



Spring 2021

Course Meeting: M/W/F 1:30-2:20 AM  
Course Location: DC 121

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Bryan Brock  
E-mail: bryan.brock@mbu.edu  
Office Location: OM 220  
Office Hours: M–F 2:30–3:30 PM (More times available by appointment or drop in)

**Textbook:** *Notes on Acts*, by Thomas Constable

- Web based: <https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/acts/acts.htm>
- Downloadable PDF: <https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/acts.pdf>

**Course Description/Prerequisites:**

*Acts* is a course designed to study Apostolic Christianity as it is related through Luke’s documentation. The course will consider the historical, doctrinal, and devotional aspects of the book with any emphasis on particular contemporary topics.

**MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course:**

1. Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate competence in written, oral, and aesthetic communication.
2. Critical Thinking: Students will apply a framework for logical decision-making in various contexts.
3. Biblical Knowledge: Students will acquire skills related to biblical study methods, interpretation, and doctrine.
4. Biblical World View: students will articulate a world view that will tie all fields of study to the Scriptures “to the praise of His glory.”

**Course Goals:**

By the end of the class, I desire the student to:

1. To instill in students a desire to glorify God through the application of Biblical teaching.
2. To encourage students to know Christ better through a better understanding of the records of the early church.
3. To accurately apply the teaching of Acts to present day Christianity.
4. To stress that the ultimate aim of Bible study is NOT an informed intellect but a transformed person who lives the greatest commandment to "Love the Lord our God with all of our heart."

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of this class the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the content of the book of Acts.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of missions in the OT as compared to the NT.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding regarding the role of the Holy Spirit and the NT church.
4. Evaluate the charismatic movement’s teaching on tongues.
5. Gain a biblical view of communicating the gospel in various contemporary contexts.
6. Gain an understanding of how to resolve conflicts concerning biblical issues.
7. Biblically evaluate how to make decisions in life.

## Course Requirements

1. Acts Reading:
  - a. You will need to read through Acts 3 times in this course.
    - One reading must be done in **one sitting**.
  - b. **BONUS**: If you read through *Luke and Acts* in one sitting, I will add 1% to your overall course grade. Please indicate you completed the bonus by leaving a comment in the coursework.
  
2. Devotionals: Each student will sign up to do **two** short devotionals (aprox. 250 words) according to the Devotional Template in the course documents. The devotional will cover a single truth and application in the selected chapter of Acts, and are due at class time, on their due date. Please bring a paper copy to give to the professor and be ready to read your devotional to the class.
  
3. Textbook Quizzes: Be prepared for quizzes from your reading in the Constable commentary. Study guides are provided in our handouts section. Quizzes will be taken online **with no helps** and are due @ 11:55 PM according to the course calendar and have a six-minute time limit.
  
4. Tests/Final Exam: There will be five tests and the final exam. Tests will be primarily from course lectures/notes and the reading in *Constable's* text. The final exam is cumulative. Tests are administered through MyMaranatha and are noted on the Class Schedule.
  
5. Main Themes Assignments: Take a theme (Holy Spirit, Missions, Church) and trace how it is developed throughout the book.
  - a. I would suggest reading through the book with the theme in mind. You should take notes on the theme and write your paper after you have fully read through the book.
  - b. I am looking for a lot of interaction with the text. That does not mean a lot of quoting, but I am looking for you to use references to back up your points.
  - c. Paper should be 800-1200 words and follow the research paper format in the course documents (no title page).
  - d. Each paper should include at least three quality resources.
  
6. Grad Project: Chose a sermon in Acts by Peter, Stephen, or Paul and write a 10-14 page expositional paper (exegesis + application). Examine the occasion, recipients, use of the OT, theology, and draw applications to how the sermon should influence our preaching/teaching today. Include a bibliography with at least 8 quality sources. Please follow the research paper format in the course documents and the style guide for CBCM/MBS papers (Turabian).

## GRADING

<b>Assignment Weight</b>	
Acts Reading	6%
Devotionals	4%
Textbook Quizzes	15%
Tests	30%
Final Exam	15%
Main Themes Asgmts.	30%

<b>Assignment Weight – Grad</b>	
Acts Reading	6%
Devotionals	4%
Textbook Quizzes	20%
Tests	30%
Final Exam	15%
Main Themes Asgmts.	15%
Grad Project	15%

<b>Grading Scale</b>			
A	95-100%	C	75–79%
A-	92-94%	C-	72-74%
B+	90-91%	D+	70-71%
B	85-89%	D	65-69%
B-	82-84%	D-	60-64%
C+	80-81%	F	0-59

### **Nature of the Course:**

This course will be prepared along the Lecture Model. As such, the majority of the testing material will come from the lectures. The textbook should be seen as a tool whereby the students become acquainted with the material that will be covered in the lecture. Having already learned some of the foundational truths, the student will be able to build off that knowledge during the lecture times. Seen in this way, both the lectures and the text reading are integral to a robust learning experience.

