1-1-2009


Bart B. Bruehler

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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

Email: bart.bruehler@asburyseminary.edu
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

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

Professor: Bart B. Bruehler, Ph.D.
Contact Information: 765-674-1749 (home, no calls after 9pm)
765-506-7470 (cell, no calls after 9pm)

Bart.bruehler@asburyseminary.edu
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.

**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. 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*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Seminar Reports</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>4/29 or 5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Response</td>
<td>4/29 or 5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theological Paper</td>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**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:**


**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading/Reference</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Introduction to the class</td>
<td><strong>Reading Luke</strong>, 379-415</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Student Paper Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>Student Paper Presentations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5PM</td>
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**Selected Bibliography for Class Sessions**


**Luke and Salvation History**


**Luke’s Theology and Christology**


**Luke’s Pneumatology**


**Luke and the People of God**


**Luke’s Theology in Its Socio-Political Context**


**Lukan Ethics**