

1-1-2009

## BT 805 W1 The Theology of Luke-Acts

Bart B. Bruehler

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## Syllabus

**Course:** BT805 W1 (SP 2009)  
**Title:** The Theology of Luke-Acts  
**Hours:** 3.00  
**Published:** Yes, on 01/19/2009  
**Prerequisites:**

*None*

**Department:** Biblical Theology  
**Faculty:** Dr. Bart Bruehler



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Office: AD

SPO:

### **Meetings:**

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Wednesday from 1:00p to 3:45p in M305.

**Maximum Registration:** 12  
**Catalog Description:**

### **Objectives:**

BS 8xx

**BT 805: The Theology of Luke-Acts**  
**Spring 2009, Asbury Theological Seminary**  
**Wednesday 1-3:45, Room**  
**3 Credit Hours**

Icon - Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Methodius and Cyril by Exploring Orthodoxy.

Professor: Bart B. Bruehler, Ph.D.  
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Office: AD 307

Office Hours: T 3-5pm, W 4-5pm

**Course Description:** This course will begin by reviewing the history of the interpretation of Luke and Acts and the relationship of these two books. This will lay a foundation for surveying several important theological themes found in Luke-Acts. Finally, this course will explore the use of Luke-Acts in contemporary biblical and constructive theology through research, interpretation, and theological synthesis.

**Course Purpose and Context:** This course is part of the offerings for Asbury's Ph.D. in Biblical Studies. Luke-Acts forms approximately one-third of the NT. Acts in particular is unique for its narrative of the early church in the NT. Therefore, trained scholars in Biblical Studies should be familiar with its contents, theological emphases, and history of interpretation. This course stands alongside the study of other major blocks of material in the canon, deals specifically with hermeneutical issues between text and theology, and picks up the history of interpretation in the modern period where the seminar in the history of biblical interpretation ends.

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. State the major issues that shaped the interpretation of Luke-Acts in the ancient and modern contexts and explain how these issues continue to affect the interpretation of Luke's opus.
2. Name and describe several theological themes in Luke-Acts that have been the subject of modern biblical research.
3. Define salvation history and describe how and why this is one of the predominant theological perspectives of Luke-Acts.
4. Articulate contemporary trends in the use of Luke-Acts in biblical and constructive theology.
5. Creatively interpret passages from across Luke-Acts to articulate or apply a theological perspective found in Luke-Acts.

### Assignments for Achieving Course Objectives

**Note:** All written assignments for this course should be formatted with 12pt Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins on all sides, and double spaced. All assignments will be turned in on Moodle and should be in Word (.doc) or .pdf files (with permission to comment enabled).

1. Seminar Reports & Participation (40 points): The core of most Ph.D. courses is the seminar itself. Each student must complete all of the assigned reading for each week and come prepared to participate in class discussion. Most weeks will have a seminar report due for class (see the course schedule below). You must complete a total of 7 reports worth 5 points each for a total of 35 points. Note that there are 8 opportunities for reports, so you may choose one week off. The remaining 5 points will be based on your participations in class discussions throughout the course. The seminar reports should be 2-3 pages long and should consist of the following:
  1. Students must choose one book or article from the selected bibliography (see below) associated with that week's topic. (Special instructions will be given for the week on Constructive Theology.) Students should survey books by reading the introduction, conclusion, and selected portions to grasp the purpose, argument, and effectiveness of the book. Articles should be read in their entirety. Students should write a 2-3 paragraph summary and evaluation of the book/article and be prepared to speak about their selected item during the discussion.

2. Students should select one passage from Luke or Acts relevant to that week's topic. The report should contain a 1-2 paragraph statement about the relevance of that passage for that week's topic, and the student should be prepared to discuss the Greek of the passage in class.
  3. The report should close with 3-5 questions from the reading or dealing with the topic for that week (these may develop into the final theological paper).
  4. These should be posted on Moodle in the Module discussion board 24 hours before class begins, and a printed copy should be brought to class.
  5. **NOTE:** If you choose to review one of the pieces in German or French on the bibliography, then you will be excused from the seminar report for the preceding week. The report that you turn in on the foreign language piece will be doubled to make up for the excused report.
1. **Book Review (15 points):** Each student will write a book review of either *The Theology of St. Luke (Die Mitte der Zeit)* by Hans Conzelmann or *The Making of Luke-Acts* by Henry J. Cadbury. These are foundational works that set the stage for much of the study of Luke-Acts in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (and beyond). The book review should include the following elements: a description of the author and their scholarly context, an overview of the contents of the book focusing on theological contributions, and an evaluation of the book. The evaluation should comment on the value of the stated purpose of the book, the soundness and effectiveness of the argument, and the impact of the book on the study of Luke-Acts. This paper should be 6-8 pages long and is due on the second seminar (2/18).
  1. **Paper Presentation and Response (total of 10 points):** This class is part of your preparation as future scholars. Therefore, you will practice presenting your own work and responding to your colleagues' work. Two class sessions will be set aside for student presentations and responses. In these sessions, one student will present a working draft of their final paper to the class (worth 5 points). Another student will offer a formal response of 2-3 written pages (also worth 5 points). The working draft must be given to the respondent one week before the presentation. I hope that this will give you the opportunity to practice your collegial skills as Christian scholars, improve your final paper for this class, and possibly start you down a path to publishing this paper.
  1. **Theological Paper (35 points):** The culminating assignment for this course is a 20-30 page paper that addresses a theological issue in Luke-Acts. This paper may take a number of forms: synthesizing a theological theme in Luke-Acts, contesting a theological position raised by one of the pieces read during the semester, presenting Luke's contribution to the canon on a theological topic, or using Luke-Acts for constructive theology. An excellent paper will deal exegetically with several texts from Luke-Acts, interact significantly with relevant secondary literature, argue for a specific thesis, and demonstrate theological synthesis. You will present a working draft of your paper to the class (see #3). Your final paper should incorporate feedback from this session, and should be in the form of an article to be submitted for publication according the *SBL Handbook of Style*.

