

Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles

Workload 4 ECTS. 20 contact hours (45 min) in school, 84 hours of independent work

Lecturer Peter Penner

Assessment differentiated (grades A-E)

Language of Instruction – English, but written work can also be done in Estonian, if needed.

Learning outcomes. Upon successful completion of this course on Luke's Gospel and Acts, students will be able to...

- Analyze the socio-economic, geographical, social, and religious backdrop of the early Christian community, fostering a holistic awareness of the context in which these texts were written and received.
- Chart the progressive evolution of Jesus' and his disciples' missions, as well as that of Paul and other missionaries, while systematically evaluating the principles and strategies that guided their missionary endeavors.
- Examine the New Testament from a fresh vantage point, skillfully integrating the perspectives of mission and ethics within the context of a diverse and dynamic church, characterized by a multi-ethnic, multi-national, and multi-religious environment.
- Appraise and identify specific ministry principles embedded within the narratives, recognizing their enduring value and potential applicability for the modern church's mission and ministry initiatives.

Through rigorous engagement with the content of Luke's Gospel and Acts, students will emerge equipped with an enriched theological foundation, a refined awareness of historical and social contexts, and a robust toolkit of principles and strategies that will empower them to engage in transformative mission work within today's complex and interconnected world.

Assessment Methods and Criteria

Assessment Methods	Due date	Assessment Criteria
Read the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostle and write on about 600 Words what you have discovered on:	March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the two narrative New Testament Texts presents the world in which Jesus and his church is witnessing to the Gospel and the Kingdom of God• Presenting challenges and opportunities in the process of their involvement in the Mission of God• Present issues on ethics and mission• Model the church in the context of that time and how this could be a model for the present Estonia

<p>Read one shorter text and write a review in an annotated bibliography way. The text: Bosch, David. <i>Transforming Mission</i>. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991: 3: "Luke-Acts: Practicing Forgiveness and Solidarity with the Poor" (pp. 84-122).</p>	<p>April 30</p>	<p>Here's a breakdown of how to write an annotated bibliography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with a properly formatted citation of the source, following the appropriate citation style in Estonia. • Annotation: Write a concise annotation (of approximately 250-300) that incorporates the following elements: Summary: Briefly summarize the main ideas, arguments, and key points of the source. Relevance: Explain how the source is relevant to your research topic or question. Evaluation: Assess the source's credibility, authority, and reliability. Consider the author's credentials, the publication's reputation, and the accuracy of information presented. Comparison: Concisely analyse and differentiate the chapter on Luke-Acts by Bosch and examine his methodology, perspective, findings, and how they enhance your understanding of the gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.
<p>Write a exegetical essay of up to 1000 words on a passage of your choice from Luke's Gospel or Acts of the apostles.</p>	<p>April 30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a passage of 5 to 12 verses for this exegesis • Write the exegesis as you have learned to do exegesis using about 5 different sources such as commentaries and articles • Write some discoveries you have made from this passage on theology of mission and ethics • In short write how relevant this passage and your findings are for your present context of life and ministry

Formation of the final mark

All three assignments must be submitted according to the deadlines indicated in the provided schedule. Each of these assignments contributes 30% to the final grade. Additionally, active participation in class accounts for an additional 10% of the total grade.

The overall evaluation will take into account the depth of the student’s reflective analysis, the skillful integration of references, as well as the clarity of your work and adherence to timelines.

Study flow

Independent work (84h)	Contact (20h)	Content and methods
10 h prior to April 1-4, 24		Read the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostle
	20 hours April 1-4, 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mission in the Context of the Old Testament: Understanding the Foundation 2. The Ministry of Jesus: Exploring His Purpose and Methods 3. The Ministry of the 12 Apostles: From Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth 4. Apostle Paul's Ministry and Travel: Unveiling His Strategies and Impact 5. Early Christian Mission Dynamics: Growth, Challenges, and Lessons 6. Contemporary Relevance of Luke and Acts: Implications for Today's Ministry of the Church
74 hours readings, analysis, and writing assignments		Engagement with readings, thorough analysis, and effective writing, as outlined in the initial two assignments. Compose an exegetical essay as outlined in the third assignment while adhering to the provided timetable.
	May 31, 2024	<i>The course is closed</i>

Learning materials

Primary literature:

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991: 3: “Luke-Acts: Practicing Forgiveness and Solidarity with the Poor” (pp. 84-122).

Secondary literature:

Baban, D. Baban. “Luke” in *Central and Eastern European Bible Commentary*. Langham Global Library, 2022, pp.1107-1163.

Bock, Darrell L. Luke 1:1-9:50. *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament 3a*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Bock, Darrell. Luke 9:51-24:53. *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament 3b*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Bosch David. *Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991: pp. 84-178.

Bosch, David. “The Why and How of a True Biblical Foundation for Mission,” *Evangelical Review of Theology* 17/4 (Oct 1993): 437-451.