### **Late Work/Attendance:**

- Plan ahead, pace yourself, do not do work at the last minute. Extensions will rarely be granted for students to failed to prioritize assignments in their schedule.
- Late Work Penalties: 5% is deducted per day. The penalty will not go beyond 50%.
- Late Test Penalty: Any student that has an unexcused absence on the day of a test will automatically receive a deduction of 10% on that test grade.
- The school's attendance policy will be enforced. Students are will be tardy if they are not seated when the professor calls the class to order. Also, students who leave class early without an explanation will be marked tardy (or absent if there is 15 minutes or more remaining in the period).

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, and it can exist in many forms. For example, the following would be considered a sample of academically dishonest activities that might occur in this class:

- Sharing advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- Receiving advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- Using a previous student's old tests or quizzes as a study guide for this semester's tests and quizzes.
- Handing in the same paper or substituting a similar paper in more than one class without permission.
- Plagiarism—representing the words or unique thoughts of another as your own.
  - Plagiarism extends not only to the actual words of the original author, but also to the thought patterns or organizational structure. Papers giving evidence of plagiarism will not be accepted. Papers written by other students may be consulted for help on the form and structure, but it is **not acceptable** to use content from other student papers (even if properly footnoted).
- Submitting as your own, materials that have been enhanced by another.
- Academic penalties for academic dishonesty range from an F grade on the particular evaluation to an F grade in the course. Also, a range of serious disciplinary penalties may apply.

### **Academic Success Center:**

**Academic Success Center.** Once source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Student Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Student Success Center director at [academicsuccess@mbu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@mbu.edu).

### **Collaboration:**

Collaboration (cooperation of students with each other in preparation for a class) is a legitimate learning experience. However, teachers expect that a student will do his own work and not replace individual initiative with another's labor. For example:

- a. **It is acceptable** for a student who filled out his study guide, but was unable to find an answer or did not understand one of the questions to ask for help from another student. **It is not acceptable** for a student who failed to do his study guide to use his neighbor's study guide to cram for the quiz;
- b. **It is acceptable** for a group of students, after doing their own initial work, to compare answers and to quiz each other over the test or quiz study questions. **It is not acceptable** for a student who has done little or no personal preparation to join such a study group;
- c. **It is acceptable** for a student who was absent from class to obtain notes from another student for the day he was absent. **It is not acceptable** for a student who did not feel like taking notes, or who was working on other class work, to obtain notes from another student. **It is also unacceptable** for a student to use notes or study guides from a prior semester;
- d. **It is acceptable** to use another student's paper for help on the form and structure, but **it is not acceptable** to use content from that paper for his own paper.

### **ADA:**

**ADA Policy.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email [academicsuccess@mbu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@mbu.edu).

### **Electronic Devices:**

Laptops, tablets, and smart phones can be great tools in the classroom, but they may also be an enormous distraction to you and your fellow students. The use of electronic equipment in the classroom is a privilege, not a right. If you are found to be misusing that privilege, you will lose it for the remainder of the semester. Misuse could include using the device for anything other than course-related applications. It is expected that electronic communication devices be **muted and out of sight** for the class period unless an application is being used for a course activity. Suitable behavior regarding electronic devices is one way to show appropriate consideration to your fellow students and instructor. Examples of inappropriate use of electronic devices:

- Texting
- Social media
- Web browsing
- Reading or writing email
- Using any application that does not apply to the classroom experience

