



Nipawin Bible College
**BI1123: Acts and Pauline Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians,
Philemon, 1–2 Thessalonians)**
Winter 2024
3 Credit Hours
Mr. Bradly Lytle
bradly@nipawin.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course helps the students to appreciate the profound importance of the book of Acts and the letters of the Apostle Paul. The course will equip them to know, interpret and apply Acts and Paul's letters to the Christian life and the life of the church.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (A translation of your choosing, *not a paraphrase*).

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Handbook on Acts and Paul's Letters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Holcomb, Justin S. *Acts: A 12-Week Study*. Wheaton, ILL: Crossway, 2014.

(For digital access follow the link <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowing-bible-acts/#week-8-paul-and-barnabas-are-sent-acts-131-1428>)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the student should be able to...

1. Identify the historical events unfolding in Acts, and describe their significance for today;
2. Appreciate the value of Acts and the Pauline Epistles for the life of the Church today and for oneself as a Christian;
3. Reproduce the outline and summarize the content of the 1–2 Thessalonians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon;
4. Properly interpret NT narrative, and epistles and be able to follow the process of observation to application without assistance.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Schreiner & Scripture References Quizzes - 25%

- There will be a quiz at the beginning of each class day starting January 22, covering material from the textbook reading and key Scripture references from the portions of Scriptures studied in this course that are due for that day (9 quizzes total).
- During the Acts portion, several questions on each quiz will be asking the student to know what is in each chapter and know the stories in each section.
- During the Epistle portion, several questions on each quiz will be asked about the content and outline of the book.
- Each Epistle quiz will ask for the outline given by Schreiner for each Epistle covered in class.
- *Quizzes will equip students to meet Course Objective 2-3.*

Due: See Course Schedule

Scripture Reading - 10%

- The students must read the book of Acts **twice** (once by beginning of class on January 22nd and once by beginning of class on February 5th). A reading declaration will be filled out on each of those days.
- Students will also be required to read the Pauline Epistles **twice** (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1–2 Thessalonians). A reading declaration will be filled out on each day Scripture reading is due.
- *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 1-3.*

Due: See Course Schedule

Scripture Analysis & Group Presentation - 15% + 5% for a cumulative grade of 20%

- **Individual Scripture Analysis Paper (worth 15% of the cumulative grade):**
 - Students will be broken off into three groups to study one out of the three missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul.
 - Once the students have their section to study, each individual student will do a Scripture analysis of the section given to them, following the study definitions, explanations, and questions given from *Justin Holcomb's "Acts: A 12-Week Study."*
 - The Scripture analysis is to be **a five-page paper with an appendix of a map of the specific missionary journey.** Three pages of the paper will be dedicated to answering the study questions given and then the final two pages will be for application. In the application section please provide:
 1. A description of the benefits of using maps when studying the book of Acts.
 2. Two or three insights you gained from the guide given by the Acts study questions and descriptions.

3. The map used for your study (there will be a map example provided in the “select bibliography” section).
- There is only one required source for this assignment: the map you are using to aid your study of Paul’s journeys. Any other references provided could raise the grade of the assignment. Proper footnotes and bibliographic information are expected.
- **Group Presentation (worth 5% of the cumulative grade):**
 - Students will work together in their groups to give a 9-10min presentation on the missionary journey they studied. Each presentation will answer three questions:
 1. How would you describe Paul’s goal for going on this missionary journey?
 2. Using the visual of the map of Paul’s journey, what were some major stops for Paul and according to Acts, what are 1-2 examples of what happened at those stops?
 3. From each student what was your main takeaway from your study of this section?
 - Students will be evaluated on the following: remaining on time, biblical accuracy of their content (is what the group saying faithful to the text?), ability to communicate with clarity (Does what they are saying make sense? Can the audience follow what they are saying?) and depth of their takeaway (Is the group’s takeaway thoughtful or shallow?)
 - *This assignment will equip students to meet course objective 1-4*

Individual Scripture Analysis Paper Due: See Course Schedule
Group Scripture Analysis Presentations Due: See Course Schedule

Exegetical Paper - Stage 1 worth 10% and Stage 2 worth 15% (25% cumulative total)

- Write a 7 page (minimum) exegetical research paper on a passage in one of the six letters of Apostle Paul studied here. This assignment is one paper done in two stages.
- **Stage 1: Historical & Literary context** (2 pages) (worth 10% of cumulative grade)
 - Write a paper discussing the background of the chosen passage.
 - You should be answering questions like:
 - Cultural context - What is the cultural context of the letter Paul is writing?
 - Situational context - What issues prompted Paul to write to this church or individual?
 - Literary context - What is the flow of thought before and after this passage?
 - This will serve as the introduction to the paper and the passage.
 - This stage still requires a title page and bibliography.

