



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SYLLABUS

5361 • ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Tuesdays 1:00-3:45 PM

Harding School of Theology

Spring 2020, Jan. 21-May 15

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr.

e-mail roster@harding.edu • phone 901-432-7718

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Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and HST LIVE students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: roster@harding.edu

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7718

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.

The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof.

Carlus Gupton:

Course Etiquette for HST Live

HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.

All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor’s call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.

“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your

ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.

Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc. [While I have pacifist tendencies, some of the examples of bad classroom etiquette provided by Dr. Gupton in this last paragraph ignite images of punishment by “firing squad” in my mind; Prof. Richard Oster].

Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.

Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding’s *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

If you wish to contact me via email and it is unrelated to a course, it is best to email me directly at roster@harding.edu.

HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>.

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE Orientation Monday, January 13, at 6:00-8:00 PM. The Zoom ID for the Orientation session will be 3188055566.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

This course is supported with the video platform [www.Zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>) to facilitate class participation. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g. dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to involve students in the exegesis of selected texts of Acts as well as give them a general knowledge of the content of Acts, of critical “introductory

topics,” and of important theological\doctrinal issues. Students are responsible for all the material given in the textbooks, reserve readings, and lectures.

Seminar in Acts of the Apostle and M. Div. Outcomes

- 1 **Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.** Effective ministers need to be well versed in the scripture as the source of our knowledge of God and his will for humanity.
- 2 **Demonstrate advanced exegetical skills in the interpretation of scripture.** This will equip ministers to understand God and his will at the highest level both for personal spiritual formation and for teaching others.
- 3 **Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.** Ministers need to refine their own understanding of the Christian faith, to be able to respond to contemporary proposals in Christian theology (both academic and popular), and to be able to teach others the central elements of the faith.
- 4 **Be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multi-media forms.** Such public communication serves as a primary way a minister contributes to the spiritual formation of the congregation and to the cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel.

Précis of Dates

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Jan. 21 | First class meeting |
| Jan. 28 | List of Scripture verses for memorization due |
| Feb. 04 | Research paper prospectus due |
| March 10 | HST Spring Break; class does not meet this week |
| March 17 | Midterm Examination |
| April 12 | Easter Sunday |
| April 14 | HST Study Week; class does not meet this week |
| April 21 | Research paper due |
| April 28 | Deadline for reciting Scripture verses from memory |
| May 12 | Final Examination |

GRADES

The student's grade will be the average of the five following requirements:

Midterm Examination

This exam will cover approximately chapters 15-18 in Keener's commentary and hopefully the same material in the text of the book of Acts. **25%**

Final examination, administered on May 12th, 2020.

This exam will pick up where the midterm leaves off and cover as much as possible of the rest of Acts. **30%**

Research paper, due no later than April 21st, 2020. 30%

The paper topic must be submitted in writing by the 3rd class meeting for teacher's approval. Paper must be 15 pages in length and follow the Turabian + Supplement format. Topic must be an exegesis.

Scripture Memorization,

Plan to recite approximately 15-20 continuous verses from the English text of Acts. **05%**

Greek Quizzes (4 quizzes) There will be four Greek quizzes which together will include about 25 verses of the Greek text of Acts. The schedule of these will be given out at the beginning of the semester. **10%**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS

Keener, Craig. *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary: 15:1-23:35, Vol. 3.* Baker Academic, 2015. THE FOOTNOTES ARE NOT REQUIRED READING.

Novum Testamentum Graece, Nestle-Aland. 28th ed. German Bible Society, 2012.

Stein, Robert. "Baptism and Becoming a Christian in the New Testament." *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* Vol. 2, 1998, 1-17.