

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Acts of the Apostles (BIBNT)
FA 2024
Sept 3rd to Dec 11th, 2024 (Blended Synchronous)

Dr. Dong Hyeon Jeong
Garrett Email: dong.jeong@garrett.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Mondays, 6:30-9:30pm (CST)
Main, Room ###

* **Course Description:**

This course engages the Acts of the Apostles (Acts) through close reading, contextual hermeneutics, and socio-ethical engagements. We will familiarize ourselves with foundational issues and concepts as the class critically reflects upon each chapter of Acts. Then, we will also read various scholars' take on select biblical passages. Throughout the semester, the participants will be able to present and share their thoughts and/or interpretations on Acts in relations to their vocational intention(s).

* **Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

Through reading, listening, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students – after successfully completing this course with a final course grade of B or above – will be able to:

- Identify fundamental concepts, historical contexts, and ideological issues and interpretations of the Acts of the Apostles.
- Recognize select biblical criticisms and hermeneutics.
- Analyze select biblical passages with close reading method.
- Reflect upon the role of contexts and faith in biblical interpretation. By doing so, this class seeks to assist the participants in evaluating contemporary appropriation(s) of the New Testament as a/the sacred text and/or as an ancient document.
- Synthesize a well-researched, socio-ethically sound individual/group commentary on Acts of the Apostles.

* **Course Delivery Method(s):**

- Since this class is offered blended synchronous, most of the materials and communication are delivered through email and Moodle.

* **Required Textbook:**

- The Bible: a translation in your preferred language is highly recommended. If you are well-versed in Koine Greek, then please bring/use Greek New Testament (paper or digital).

- One (1) commentary of your choosing. Please refer to the Styberg Library for online commentaries. Purchasing a commentary is also recommended.

= Styberg Library resource link:

-> <https://guides.garrett.edu/exegesis/commentaries>

-> <https://guides.garrett.edu/intro-nt-yeo/acts>

* **Other Resources:**

- Please see the course's Moodle site.

• **Course Requirements and Assessments:**

! All assessments must be submitted on their corresponding due dates. Students have one week to submit late submissions from the due date. After that one week, no assessment will be accepted, and the grade for lateness or the lack of submission will be zero (0) grade/point. For those who need extra time, please consult with the instructor before the due date.

1) Attendance: 10%

- You are allowed to have two absences, no questions asked. Beyond that will incur grade deduction. If you are going to be absent for more than this, then please inform the instructor. There will be one-point grade deduction per absence/ tardiness (more than 30 minutes).

- Since this class is blended synchronous, those who are seeking in-person credit should attend the class in-person at least 50% of the scheduled class dates and times.

2) Shared Commentary Portfolio: 60% = 20% each presentation x3 per group

- Individual/Group Presentation Schedule:

= First Group: Weeks 2 [chs. 1-2] + 6 [chs. 10-12] + 10 [chs. 21-22]

= Second Group: Weeks 3 [chs. 3-5] + 7 [chs. 13-15] + 11 [chs. 23-24]

= Third Group: Weeks 4 [chs. 6-7] + 8 [chs. 16-18] + 12 [chs. 25-26]

= Fourth Group: Weeks 5 [chs. 8-9] + 9 [chs. 19-20] + 13 [chs. 27-28]

- Each Presentation's Grading Rubric: (20%)

1. Robust engagement with at least commentaries: **10%** (at least 3 pages per chapter)

-> "Robust engagement" means detailed summarization of each verse(s)/word(s) of the assigned chapters based on the chosen commentaries. Please upload them on the shared commentary document provided by the instructor.

2. Additional reading(s) and contextual reflection: **5%**

-> Also, please include in the shared commentary your take on the additional reading(s) and your critical reflection(s) on the assigned chapters.

-> The goal of this portfolio is to create a robust communally shared commentary of Luke created by the entire class.

3. Timely and proofread shared commentary: 2%

4. Active participation in class: 3%

=> Each group member is expected to actively participate in the class with the assistance of the instructor. Each group member will share their research about their assigned chapter/verse/passage. The class time will be a mixture of close reading and engagement of secondary reading materials/ interpretations. Moreover, whenever possible, please relate your analysis to your particular context and/or vocational intentions.

3) Book Review: 30%

- Please review Dr. Jordan Ryan's chapter on Acts of the Apostles in the commentary, *The New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary* (edited by Esau McCaulley, Janette H, Ok, Osvaldo Padilla, and Amy Peeler).

