



Holy Apostles

College & Seminary

SAS 717
Luke and Acts of the Apostles
Fall 2025
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:10 – 2:25 pm

Dr. Andrew Blaski
Email: ablaski@holypostles.edu
Phone: (860) 632-3014
Office: St. Peter 309

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the content, background, purpose, composition, and structure of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts (with emphasis on the Book of Acts), and thus of the birth and growth of the early Church. Students will be introduced to a variety of patristic, medieval, and contemporary interpretive approaches to Luke and Acts as found in the rich Catholic spiritual and intellectual tradition. The course will examine Luke and Acts as individual works while simultaneously highlighting their chronological, literary, and theological unity.

2. ENVISIONED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Situate** people and events in St. Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles in their biblical, historical, and geographical context.
- **Explain** the structure, content, and theological themes of St Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles
- **Evaluate** the different strengths of patristic, early modern, and contemporary interpretations of St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.
- **Analyze** difficult passages within St Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts with the help of the Catholic Tradition and modern exegetical tools.

3. REQUIRED READINGS and RESOURCES:

- *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: The Gospel of Luke*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2011. ISBN-10: 1586174606. Retail Price: \$12.95.
- *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: The Acts of the Apostles*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2013. ISBN-10: 1586174622. Retail Price: \$12.95.
- Gadenz, Pablo. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018. ISBN-10: 080103700X. Retail Price: \$26.99.
- Kurz, William. *Acts of the Apostles*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2013. ISBN-10: 080103633X. Retail Price: \$26.99.
- Select Readings on Populi

4. COURSE SCHEDULE

- **Week One**

August 26: Introduction

Reading:

- Begin Luke 1-6
 - All Scripture readings should be done in the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, and students are expected to read the footnotes.
- Begin Gadenz, pp. 15-137

August 28: John the Forerunner, Annunciation, Birth, and Childhood

Reading:

- Begin reading Luke 1-6
- Begin reading Gadenz, pp. 15-137

- **Week Two**

September 2: John the Forerunner, Annunciation, Birth, and Childhood (continued)

- Continue reading Luke 1-6
- Continue reading Gadenz, pp. 15-137

September 4: Miraculous Catch of Fish

Reading:

- Finish reading Luke 1-6
- Finish reading Gadenz, pp. 15-137

- **Week Three**

September 9: "A Sinful Woman"

Reading:

- Begin reading Luke 7-14
- Begin reading Gadenz, pp. 138-270

September 11: The Good Samaritan

Reading:

- Finish reading Luke 7-14
- Finish reading Gadenz, pp. 138-270

- **Week Four**

September 16: Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Reading:

- Luke 15-21
- Gadenz, pp. 271-351

September 18: The Thief on the Cross

Reading:

- Begin reading Luke 22-24
- Begin reading Gadenz, pp. 352-403
- SUBMIT PROPOSED PAPER TOPIC

- **Week Five**

September 23: Introduction to Acts; Great Commission and Ascension

Reading:

- Finish reading Luke 22-24
- Finish reading Gadenz, pp. 352-403
- Acts 1

September 25: Study Session for Midterm Exam

Assignments:

- Study for Midterm Exam

- **Week Six**

September 30: MIDTERM EXAM

October 2: Pentecost (Part 1)

Reading:

- Acts 1-2
- Begin Kurz, pp.25-65

- **Week Seven**

October 7: Pentecost (Part 2)

Reading:

- Continue Kurz, pp.25-65

October 9: Pentecost (Part 3)

Assignments:

- Finish Kurz, pp.25-65
- SUBMIT PAPER INTRODUCTION (with clear thesis statement)

- **Week Eight**

October 14: St. Stephen

Reading:

- Acts 6:1-8:3
- Kurz, 109-137

October 16: St. Peter

Reading:

- Acts 3-5; 8:4-40; 9:32-11:18
- Kurz, pp. 66-108; 138-149; 162-185

- **Week Nine**

October 21: The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Reading:

- Acts 9:1-31
- Kurz, pp. 150-162

October 23: First Missionary Journey

Reading:

- Acts 11:19-14:28
- Kurz, pp. 186-231

Week Ten

October 28: The Council of Jerusalem

Reading:

- Acts 15:1-35
- Kurz, 232-245

October 30: The Second Missionary Journey (Part 1)

Reading:

- Acts 15:36-16:40
- Kurz, 246-260

Week Eleven

November 4: The Second Missionary Journey (Part 2)

Reading:

- Acts 17:1-18:23
- Kurz, 261-287

November 6: The Third Missionary Journey (Part 1)

Reading:

- Acts 18:24-20:16
- Kurz, 287-308

Week Twelve

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 11 (VETERANS' DAY)

November 13: The Third Missionary Journey (Part 2)

Reading:

- Acts 20:17-21:16
- Kurz, 309-320

Week Thirteen

November 18: "Lessons in Evangelization" Presentations

Assignment:

- TURN IN RESEARCH PAPER

November 20: Arrest and Trial of St. Paul (Part 1)

Reading:

- Acts 21:17-24:27
- Kurz, 320-348

- **Week Fourteen**

November 25: Arrest and Trial of St. Paul (Part 2)

Reading:

- Acts 25-28
- Kurz, 348-386

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 27 (THANKSGIVING)

- **Week Fifteen**

December 2: The End and the Beginning (and Review for Final Exam)

Reading:

- Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, 2.1-3.31 (Populi)

December 4: Final Exam

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Mid-term Exam (25% of total grade)

The mid-term exam is scheduled on the course calendar above.

