

'Acts & Romans' (4NT516) 2011

2 hours

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor, and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the purpose of Romans through attention to its cultural setting (*Debating Romans Relationally*). **Both Acts and Romans are of special interest for Bruce, the latter for obvious reasons, but the former because of his interest in its narrative structure.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

There is a real sense in which this course provides an exciting supplement to other New Testament courses, as well as advancement in its own right. In the Gospel's course you have opportunity to study Luke's story of Jesus, but in this course we will focus on volume 2 – the continuing story! This course will therefore begin with the gospel of Luke before moving onto Acts. If you have already done Gospel's, then this will be a wonderful complement. If you haven't yet done it, this will be a foretaste as well as an wonderful learning experience in its own right. Likewise in "Paul" you have opportunity to study all of Paul's letters including Romans. But in this course there is opportunity to dig so much deeper into Romans (Paul's richest letter). One of the assigned texts will be the Professor's PhD thesis on Paradigms and Purposes of Romans. Though this you will be challenged to hone your fishing skills on this all-important letter.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To gain a solid understanding of both Acts and Romans.
2. To refine "fishing" skills for both *letters* and *narratives* of the New Testament.
3. To highlight and apply specific texts for application to yourself and others.

Required Texts:

Johnson, *Acts of the Apostle*
(Liturgical Press, 1992) ISBN 0814658075

Lowe, *Debating Romans Relationally*
(Available Electronically at the beginning of class)

ASSESSMENT

40% Research Papers; **due two week after last class (i.e. Midnight 14th May¹)**

40% Final exam - **due three weeks after last class (i.e. Midnight 21st of May)**

20% Book Review of Johnson - **due day before third class (i.e. Midnight 9th of April)²**

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?
February 5&12; April 9&30.

General Outline

Session	Date	Class Lectures
1	F5	Acts
2	F12	Acts
3	A9	Romans
4	A30	Romans

¹ This will be approx 10-15 pages double spaced. It will be a critical paper in which I wish you to interact with secondary literature (At least 10 good journal articles, monographs and a range of commentaries from at least three different traditions). The topic will be one of your choice negotiated with me. If you are stuck for a topic, I will assign one to you.

² This review should be up to four pages (single spaced). The goal is to persuade me that you have read and thought through Johnson's commentary in a thoughtful way. This is essentially a book review... so best to start with a short summary of his main views... then things you liked, things you didn't like and a short conclusion. Include specifics, which will show me that you have really thought it through.