- Grading Rubric:

= 2-3 page robust and critical review: 60%

-> In-text citation

= On-time submission: 20%

= Grammar, syntax, spelling: 20%

- What is a robust and critical review?

= A book review is **NOT simply** a summary of the book. Rather, it is your take/assessment on the arguments and contents of the book.

= Elements of a typical book review:

1. Summarize in one (or two) paragraph the main argument, supporting arguments, methods/data analysis and gathering (if available), and overall flow of the book.

2. The bulk of the review analyzes the logical flow of the arguments. In other words, does the author's argument(s), method(s), and/or approach(es) to Acts make sense to you? Why and/or why not? What are the implications of this book? From your perspective/context, what makes this book worthwhile or not?

3. The last part of a book review is your recommendation (or not). If someone asks you whether or not they should read this book, what would you say?

Grading Scale:

A: 94-100

A-: 90-93.9

B+: 87-89.9

B: 84-86.9

B-: 80-83.9

C+: 77-79.9
C: 74-76.9
C-: 70-73.9
D: 60-69.9
F: below 60

* **Academic Policies:**

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the Academic Handbook for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

= Writing:

- Academic integrity and plagiarism: All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online here. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA).
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See the "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

= AI Technology:

- * The use of AI includes, but is not limited to, such activities as: research, generating first drafts of assignments or creating outlines (through tools such as ChatGPT), translation from one language to another, and editing, polishing, or revising (through tools such as spell check, grammar check, and Power Point designer). The extent to which the use of AI is allowable in developing course assignments is determined by the faculty member in each of their courses. Faculty may prohibit the use of AI tools on assignments, allow the use of certain tools with appropriate acknowledgment by the student as to which tools were used, or allow the use of some tools with no acknowledgment by the students that the tools were used.

= Attendance and Class Participation:

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed. All participants in the teaching and learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.
- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class.
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

= Academic Accommodations:

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook. Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term.
- * Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment as possible for students with disabilities. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact Student Access to move forward with the established accommodation process (student.access@garrett.edu; 847-467-5530). If you already have established accommodations with Student Access, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of the term, so we can work together to implement your disability accommodations. Disability information, including academic accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential under FERPA regulations.

*** Course Schedule:**

Dates	Topics, Readings, and Assessments
Week 1: Sept 9	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus - Introducing the Acts of the Apostles
Week 2: Sept 16	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapters 1-2 <p><u>* Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Henning, "Holy Impairment: The Body as the Nexus of Apocalyptic Ekphrasis in Acts 2:1-13"
Week 3: Sept 23	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapters 3-5 <p><u>* Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parsons, "The Character of the Lame Man in Acts 3-4"
Week 4: Sept 30	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 6-7 <p><u>* Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinkler, "The Politics of Stephen's Storytelling"

<p>Week 5: Oct 7</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapter 8-9</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Aymer, “Exotica and the Ethiopian of Acts 8:26-40”</p>
<p>Week 6: Oct 14</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapters 10-12</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Wilson, “The Smell of Sacrifice”</p>
<p>Week 7: Oct 21</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapters 13-15</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Reardon, “Cleansing through Almsgiving in Luke-Acts”</p>
<p>Week 8: Oct 28</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapters 16-18</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Smith, “Incarceration on Trial”</p> <p>* <u>Book Review Due – Monday, 11:59pm, CST</u></p>
<p>Week 9: Nov 4</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapter 19-20</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Hooker, “Artemis of Ephesus”</p>
<p>Week 10: Nov 11</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapters 21-22</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Allison, “Acts 9:1-9, 22:6-11, 26:12-18: Paul and Ezekiel”</p>
<p>Week 11: Nov 18</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u> - Chapters 23-24</p> <p>* <u>Reading:</u> - Tripp, “A Tale of Two Riots”</p>
<p>Thanksgiving Break</p>	

November 25 th	
Week 12: Dec 2	<u>* Topics:</u> - Chapters 25-26 <u>* Reading:</u> - Keener, “Paul and Sediton”
Week 13: Dec 9	<u>* Topics:</u> - Chapters 27-28 <u>* Reading:</u> - Mtshiselwa, “In Chains, Yet Prophetic”

* Fall 2024 extension deadline is January 8, 2024