Assignment	Due Date	Value
7 Seminar Reports	Varies	35
Seminar Participation	Varies	5
Book Review	2/18	15
Paper Presentation	4/29 or 5/6	5
Paper Response	4/29 or 5/6	5
Theological Paper	5/20	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

### Grading Scale (with descriptions from the ATS catalogue)

94-100 = A “Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives”

92-94 = A-

90-92 = B+

86-90 = B “Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives”

84-86 = B-

82-84 = C+

77-82 = C “Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives”

75-77 = C-

73-75 = D+

74-71 = D “Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives”

<70 = F “Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives”

## Course Communication

Class communication is accomplished with the open-source Moodle platform, accessed using a web browser (Firefox is preferred). Log into <http://virtual.asburyseminary.edu> and you will see this course listed to the left. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

*The Course Information Center*, in the center of your screen, contains many features to be used throughout the semester, including:

- § Course News and Announcements, where I will post items important for the entire class;
- § Syllabus, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
- § To Professor, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
- § Course Questions, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
- § Prayer Forum, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
- § Open Forum, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.

*Modules*, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums for group discussions, documents or other files to download or view online, and links for submitting some assignments. There will be one module devoted to each week/topic of our class. They will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.

## Required Texts:

Bovon, François. *Luke the Theologian: Fifty-five Years of Research (1950-2005)*. 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2006. (Abbreviated below as Bovon)

Bartholomew, Craig G., Green, Joel B. and Anthony C. Thistleton. *Reading Luke: Interpretation, Reflection, Formation*. Scripture and Hermeneutics Series, vol. 6. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (Abbreviated below as *Reading Luke*)

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
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2/11	Introduction to the class Luke & Acts among the Fathers	<i>Reading Luke</i> , 379-415	
2/18	Luke-Acts from the Enlightenment to Today	Bovon, 463-565; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 416-436	Book Review Due
2/25	Luke-Acts: Literature, History, and Theology	Bovon, 87-122; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 79-156	Seminar Report
3/4	Luke and Salvation History	Bovon, vii-1, 1-86, 273-305; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 3-78	Seminar Report
3/11	Luke's (theology and) Christology	Bovon, 123-224; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 294-326	Seminar Report
3/25	Luke's Pneumatology	Bovon, 225-272; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 267-293	Seminar Report
4/1	SPRING BREAK		
4/8	Luke's Theology in its Socio-Political Context	<i>Reading Luke</i> , 157-177	Seminar Report
4/15	Luke and the People of God (Ecclesiology)	Bovon 329-462, <i>Reading Luke</i> , 229-266	Seminar Report
4/22	Lukan Ethics	Bovon, 305-328; <i>Reading Luke</i> , 178-228, 327-378	Seminar Report
4/29	The use of Luke-Acts in Constructive Theology	<i>Reading Luke</i> , 437-451	Seminar Report
5/6	Student Paper Presentations		
5/13	Student Paper Presentations		
5/20	FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5PM		

### Selected Bibliography for Class Sessions

#### **Luke-Acts: Literature, History, and Theology**

Baban, Octavian D. *On the Road Encounters in Luke-Acts: Hellenistic Mimesis and Luke's Theology of the Way*. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2006.

Bonz, Marianne Palmer. *The Past as Legacy: Luke-Acts and Ancient Epic*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.

Brawley, Robert L. *Centering on God: Method and Message in Luke-Acts*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1985.

Karris, Robert J. *Luke, Artist and Theologian: Luke's Passion Account as Literature*. New York: Paulist Press, 1985.

