

NT518 — Acts–Pauline Epistles
Course Syllabus, Spring 2019 — RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- Four credit hours
- Thursdays from 1:00–5:00pm
- Course Description: *A study of Acts and the thirteen letters of Paul that emphasizes the application of Paul's theology to the needs of the churches.*

2. Instructor Information

- Gregory R. Lanier, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and Dean of Students, RTS-Orlando
Associate Pastor (Part-time) at River Oaks Presbyterian Church
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3. Objectives

- To understand the Acts of the Apostles in the context of redemptive history and the Jewish and Greco-Roman world(s).
- To understand the relationships between the apostolic circle and Jesus Christ, between Paul and the historical Jesus of the Gospels, and between Paul and the other apostles.
- To understand the main structure of Paul's theology as expressed in Acts and his thirteen letters, including his use of the OT; his understanding of God, Christ, and Spirit; his "gospel" and teachings on salvation and redemptive history; and his ethical and ecclesiological instructions for the church of his day and their contemporary relevance.
- To strengthen one's ability to read, exegete, and teach/preach the letters of Paul, with special attention to their key issues, internal logic, and contribution to Christian doctrine.
- To learn how to engage with scholarship on Acts and Paul—such as the New Perspective, Apocalyptic Paul, critical views on authorship/dating, etc.—in a responsible manner.

4. Required Texts

- The Holy Bible: each student must bring his/her own copy of the Bible (in a modern English translation, e.g., ESV, NASB, NIV) to class each day. Students who have taken Greek are encouraged to bring a critical Greek edition (UBS4/5 or NA27/28). Electronic versions (Logos, Bibleworks, Accordance) are acceptable.
- Michael J. Kruger (ed.), *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016).
- Dennis Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (P&R Publishing, 1997).
- Herman Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1997).

- Osvaldo Padilla, *The Acts of the Apostles: Interpretation, History, and Theology* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016). *** Scans of req'd portions will be provided in Canvas ***

5. Course Assignments

- *Log in to Canvas and make sure you can use it, as it will be used for course administration*
- *Reading of Biblical Texts*
 - Assignment for students who have not had Greek:
 - Read Acts once in English
 - Read each of Paul's 13 letters twice in English
 - Assignment for students who have had Greek:
 - Read Acts in English once
 - Read each of Paul's 13 letters once in English
 - Read Romans in Greek (no translation or parsing required—just *read*)
 - Evaluation: on the final exam, you will be asked to indicate “yes”/“no” whether you have completed 100% of this reading. There is no partial credit.
- *Reading of Assigned Textbooks*
 - Assignment
 - Kruger: read the chapters on Acts and each of the Pauline Epistles
 - Johnson: read the entirety
 - Ridderbos: read pages 1–361
 - Padilla: read chapters 4 and 5 (provided in Canvas)
 - You are free to read according to a schedule of your own choosing.
 - Evaluation
 - One reading quiz must be taken before the date provided in Canvas.
 - You will be allotted 45 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will be closed book, and the honor system is in effect.
 - Grading: the quiz will include 44 objective (e.g., T/F or multiple choice) questions covering major points of each assigned reading (not minutiae). The grade will be determined on the basis of the number of questions correct out of 40. For example, 32 correct = 80%; 40+ correct = 100%.
- *Research Paper*
 - Assignment
 - Complete a research paper of 4,500-7,000 words, adhering to the “Research Paper Guidelines” document provided separately via Canvas.
 - Students must submit their paper topic to the instructor via Canvas by the date specified on the course homepage.
 - Papers must be submitted electronically in PDF format via Canvas by the date specified on the course homepage.

- Evaluation
 - Argument (30%): Is the paper arguing a clear, coherent thesis throughout?
 - Scholarship (40%): Has the paper handled the biblical text responsibly? Has the paper made careful and discerning use of secondary sources, including honest engagement with viewpoints with which the author disagrees?
 - Quality (25%): Is the paper well-structured, logical, and cohesive? Is it well-written for its target audience? Is it clear and easy to read?
 - Style (5%): Does it meet the required style guidelines? Are footnotes and bibliography composed correctly?

- *Midterm and Final Examination*
 - Assignment
 - Each exam will cover content from lectures only. The midterm will cover lectures leading up to the date of the midterm; the final will cover lectures between the midterm and the final.
 - Each exam will consist of the following:
 - Short essays, requiring ~5-7 sentences to answer. Student will choose 6 to answer out of a list provided.
 - Long essays, requiring ~20–30 sentences to answer. Student will choose 3 to answer out of a list provided.
 - Additionally:
 - The *midterm* will require the student to provide a bullet-point outline (think chapter-level, not verse-level) of Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, or Ephesians—the student is allowed to choose which to outline.
 - The *final* will require the student to write out a memorized passage consisting of at least 8–10 verses from Acts or the Pauline Epistles (your choice on the passage and translation used).
 - The examinations will be administered via Canvas.
 - Evaluation
 - Short essays = 7% each (total 42%)
 - Long essays = 17% each (total 51%)
 - Outline (midterm) memorized passage (final) = 7%

6. Grading

• Reading of biblical texts	5%
• Reading quizzes	5%
• Research paper	30%
• Midterm examination	30%
• <u>Final examination</u>	30%
	100%

7. Schedule

- A detailed lecture schedule will be provided on the first day of class.
- Class will meet on the dates specified in the course catalog.

8. Other Details

- Attendance is expected. Student must notify the instructor by email regarding any absence.
- The “skeleton” of course notes will be provided in electronic form by the instructor.
- Students are permitted to use laptops or tablets in class. Phones must be turned on silent mode. You are expected to make use of technology in a way that honors Christ and respects your brothers/sisters sitting near you.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: NT518 – Acts & Pauline Epistles
 Professor: Gregory R. Lanier
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Spring 2019

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	1. Research paper on exegetical, theological, or ministry topic 2. Written examinations
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	1. Lectures include significant exegesis component 2. Original languages used in class and encouraged for students 3. Memorization of outline and scripture passage required
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	1. Use of traditional Reformed theological categories, with emphasis on exegetical grounding in Acts and Paul
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	1. Reading of Bible text 2. Emphasis on personal and pastoral application in lectures
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	1. Emphasis on thinking biblically about social, political, and ecclesiological issues
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	1. Responsibly engaging with critical scholarship in lecture 2. Encouraging students to read non-evangelical materials for paper
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	1. Emphasis on equipping students how to read and exposit on their own rather than simply regurgitate "safe" commentaries
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	1. Some discussion of Reformed worship/polity in pastoral epistles and Acts
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	1. Pastoral/counseling application during lectures 2. "Church issue" option for paper
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	1. Discussion of church issues related to Acts/Paul (pente-costalism, New Perspective, FV)