2. Final Exam (25% of total grade)

The final exam is scheduled on the course calendar above, and it is not cumulative. It covers only material presented after the mid-term.

3. Research Paper (30% of total grade)

Students will write a 10–12-page research paper seeking to resolve a “difficulty” in the text of the Acts of the Apostles. Before writing, however, students will first identify a **research question** and submit it to the professor for approval (by September 18).

After receiving approval for the research question, students will submit a draft paper **introduction** (due Thursday, October 9). In the introduction (1-2 paragraphs), students should do the following:

- Introduce the topic
- Explain why the topic is controversial / problematic
- State a proposed solution to the problem (your “thesis statement”)
- Describe how you will support your solution / thesis (a brief overview of the evidence you plan to present)

After receiving approval for the introduction, students will proceed to compose the remainder of the paper. The final paper is due Tuesday, November 18.

Paper requirements:

- 10-12 pages
- 12-point font; double spaced; 1-inch margins
- 8-10 sources required (both ancient and modern)
 - Must be published, academic sources (not Wikipedia, personal websites, blogs, church websites, YouTube, etc.)
 - You may use magisterial documents, the *Catechism*, the Missal, etc., in your paper, but these do not count toward your required number of academic resources.

- As in most papers, you will be answering a research question by making an *argument*. Make a specific claim in your introduction, and then support it with concrete evidence. I will not grade you based on whether I agree with you. I will grade you based on whether you made a claim and sufficiently supported it.

Remember: Be sure to cite any secondary sources you use. For Scripture citations, you may simply place the references in a parenthetical note (e.g., Gen. 5:20). For all other references, use footnotes.

Late Policy: Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 5% grade deduction per day.

4. Presentation: “Lessons in Evangelization” (10% of total grade)

Each student will offer a 10-15 minute spoken presentation to the class. The presentation will seek to provide an answer to the following question(s):

- What is one key lesson we can draw from the Book of Acts regarding evangelization? How can we apply this lesson to the Church’s task of evangelization today?

Requirements

- Choose one event in the Book of Acts as the “centerpiece” of your presentation, but feel free to make use of other passages from Luke and Acts to support your claim.
- Make use of at least three scholarly sources in your presentation.
- Your presentation *can* be related to the content of your exegetical paper (but it does not need to be).
- Use PowerPoint (or an equivalent) for your presentation, and include both text and visual aids.
- Presentations will be given on Tuesday, November 18 (week thirteen).

5. Attendance and Participation (10% of total grade)

Come prepared each week to participate in class discussion. When reading, be sure to write down your comments and questions. You will not receive full participation points simply for being in your seat.

6. EVALUATION

GRADING SCALE:

A 94-100; **A-** 90-93; **B+** 87-89; **B** 84-86; **B-** 80-83; **C+** 77-79; **C** 74-76; **C-** 70-73 **D** 60-69; **F** 59 and below

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of **5% grade deduction per day**.

To request an extension for an assignment, please email me directly (ablaski@holypostles.edu). In your email, cite the assignment, the reason for the extension request, and (if possible) a new proposed submission date.

7. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

The effective and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to teach and learn at Holy Apostles College and Seminary must align with its mission to form missionary disciples, servant leaders, and “co-workers in the vineyard.” While using AI in some stages of your assignments will help to prepare you for your vocation, the College’s integrity policy applies in all cases. Please see the college’s AI usage policy details in the Academic Catalog.

In general, HACS permits using AI tools to help brainstorm assignments or projects or revise existing work you have written. You are responsible for making all submitted work your own, maintaining academic integrity, and avoiding plagiarism. Be aware that the accuracy or quality of AI-generated content may not meet the standards of this course, even if you only incorporate such content partially and after substantial paraphrasing, modification, and/or editing. Also, remember that AI-generated content may not provide appropriate or clear attribution to the author(s) of the

original sources, while most written assignments in this course require you to find and incorporate highly relevant quality publications. You must cite your use of AI following guidelines promulgated by the College.

Before using AI in a course, check with the instructor for any restrictions on AI usage. Please be aware that HACS uses AI and plagiarism detection applications for assignments, including discussion posts. Inappropriate use of AI violates academic integrity and will be treated accordingly.

8. FOR THE DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY, THE ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY, THE ATTENDANCE POLICY, AND THE INCOMPLETE POLICY,

SEE holyapostles.edu/syllabus-policies

9. ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

Dr. Andrew Blaski joined the faculty of Holy Apostles College & Seminary as Assistant Professor of Theology in 2019 after completing his doctoral work on Origen of Alexandria and early Christian biblical interpretation. He has also served in various administrative roles at Holy Apostles, including Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Sacred Scripture Program Director. He has taught Scripture, theology, and church history in a variety of academic and ecclesial settings both in the US and in the UK. Broadly speaking, Dr. Blaski's research has been focused on the metaphysical relationship between the nature of Scripture ("what is it?") and the hermeneutics of Scripture ("how do we interpret it?") stressed in the writings of the Church Fathers. Dr. Blaski lives in the Farmington Valley (CT) with his wife, his six children, and his many piles of partially read books.

Education

- PhD, Early Christianity, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
- MA, Theology, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY
- MA, Church History, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL
- BA, English, Biblical Studies, Trinity College, Deerfield, IL