Marguerat, Daniel. *The First Christian Historian: Writing the "Acts of the Apostles."* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Plümacher, Eckhard. *Lukas als hellnistischer Schriftsteller. Studien zur Apostelgesichte*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1972.

Parsons, Mikhail C. and Richard I. Pervo. *Rethinking the Unity of Luke and Acts*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Pervo, Richard I. *Profit with Delight: The Literary Genre of the Acts of the Apostles*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Reinmuth, Eckart. *Pseudo-Philo und Lukas. Studien zum Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum und seiner Bedeutung für die Interpretation des lukanischen Doppelwerks*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1994.

Rothschild, Clare K. *Luke-Acts and the Rhetoric of History: An Investigation of Early Christian Historiography*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2004.

Sterling, G. E. *Historiography and Self-Definition: Josephos, Luke-Acts, and Apologetic Historiography*. Leiden: Brill, 1992.

### **Luke and Salvation History**

- Carroll, John T. *Response to the End of History: Eschatology and Situation in Luke-Acts*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1988.
- Flender, Helmut. *St. Luke, Theologian of Redemptive History*. Translated by Reginald H. Fuller and Ilse Fuller. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1967.
- Green, Joel B. *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Kaestli, J.-D. *L'eschatologie dans l'oeuvre de Luc, ses caractéristiques et sa place dans le développement du christianisme primitif*. Nouvelle série théologique 22. Geneva: Labor et fides, 1969.
- Maddox, Robert. *The Purpose of Luke-Acts*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1982.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *Luke: Historian and Theologian*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1989.
- Matera, Frank. *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. (Pages 51-98)
- Nielsen, A. E. *Until It Is Fulfilled: Lukan Eschatology According to Luke 22 and Acts 20*. WUNT 126. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2000.
- Ravens, David. *Luke and the Restoration of Israel*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- Schneider, Gerhard. *Lukas, Theologe der Heilsgeschichte. Aufsätze zum lukanischen Doppelwerk*. Königstein: Hanstein, 1985.
- Strecker, Georg. *Theology of the New Testament*. Edited by Friedrich Wilhelm Horn. Translated by M. Eugene Boring. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2000. (Pages 392-418)
- Thielman, Frank. *Theology of the New Testament: A Canonical and Synthetic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (Pages 111-149)
- Tiede, David L. *Prophecy and History in Luke-Acts*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.

### **Luke's Theology and Christology**

- Bock, Darrell. *Proclamation from Prophecy and Pattern: Lukan Old Testament Christology*. Sheffield: JSOT, 1987.
- Buckwalter, H. Douglas. *The Character and Purpose of Luke's Christology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Clien, Diane G. *God as Father in Luke-Acts*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2006.
- Coleridge, Mark. *The Birth of the Lukan Narrative: Narrative as Christology in Luke 1-2*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993.
- Crump, David Michel. *Jesus the Intercessor: Prayer and Christology in Luke-Acts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Bookhouse, 1999.
- Doble, Peter. *The Paradox of Salvation: Luke's Theology of the Cross*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Franklin, Eric. *Christ the Lord: A Study in the Purpose and Theology of Luke-Acts*. London: SPCK, 1975.
- Maloney, L. M. *All That God Had Done with Them: The Narration of the Works of God in the Early Christian Community as Described in the Acts of the Apostles*. Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 1991.
- Nützel, J. M. *Jesus als Offenbarer Gottes nach den lukanischen Schriften*. Forschung zur Bibel 39. Würzburg: Echten Verlag, 1980.
- O'Toole, Robert F. *The Unity of Luke's Theology: An Analysis of Luke-Acts*. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier 1984.
- O'Toole, Robert F. *Luke's Presentation of Jesus: A Christology*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute Press, 2004.
- Pokorný, Petr. *Theologie der lukanischen Schriften*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1998.
- Rowe, Christopher Kevin. *Early Narrative Christology: The Lord in the Gospel of Luke*. BZNW 139. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2006.

Strauss, Mark L. *The Davidic Messiah in Luke-Acts: The Promise of Its Fulfillment in Lukan Christology*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.

### **Luke's Pneumatology**

- Baer, H. von. *Der Heilige Geist in den Lukasschriften*. BWANT 3, bd. 3. Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 1926.
- Hur, Ju. *A Dynamic Reading of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.
- Lampe, G. W. H. "The Holy Spirit in the Writings of St. Luke." Pages 159-200 in *Studies in the Gospels: Essays in Memory of R. H. Lightfoot*. Edited by D. E. Nineham. Oxford: B. Blackwell, 1955.
- Menzies, Robert P. *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.
- Mittelstadt, Martin William. *The Spirit and Suffering in Luke-Acts: Implications for a Pentecostal Pneumatology*. London: T & T Clark, 2004.
- Penney, John Michael. *The Missionary Emphasis of Lukan Pneumatology*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
- Shelton, James B. *Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Shepherd, William H. *The Narrative Function of the Holy Spirit as a Character in Luke-Acts*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1994.
- Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1984.
- Turner, Max. *Power from on High: The Spirit in Israel's Restoration and Witness in Luke-Acts*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Wenk, Matthias. *Community-Forming Power: The Socio-ethical Role of the Spirit in Luke-Acts*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.
- Woods, Edward. *The "Finger of God" and Pneumatology in Luke-Acts*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.

