the course. Papers should be in Turabian Research Paper format, including Title Page and Bibliography. The student is encouraged to utilize a minimum of 15-20 sources for this paper.

METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in group discussions.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, participating in Canvas, and studying for tests.

1. **Grading:**

	Points
1. **Study Questions**	**200**
2. **Reading Acts (4x50)**	**200**
3. **Textbook Reading**	**100**
4. **Personal Application Paper**	**200**
5. **Outline**	**100**
6. **Lesson Plan**	**100**
7. **Research Paper**	**100**
8. **Total**	**1000**

2. "See Grading Scale in the University Catalog"

C. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

D. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

E. Late Assignments: Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.

F. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the student's work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.

G. **Disabilities**: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support

H. **The Clark Academic Center** (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

I. **Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy. The attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (Instructor will use ESV)

Couch, Mall. 1999 *A Bible Handbook to The Acts of The Apostles*. Grand Rapids: Kregel. ISBN 13: 978-0-8254-2391-8. (Retail: $24.00, Kindle: $14.99, Amazon $22.49)

CLASS LECTURES

Subject to change, see actual due dates in Canvas

Week 1	Introduction Background of the Book of Acts
Week 2	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 3	Conference on Global Engagement – No Class Chapter 3
Week 4	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Week 5	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Week 6	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
Week 7	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Week 8	Chapter 12 Chapter 13

Week 9	**Spring Break – NO CLASS**
Week 10	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
Week 11	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
Week 12	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
Week 13	Chapter 20 Chapter 21
Week 14	Chapter 22 Chapter 23
Week 15	Chapter 24 Chapter 25
Week 16	Chapter 26 Chapter 27
Week 17	Chapter 28 Evaluation

RESOURCES FOR FUTHER READING AND RESEARCH

(These are included for the student who is interested in doing additional reading or research. Though helpful, the professor does not necessarily endorse all the views and positions of these authors. Feel free to consult the professor for other resources related to specific topics.)

Bock, Darrell L., *Acts*. Baker Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Couch, Mal. General Editor. *A Bible Handbook to the Acts of the Apostles.* Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1999.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Acts: The Church Afire.* Wheaton: Crossway, 1996.

Kistemaker, Simon J. *Acts*. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1990.

Larkin, William J., Jr. *Acts.* IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.

Longman, Tremper, III, and David E. Garland, eds. *Luke–Acts*. The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Revised. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

MacDonald, William. *"The Acts of the Apostles." Believer's Bible Commentary.* Art Farstad, ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995.

Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and Commentary.* Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Reprinted. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Polhill, John B. *Acts.* New American Commentary. Vol. 26. Nashville: Broadman, 2001.