- Bray, Gerald, *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP – Apollos, 1996
- Brueggemann, Walter, *Interpretation and Obedience: From Faithful Reading to Faithful Living*. Minneapolis, 1991.
- Corley, Bruce, Steve Lemke, Grant Lovejoy, *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. Nashville: B&H pub, 2002
- Dunn, D. G. James. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993
- Fung R.. “Mission in Christ’s Way”, *International Review of Mission* 78 (1989):4-29.
- Garland, David. *Acts. Teach the Text Commentary Series*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2017.
- Hahn F.. *Mission in the New Testament*. London: SCM Press, 1965.
- Hawthorne G. F., R.P. Martin, D.G. Reid (eds), *Dictionary of Paul and his letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993; see especially articles by W.P.Bowers, “Mission” (pp. 608-619); F.F. Bruce, “Paul in Acts and Letters” (pp. 679-692), M. Reasoner, “Political Systems” (pp. 718-723); D.E. Aune, “Greco-Roman Religions” (pp. 786-796); D. J. Tidball, “Social Setting of Mission Churches” (pp. 883-892); and other articles.
- Hengel, Martin. *Paul between Damascus and Antioch*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- Jeremias J.. *Jesus’ Promise to the Nations*. London: SCM Press, 1958. *The book of Acts*
- Köstenberger & P. O’Brien, *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*, chapter 4: Mark (pp73-86) and chapter 5: Matthew (pp 87-110), Downers Grove: IVP, 2001
- Larkin W., and J. Williams. *Mission in the New Testament: an evangelical approach*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006
- Parsons, Mikeal C. *Acts. Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2008.
- Penner, Peter. “Missional Hermeneutics”. *Acta Missiologie: Journal for reflection on missiological issues and mission practice in Central and Eastern Europe* 4 (2015): 7-25.
- Penner, Peter. *Commentary on the Gospel of Luke*, pp. 1304-1372 and *Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles* pp. 1436-1508, in *Slavic Bible Commentary*, 2016.
- Polhill, J. B. *Acts. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.
- Ringe, Sharon H. *Luke. Westminster Bible Companion*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995.
- Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. London: SCM, 1977. Wright, N. T. *What St. Paul Really Said*. Oxford: Lion Books, 1997.
- Schnable, Eckhard. *Early Christian Mission Volume 1&2: Jesus and the Twelve & Paul and the Early Church*, Downers Grove: IVP, 2004
- Terinte, Ciprian-Flavius “Acts” in *Central and Eastern European Bible Commentary*. Langham Global Library, 2022, pp. 1224-1288.
- Thiselton, Anthony, *Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Eerdmans, 2009.

Thompson, Richard P. Acts: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2015.

van Engen, Charles. "The Relation of Bible and Mission," in Mission on the Way – Issues in Mission Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996: pp. 35-43.

Wright, Christopher J. H. "Part 1: The Bible and Mission" in The Mission of God – Unlocking the Bible's grand narrative. Nottingham: IVP, 2009: pp. 29-70.

Media:

Used from Moodle of ODC:

- GlobeTheoLib - <https://www.globethics.net/web/gtl>
- Regnum Books International - <https://www.regnumbooks.net>
- Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series – downloadable from - <http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum/list.php?cat=3>
- Asbury Theological Seminary – ePlace – a digital collection of research and writing managed by the B. L. Fisher Library - <https://place.asburyseminary.edu/>
- ATLA Digital Library - <https://dl.atla.com>
- [Open Access Digital Theological Library](https://oadtl.org) – <https://oadtl.org>
- Directory of Open Access Journals – <https://doaj.org>
- A List of links for New Testament studies that have free online access (maintained by Steve Walton at Trinity College, Bristol) - https://docs.google.com/document/d/12oFu7VRJYmHoz5zaNPYUlnRqpKNIL56zK5Dv_wam1rg/edit?fbclid=IwAR1R2W_o7WD2saukH9Ohmpxnsu1SQPQL1YVrV8JqKRuPZHTL5J90OXNFcbU#heading=h.4exfl5rndvz9
- Theology on the Web: cross links to 7 more specific websites and hosts over 40,000 articles available for free download - <https://theologyontheweb.org.uk/>
- Loeb Classical Libraries (requires a subscription, individuals can subscribe) - <https://www.loebclassics.com/>
- Thesaurus Linguae Graecae digital library of Greek resources (some open access, additional titles available by subscription only) - <http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/>
- Oxford Biblical Studies (requires a subscription, individuals can subscribe, 30-day free trial available) - <http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/>
- Oxford Bibliographies (Institutional subscription only) - <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/>
- Duke Universities Libraries open access resources - <https://guides.library.duke.edu/openreligion?fbclid=IwAR1QdYK0IYx2-uD2GxMG-i7Eh5jd6AjQXGbEYdBgch8rBGnrOf3TCjt-kqI>
- ACTEA hosted list of resources - <http://www.acteaweb.org/index.php/2014-05-24-01-25-30/2014-05-27-03-36-49>