

# Luke/Acts: The Gospel and the Church

Dr. Matthew Colvin  
Davenant Hall, Michaelmas Term (Fall) 2021

## Course Description

This course is a graduate seminar in Luke-Acts. It focuses on the interpretation of Luke-Acts in two main ways: First, we will approach Luke-Acts as a theological work, which employs Biblical typology and metaleptic echoes (Hays) to assert the deity of Jesus Christ and to expound the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3) in terms of Israel's story, with an artful and deliberate structure (Lk. 1:3). Second, we will also approach Luke-Acts as a historical narrative founded upon eyewitness testimony (Lk. 1:1-2) and set within the worlds of Second Temple Judaism (Luke) and the eastern half of the Roman Empire of the first century (Acts). There is no conflict between the theological approach and the historical approach. It will be seen that history is charged with theology, and theology is revealed in history.

## Course Format

The course will meet ten times over Zoom for two hours each week. Each session will be recorded and disseminated for later use by course participants (but not for dissemination outside the class). Additional dialogue and discussion will take place over Discord.

## Course Objectives

The aims of the course are for students to: (1) Gain a deeper knowledge of the content of Luke-Acts, (2) gain both knowledge and practice in Biblical typology, especially the correspondences between the LXX and the NT, (3) practice narrative analysis of the NT, (4) become familiar with the secondary literature on Luke-Acts, especially on the historical background of Judaism and the Greco-Roman world, and (5) have their faith strengthened by rigorous study of the Scriptures.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to have done the reading before class, to have thought through it in an active way, and to be involved and engaged in the in-class discussion. For-credit students should expect to be called upon to demonstrate their understanding of the reading.

## Grading for For-Credit Students

For-credit students will be evaluated on three criteria:

50% - In-class involvement in discussion, demonstrating sustained engagement and thought about the readings. This includes active written participation on the Discord discussion channel for the course.

50% - An oral exam on two passages of Luke-Acts, one chosen by the student, another by the instructor; to be administered at a mutually agreeable time during the two weeks after the last class.

## Course Texts

C. Kavin Rowe, *World Upside Down: Reading Acts in the Greco-Roman Age* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke (NICNT)* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997)

Richard Hays, *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2016), preface, introduction, and chapter 3.

We will also make frequent reference to the Greek New Testament and to the Septuagint. You do not

need to own these texts, since they are available online. For students who know Greek, the instructor will be using Nestle-Aland's 28th edition of *Novum Testamentum Graece* and the Rahlfs-Hanhart *Septuaginta*, available in a single volume as the *Biblia Graeca*.

## Course Schedule

This schedule is provisional and is subject to change. Actual assignments and readings will be provided in Google Classroom.

Week	Dates	Discussion Topic	Reading
1	9/28-10/3	The sweep and structure of Luke-Acts. Differences from the other gospels. Luke's language.	All of Luke and Acts in English (NRSV, NKJV, KJV, ESV, NASB, or The Kingdom NT. If you want to read another translation, consult the instructor first.)
2	10/5-10	Metalepsis and intertextual echoes in Luke. Practicum on using Nestle-Aland's margin-apparatus of <i>loci citati vel allegati</i>	Hays, <i>Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels</i> , preface, introduction, and ch. 3.
3	10/12-17	The parables of Jesus in Luke	Green, <i>The Gospel of Luke</i> (NICNT), <i>ad loc</i> , excerpts from J. Jeremias, <i>The Parables of Jesus</i> .
4	10/19-24	Luke's distinctive miracle-stories; the significance of miracles within Judaism.	Green, <i>The Gospel of Luke</i> (NICNT) <i>ad loc</i> .
5	10/26-31	"All that Jesus <i>began</i> to do and to teach": Correspondence between narratives in the gospel and Acts.	Green, <i>The Gospel of Luke</i> (NICNT) <i>ad loc</i> . and excerpts from Dunn on Acts.
6	11/2-7	Early High Christology in Luke and Acts	Hays, <i>Echoes</i> ; excerpts from Bauckham, <i>Jesus and the God of Israel</i> and from Hurtado, <i>Lord Jesus Christ</i> .
7	11/9-14	The organization and structure of the church in Acts: Paul's assistants, the elders, and the question of supra-ecclesial councils.	Excerpts from A. Stewart, <i>The Original Bishops</i> and Colvin, <i>Like the Man Himself</i> (forthcoming).
8	11/16-21	Paul and Greco-Roman culture (esp. religion, philosophy)	Rowe, ch. 2, PDF articles on alleged echoes of Euripides and Ovid.
9	11/28-12/3	Rhetoric and Empire: the speeches of Paul; the question of citizenship; the apparatus of the Roman state, army, and provincial administration; biographical data on named Roman officials in Acts.	Rowe, ch. 3, articles by R. Horsley and A.N. Sherwin-White.

10	12/5-10	Jews, Gentiles, and the Torah: covenantal, legal, and social analysis of Acts 10 and 15.	Excerpts from M. Bockmuehl, <i>Jewish Law in Gentile Churches</i> and from N.T. Wright, <i>PFG</i> .
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