- **Stage 2: Exegesis (4 Pages) & Application (1 Page)** (worth 15% of cumulative grade)
 - This is a continuation of the first paper, now focusing on the passage. “Considering the context, what do these verses mean to the original readers? What ‘keywords’ need to be defined? What does this passage teach about God?”
 - This should be the main content of the whole paper. The concluding section is the application.
 - The application will answer the following questions: “Considering the context, and interpretation, how do these principles from Scripture apply to the life of the church today? How does this passage apply to yourself and how you relate to others?”
 - The application will function as the “conclusion” of the paper.
 - This assignment requires students to have at least 6 sources in their bibliography.
 - *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 2-4.*
 - A passage selection sheet will be posted on the instructor’s office door by Feb. 12. Each student will pick a different topic from the chart below by **March 4**.

Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
Eph. 2:8-10	Phil. 1:9-11	Col. 1:13-14	1 Thess. 1:2-3	2 Thess. 1:9-10
Eph. 3:8-10	Phil. 2:1-4	Col. 1:28-29	1 Thess. 2:3-6	2 Thess. 2:13-15
Eph. 4:1-3	Phil. 2:12-13	Col. 2:13-15	1 Thess. 3:11-13	2 Thess. 2:16-17
Eph. 5:1-2	Phil. 4:4-7	Col. 3:22-25	1 Thess. 4:1-3	2 Thess. 3:11-12
Eph. 6:10-13	Phil. 4:10-13	Col. 4:2-4	1 Thess. 5:16-18	2 Thess. 3:13-15

1st Stage Paper Due: See Course Schedule
2nd Stage Paper Due: See Course Schedule

Final Exam on Acts & Pauline Epistles (20%)

- The exam will cover in-class material and may have questions from the quizzes from our time studying the book of Acts.
- The exam will cover in-class material and may have questions from the quizzes from our time studying Paul’s Epistles.
- The student may use a non-study Bible during the exam but have no other help.
- *The Exam will measure how well the student meets Course Objectives 1-4.*

Exam Due: Exam Week

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers (see **NBC Sample Paper**). Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due **at the beginning of class** on the day that they are assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

Reading: 148 pages + Bible

Writing: 12 pages

COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Date	Session Topic	Schreiner Reading Due	Assignment Due
Jan. 15	Syllabus Overview/ Background on the Book of Acts		
Jan. 22	Storyline & Key Characters in book of Acts	Pg. 1-17	1st Reading of Acts Quiz 1
Jan. 29	Key Characters in the book of Acts	Pg. 17-26	Quiz 2
Feb. 5	Main Themes/Reading & Applying Acts today	Pg. 26-37	2nd Reading of Acts Quiz 3 "Scripture Passage Analysis" paper DUE
Feb. 12	Paul's Missionary Journeys Presentations & Reading and Applying Acts today	Pg. 37-45	Quiz 4 "Scripture Passage Analysis" Presentations DUE
	Reading Break		
Feb. 26	1 Thessalonians: Living in light of the end	Ch. 9	Read 1 Thessalonians x2 Quiz 5
Mar. 4	2 Thessalonians: Living in light of the end	Ch. 10	Read 2 Thessalonians x2 Quiz 6 <i>Must choose passage for exegetical paper.</i>
Mar. 11	Study Day		
Mar. 18	Colossians & Philemon: Christ in you, the hope of glory	Ch. 8 & 14	Read Colossians & Philemon x2 Quiz 7 Exegetical Paper - Stage 1 due
Mar. 25	Philippians: Fellowship as citizens of heaven	Ch. 7	Read Philippians x2 Quiz 8
Apr. 1	Ephesians: All things united in Him	Ch. 6	Read Ephesians x2 Quiz 9 Exegetical Paper - Stage 2 due
Apr. 9-11	Final Exam		

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Carson, D. A. *Basics for Believers: An Exposition of Philippians*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 1996.
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- Köstenberger Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: an Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2009. **225 KOS**
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