## Tentative Course Calendar

Day	Date	Lesson	Quizzes	Assignments
M	Jan 25	Syllabus   Class Introduction		
W	27	#1 – Intro: Centripetal to Centrifugal	Quiz #1 – Kostenberger (Luke)	
F	29	#2 – Intro: Holy Spirit	Quiz #2 – Kostenberger (Acts)	
M	Feb 1		Quiz #3 – Constable – Introduction	
W	3	#3 – Intro: Theology		
F	5	#4 – Intro: Luke & Acts		
M	8		<b>TEST #1 – Intro Lessons</b>	
W	10	#5 – Acts 1	Quiz #4 – Constable – Acts 1	Devotional – Acts 1
F	12		<i>No Class: Assessment Day</i>	
M	15	#6 – Acts 2	Quiz #5 – Constable – Acts 2	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Acts (+ Luke)</i> <b>Main Theme #1—Holy Spirit</b>
W	17			
F	19			Devotional – Acts 2
M	22	#7 – Acts 3-4	Quiz #6 – Constable – Acts 3	Devotional – Acts 3
W	24		Quiz #7 – Constable – Acts 4	Devotional – Acts 4
F	26	#8 – Acts 5-6:8	Quiz #8 – Constable – Acts 5	Devotional – Acts 5
M	Mar 1		Quiz #9 – Constable – Acts 6	Devotional – Acts 6
W	3	#9 – Acts 6:9-7:60	Quiz #10 – Constable – Acts 7	Devotional – Acts 7
F	5			Devotional – Acts 8
M	8		<b>TEST #2 – (Acts 1-7)</b>	
W	10	#10 – Acts 8	Quiz #11 – Constable – Acts 8	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Acts (1 sitting)</i> <b>Main Theme #2—Missions</b>
F	12	#11 – Acts 9	Quiz #12 – Constable – Acts 9	
M	15		Quiz #13 – Constable – Acts 10	Devotional – Acts 9/10
W	17	#12 – Acts 10		Devotional – Acts 11
F	19		Quiz #14 – Constable – Acts 11	Devotional – Acts 12
M	22	#13 – Acts 11		Devotional – Acts 13/14
W	24			
F	26	#14 – Acts 12	Quiz #15 – Constable – Acts 12	Devotional – Acts 15/16
M	29		<b>TEST #3 – (Acts 8-12)</b>	
W	31	#15 – Acts 13-14	Quiz #16 – Constable – Acts 13	Devotional – Acts 17
F	Apr 2		Quiz #17 – Constable – Acts 14	Devotional – Acts 18
M	5	#16 – Acts 15		<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Acts</i> <b>Main Theme #3—The Church</b>
W	7		Quiz #18 – Constable – Acts 15	Devotional – Acts 19
F	9	#17 – Acts 15:36-18:22	Quiz #19 – Constable – Acts 16	Devotional – Acts 20
M	12			Devotional – Acts 21/22
W	14		Quiz #20 – Constable - Acts 17-18:22	Devotional – Acts 23
F	16		<b>TEST #4 – (Acts 13-18:22)</b>	
M	19	#18 – Acts 19-21:16	Quiz #21 – Constable - Acts 18:23-19:20	Devotional – Acts 24
W	21		Quiz #22 – Constable - Acts 19:21-21:16	Devotional – Acts 25
F	23	#16 – Acts 21:17-28:31	Quiz #23 – Constable - Acts 21:17-23:32	Devotional – Acts 26
M	26		Quiz #24 – Constable - Acts 23:33-26:32	Devotional – Acts 27
W	28		Quiz #25 – Constable - Acts 27-28	Devotional – Acts 28
F	30		<b>Test #5 – (Acts 19–28:31)</b>	
<i>Finals: May 3–5</i>				

## STRONGER TOGETHER

Our shared commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy campus makes it possible for MBU to continue face-to-face instruction this semester. Your acceptance of personal responsibility for your health (through consistent patterns of personal behavior and hygiene) and your learning (through diligent effort) are essential to advance your education, even amid the inconveniences and sacrifices we are called on to make. **Please note the following course policies:**

- If you are showing any symptoms of illness, do not leave your room or come to class. Immediately contact the student health center for instructions and assistance.
- If you cannot attend class in person due to symptoms of illness, please feel free to participate in the class virtually. **Please email the Student Health Center and me before class starts.** A link is provided in our My Maranatha course. If you contact me before class, we will start the Zoom session, and a recording will be made available even if you cannot attend live.
- You can only be counted as present for live attendance (in-class attendance or live virtual attendance; i.e., your live face showing on the screen). Unless you are enrolled as a virtual student, virtual attendance will only count in the case of illness, symptoms, or quarantine. The Student Health Center will verify this, so you must contact them for your virtual attendance to count. **Delayed viewing of the recording does not count as being present, but it will help you keep on track academically.**
- Sit in a way to maintain physical distancing.
- Until further notice, masks must be worn whenever you are inside a building, including class time. Exemptions on file with the Student Life Office will be honored.
- Use a sanitary wipe to clean your desk or table surface before each class. Desks should be cleaned before each class begins.
- If you are diagnosed as COVID-positive and required to isolate while you recover, don't worry! You will be well supported. Please let me know, and we will make every effort to help you keep up academically until you are released to rejoin the class.