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**Life of the Early Church: Acts** (**BIBL 1312)**

Spring 2022 (Jan 20 - Mar 17) - TH 1:00-4:30pm

Keizer Church of Christ, Fellowship Rooms

**Instructor:** Dr. Darren T. Williamson dwilliamson.or@gmail.com&503-752-6032

1. **OC Mission Statement:**

Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

1. **Course Description (from the OC catalogue):** This course is *“A study of the establishment and growth of the early church. Emphasis is placed on the major Christian doctrines taught in the first century and the application of those doctrines to the life of the early church*.”
2. **Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy**

This course is an Oklahoma Christian University Bible course offered for credit at the Northwest School of Discipleship (NWSD), based in Tigard, Oregon. NWSD is a church-based educational initiative that seeks to help transform believers into the image of Christ through offering Biblical courses grounded in the three essential features of discipleship: Knowledge, Affection, Obedience.

1. **Course Objectives:**

* Equip students to effectively discuss the form, genre, and essential content of the book of Acts.
* Equip students with essential skills for responsible interpretation and application of the New Testament from an Evangelical Christian perspective.
* Equip students with general knowledge of the intertestamental period and the cultural and historical contexts of the first century Greco-Roman world.
* Equip students with a survey-level knowledge of the major theological themes in the life of the early Church, as witnessed through the Acts of the Apostles.
* Inspire students to know, love, and obey Jesus Christ and to develop the same spiritual habits of the earliest Christians, who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

1. **Course Textbooks:**

**Required:**

* Robert E. Coleman, *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Revell, 2020. ISBN: ‎ 978-0800739133
* ESV Study Bible, Crossway, 2008. **ISBN:** 978-1-4335-0241-5

**Recommended:**

* George H. Guthrie, R*ead the Bible For Life. Your guide to Understanding and Living God’s Word*. B&H Publishing, 2011. **ISBN:** 978-0805464542.
* Mark E. Moore, *Acts - The College Press NIV Commentary*. Joplin, Missouri: College Press, 2011.

1. **Course Requirements:**
2. **Weekly Quizzes** (35%).Each class begins with a 25-question quiz over select content from the previous class lecture/discussion and the reading material for the day. The lowest quiz score will be dropped and not calculated into the grade. Except for extreme circumstances, there are no make ups for missed quizzes.
3. **Essay (**30**%).** Each student will write three short essays during the term. The essays are 3-5 pages in length (double spaced) and represent reflection and critical responses to questions posed in Coleman, *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. See the essay guideline sheet for detailed instructions on the essay assignment. Please note: in order to pass the course with a C or higher, students must turn in all three essays.
4. **Memorization** (20%)– Each student will memorize 7-10 theologically significant passages from *Acts*. See the memorization guideline sheet for detailed instructions on the memorization assignment.
5. **Participation** (15%). Attendance and active participation in class is critical for learning. Students are expected to engage in class discussion, pay attention, take notes, and make appropriate comments. Note: due to the highly condensed nature of the course, attendance on each day of class is essential. Unexcused absences result in serious consequences to the participation grade.
6. **Course Grading:**

A = 100-90B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59 and below

1. **Course Policies:**
2. **Oklahoma Christian University (OC) and Northwest School of Discipleship (NWSD):**

This Northwest School of Discipleship course is accredited through a special arrangement with Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Visit [www.oc.edu](http://www.oc.edu) for more information about OC and to access your transcripts.

1. **Late Work Policy:** Late work is not accepted. All work must be turned in at the time indicated in the course outline or as otherwise indicated by the instructor in class or via other formal means of communication.
2. **Classroom and Electronic Etiquette Policy:** Students are expected to be on time to class and actively engaged to create a healthy learning environment.
   * Tardiness is disruptive and reduces your participation grade.
   * Engaging in disrespectful and distracting activities during class will negatively impact your participation grade.
   * Cell phones are to be turned off. Texting and calls destroy a healthy learning environment.
   * Laptops can be used for note-taking but NOT for surfing the web, email, completing assignments, or other distracting activities.
3. **Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Ms. Katy Roybal (405-425-1876) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, with Ms. Roybal, and with the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.
4. **Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX)**

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. OC’s Sexual Misconduct Policy (see the OC Student Handbook) is compliant with Title IX, which states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trust, and interferes with learning and productive work.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to the Title IX Coordinator:

| **Title IX Coordinator** | Mrs. Lisa Herndon | 405-425-1820 | lisa.herndon@oc.edu |
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1. **Oklahoma Christian University Policy on Academic Honesty**

**Cheating**

Cheating on an examination, assignment, roll sheet or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who cheat on examinations, assignments or other course related work or activities will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

**Plagiarism**

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another’s ideas, words, or materials as one’s own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another’s work (a friend, a parent, a website) as one’s own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who engage in plagiarism in assignments submitted will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**

1. On the first offense, the student will receive zero (0) credit for the examination or assignment. For forms of cheating or dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments, the Professor shall have the discretion to impose an appropriate penalty. Professors must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the Chief Academic Officer, and the Dean of Students.
2. On the second offense in the same course, the student will receive an F in the course. Professors must send documentation of the second offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the Chief Academic Officer, and the Dean of Students.
3. At either the first offense or second offense, the student may appeal using the process described in both the *OC Student Handbook* and the *OC Academic Policy Manual* covering Grade Appeals.
4. If the student commits offenses in two or more courses, the Academic Appeals Committee, described in the *OC Student Handbook* and in the *OC Academic Policy Manual*, may assign penalties for academic dishonesty in addition to the penalties assigned by the professors in the courses. The Academic Appeals Committee may impose penalties up to and including suspension from the University in instances where a student has engaged in cheating or plagiarism in two or more courses. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of Students in writing of any penalties imposed by it and will report annually on its activities to the University’s Academic Affairs Committee.
5. Professors should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Professors must report and apply the rules regarding cheating/plagiarism to the appropriate channels. The student should be referred to the Oklahoma Christian University Covenant for principles which should guide conduct in these matters.
6. **Course Outline**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Lecture/Discussion Topic** | **Acts Readings** | **Secondary Reading** | **Notes & Due Dates** |
| Jan 20 | Introduction to Acts; Pentecost, The Holy Spirit, and the Disciples | Acts 1-3 | Coleman, Introduction | Quiz 1 |
| Jan 27 | Christian Life Together; Christians and Government | Acts 4-6 | Coleman, Chpt 1 | Quiz 2; Memory Quiz |
| Feb 3 | Kingdom of God; Christian Baptism | Acts 7-9 | Coleman, Chpt 2 | Quiz 3; Essay 1 |
| Feb 10 | The Impartiality of God; the Jewish world of Acts | Acts 10-12 | Coleman, Chpt 3 | Quiz 4; Memory Quiz |
| Feb 17 | No Class |  |  |  |
| Feb 24 | Witness and Missions; Theological consensus; the Greek world of Acts | Acts 13-16 | Coleman, Chpt 4 | Quiz 5; Essay 2 |
| Mar 3 | Households of Faith; the continuing mission; the Lord’s Supper. Pastoral Ministry | Acts 17-20 | Coleman, Chpt 5 | Quiz 6; Memory Quiz |
| Mar 10 | The Apostle Paul and Roman Custody | Acts 21-23 | Coleman, Chpt 6 | Quiz 7; Memory Quiz |
| Mar 17 | The Apostle Paul the Roman Citizen; Witnessing to the end of the earth. | Acts 24-28 | Coleman, Afterword | Quiz 8; Essay 3 |

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