### **Luke and the People of God**

- Cerfaux, L. *La communauté apostolique*. Témoins de Dieu 2. Paris: Cerf, 1953.
- Dupont, Jacques. *The Salvation of the Gentiles: Essays on the Acts of the Apostles*. Translated by John R. Keating. New York: Paulist Press, 1979.
- Heil, John Paul. *The Meal Scenes in Luke-Acts: An Audience Oriented Approach*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 1999.
- Jervell, Jacob. *Luke and the People of God: A New Look at Luke-Acts*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1972.
- Jervell, Jacob. *The Theology of the Acts of the Apostles*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Kee, Howard Clark. *Good News to the Ends of the Earth: The Theology of Acts*. London: SCM Press, 1990.
- Maddox, Robert. *The Purpose of Luke-Acts*. Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments 126. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1982.
- Ravens, David. *Luke and the Restoration of Israel*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- Reinhart, Wolfgang. *Das Wachstum des Gottesvolkes. Untersuchungen zum Gemeindewachstum in lukanischen Doppelwerk auf dem Hentergrund des Alten Testaments*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1995.
- Thompson, Richard P. *Keeping the Church in Its Place: The Church as Narrative Character in Acts*. New York: T & T Clark, 2006.
- Tyson, Joseph B., ed. *Luke-Acts and the Jewish People: Eight Critical Perspectives*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1988.
- Wilson, S. G. *The Gentiles and the Gentile Mission in Luke-Acts*. SNTSMS 23. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973.

### **Luke's Theology in Its Socio-Political Context**

- Cassidy, Richard J. *Jesus, Politics, and Society: A Study of Luke's Gospel*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books,



1986.

- Cassidy, Richard J. *Society and Politics in the Acts of the Apostles*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1987.
- Cassidy, Richard J. and P. J. Scharper. *Political Issues in Luke-Acts*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1983.
- Esler, Philip F. *Community and Gospel in Luke-Acts: The Social and Political Motivations of Lukan Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.
- Kato, Takashi. *La pensée social de Luc-Actes*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1997.
- Kinman, Brent. *Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem: In the Context of Lukan Theology and the Politics of His Day*. Leiden: Brill, 1995.
- Moxnes, Halvor. *The Economy of the Kingdom: Social Conflict and Economic Relations in Luke's Gospel*. OBT. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.
- Neyrey, Jerome H., ed. *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991. (Choose any article)
- Stegemann, Wolfgang. *Zwischen Synagoge und Obrigkeit. Zur historischen situation der lukanischen Christen*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1991.
- Walasky, P. W. "And So We Came to Rome": *The Political Perspective of St. Luke*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Walton, Steve. "The State They Were in: Luke's View of the Roman Empire." Pages 1-41 in *Rome in the Bible and the Early Church*. Edited by Peter Oakes. Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 2002.

### **Lukan Ethics**

- Beck, Brian. *Christian Character in the Gospel of Luke*. London: Epworth, 1989.
- Byrne, Brendan J. *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2000.
- Degenhart, H. J. *Lukas, Evangelist der Armen. Besitz und Besitzverzicht in den lukanischen Schriften. Eine traditions- und redaktionsgeschichtliche Untersuchung*. Stuttgart: Katholisches Bibelwerk, 1965.
- Dupont, Jacques. "Les pauvres et la pauvreté dans les Évangiles et les Actes." Pages 37-63 in *La Pauvreté évangélique*. Edited by A. George et al. Lire la Bible 27. Paris: Cerf, 1971.
- Gillman, John. *Possessions and the Life of Faith: A Reading of Luke-Acts*. ZSNT. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1991.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Literary Function of Possessions in Luke-Acts*. Missoula: Scholars Press for the Society of Biblical Literature, 1977.
- Kim, Kyoung-Jin. *Stewardship and Almsgiving in Luke's Theology*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.
- Pilgrim, Walter E. *Good News to the Poor: Wealth and Poverty in Luke-Acts*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1981.
- Resseguie, James L. *Spiritual Landscape: Images of the Spiritual Life in the Gospel of Luke*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2004.
- Scheffler, Eben. *Suffering in Luke's Gospel*. Zürich: Theologischer Verlag, 1993.
- Sweetland, Dennis M. *Our Journey with Jesus: Discipleship according to Luke-Acts*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1990.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus: Vincit Agnus Noster*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994.