

BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE: BIB 220 Acts

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the beginnings and expansion of the early Church, with particular attention given to the role of the Holy Spirit and to apostolic ministry.

III. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to:

1. Acquaint students with the historical, cultural, and religious context within which the church came into existence and experienced its earliest development.
2. Give students an understanding of the principles of evangelism and missions as revealed in Acts, with a view to contemporary application.
3. Familiarize students with the kerygma recorded in Acts as a pattern for contemporary preaching.
4. Introduce to students the major leaders of the New Testament church, particularly providing insights into their personalities, spiritual commitment, and styles of leadership.
5. Acquaint students with the internal life of the early church in order that they might understand the necessity and the grounds of genuine Christian fellowship.
6. Challenge students to more vigorous church participation, based on the ministry of the early church.
7. Inspire students to seek a closer relationship with and a greater empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
8. Lead students to an understanding of opposition to the church and its message and of the church's resources in the midst of such hostility.
9. Familiarize students with the devotional life of the early church as a model for individual and corporate worship.
10. Encourage students to engage in more intensive and effective independent study of New Testament literature and subsequent church history.
11. Introduce students to important primary and secondary sources that bear upon our study.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Summarize the introductory issues pertaining to the book of Acts.
2. Describe the historical, cultural, and religious environment of the emerging church.
3. Demonstrate the accuracy of various historical details in Acts.

4. Outline the various missionary enterprises of the early Christians, particularly those of the apostle Paul.
5. Explain the parallels and contrasts between the first and the twenty-first century missionary situations and demonstrate ability in applying biblical principles, illustrated in Acts, to contemporary missions strategy.
6. Discuss the various doctrinal and ethical problems that threatened the life of the early church.
7. Relate the historical circumstances of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans.
8. Interpret any given biblical passage studied during the course.
9. Discuss the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of early Christians.
10. Name the leading characters of Acts and summarize the role that each played in the developing of the Church.
11. Give a summary outline of early Christian kerygma.
12. Apply biblical principles, as illustrated in Acts, to contemporary life situations.

V. COURSE OUTLINE:

Video Lectures:

1. *Introduction to Acts*
2. *Acts 1 & 2*
3. *Acts 3 - 5*
4. *Acts 6 - 9*
5. *Acts 10 - 12*
6. *Acts 13 - 14*
7. *Acts 15 - 16*
8. *Acts 17 - 18*
9. *Acts 19 - 22*
10. *Acts 23 - 28*
11. *The Historicity of Acts*
12. *The Church in Acts*
13. *The Church in Acts (part 2)*
14. *The Church in Acts (part 3)*
15. *The Mission of the Church in Acts*
16. *The Mission of the Church in Acts (part 2)*
17. *The Ministry of Paul in Acts*
18. *The Ministry of Paul in Acts (part 2)*
19. *The Ministry of Paul in Acts (part 3)*
20. *The Spread of the Gospel in Acts (part 1)*

| Module | Dates | Assignments |
|----------|------------------|--|
| Module 1 | Jan 12 – 25 | Video sessions 1-3, Discussion Forum 1 |
| Module 2 | Jan 26 – Feb 8 | Video sessions 4-6, Discussion Forum 2 |
| Module 3 | Feb 9 – 22 | Video sessions 7-8, Discussion Forum 3, <i>Marshall</i> report |
| Module 4 | Feb 23 – March 8 | Video session 9-11, Discussion Forum 4, Session #1-10 |

| | | Notes |
|----------|---------------------|--|
| Module 5 | March 9 – 22 | Video sessions 12-13, Discussion Forum 5, Research paper |
| Module 6 | March 30 – April 12 | Video sessions 14-16, Discussion Forum 6 |
| Module 7 | April 13 – 26 | Video sessions 17-18, Discussion Forum 7, Reflection paper |
| Module 8 | April 27 – May 8 | Video session 19-20, Discussion Forum 8, Sessions #11-20 Notes, Bible reading report |

VI. COURSE METHOD

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss issues of introduction and key portions of Scripture on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments, brief written responses to those reading assignments, and an opportunity to research and reflect on the book of Acts.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

VII. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Marshall, I. Howard. *Acts*. TNTC. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980.

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Video Lectures & Notes**
 1. All 20 video lectures by Dr. Horner are to be viewed, taking notes as you view.
 2. Submit a copy of your notes for video sessions #1-10 at the end of the fourth module, and for video sessions #11-20 at the end of the eighth module.
- B. **Class Discussions**
 1. Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post a response to the questions and to respond to at least one other student response.
 2. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage. A grade will be posted the week following the Module assignment.

C. Reading:

1. Read the book of Acts in a translation of your choice. A report of the reading will be due at the end of the semester.
2. Read the textbook in its entirety.

D. Writing:

1. Write a "Book Report" of the Marshall text using the guide provided. It must be at least 1,000 words in length, typewritten and double-spaced. The book report will be due at the end of the third Module.
2. Write a "Reflection Paper" explaining how this course, through lectures, classroom discussions, textbook reading, personal research, or in some other way, contributed to your understanding of the church, or helped you in your intellectual and/or spiritual development, and how you will use that help in the future. The Reflection Paper will be due at the end of the seventh Module.

E. Research & Writing:

1. Write a research paper on a theme in Acts, a small portion of the biblical text, or a background issue.
2. The paper must be a minimum of 1,500 words, typewritten and double-spaced.
3. It must use a minimum of 3 sources in the body of the paper.
4. The research paper should be prepared according to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
5. The paper will be due at the end of the fifth Module.

IX. COURSE EVALUATION

A. Grade:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Video lecture notes | 20% |
| Discussion forums | 20% |
| Bible Reading | 5% |
| Text Reading & Report | 15 % |
| Reflection Paper | 15 % |
| Research Paper | <u>25 %</u> |
| | 100 % |

- B. Attendance & Late Grades:** Regular, successful and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for an absence will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced.

- C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using “as one’s own the writings or ideas of another.” Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student’s written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

X. COURSE PROFESSOR

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies

M.A., Biblical Literature

D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation

Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor

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XI. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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