

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-6623 Studies in the Gospels and Acts, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is an analysis of a particular canonical Gospel and/or the book of Acts. It includes an overview of the Life of Jesus; the importance of the inclusion of four gospels in the NT; principles for interpreting and applying the narratives of the Gospels and Acts within their historical and canonical context; and focused discussion of key themes from the selected book. Additional attention will be paid to various methods and approaches to the book.

Prerequisites: BI-5500 Hermeneutics and BI-5532 New Testament History, Literature, and Theology

Course Objectives

1. **Demonstrate** an understanding of the basic content and structure of a selected Gospel (or Acts)
2. **Demonstrate** familiarity with the Second Temple context of the Gospels (or Acts)
3. **Interpret** a passage from a Gospel or Acts utilizing a variety of methods and by appropriately using digital resources in the process
4. **Engage** in theological reflection on a theme from a Gospel or Acts and its relevance for a life of discipleship
5. **Apply** the selected book(s) vision of Jesus, discipleship, and mission to the life of the church today

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supporting Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Assignments (what student does for a grade)

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

Standard for Written Papers: All papers must be in **Turabian** style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

1-1 What is a Gospel? (2 pp paper): Research and construct a **two (2) page** paper using a minimum of **THREE** supporting sources that answer the question: What is a gospel?

1-2 Define Me (chart & wiki): Searching your Logos Library for resources, choose one of the following terms from the intertestamental period and create a one-page chart or list on a page of this wiki. On your chart/list, explain what basics a reader of the Gospels needs to know about that term. (Note: Put your name and your term into the name field of the wiki. Try to choose a term that others have not chosen yet.) Read through other students' entries and make comments about their insights and the helpfulness to you of their page.

Choose one of these 17 terms:

• Apochrypha	• Zealot	• Second Temple	• Mishnah
• pseudipigrapha	• Synagogue	• period	• Gemara
• Pharisee	• Maccabee(s)	• Epicureanism	• Targums
• Sadducee	• Ptolemies	• Stoicism	• Talmud
• Essenes		• Gnosticism	

2-1 Who Do Men Say That I Am? (chart): Construct a chart listing all of the titles/ascriptions pertaining to Jesus in the **first nine chapters of Luke**. Be sure to provide the passage's address next to the title/ascription.

2-2 Chapter Titles Project (2-3 pp outline): Read through Luke with a Bible without section or story titles. (You can achieve this in Logos by clicking the "visual filter" icon in any major Bible translation, then clicking the "Bible Text Only" feature of the visual filter in the NIV, NASB, ESV, or HCSB). As you read, give your own **two-part title** to each section. This title should reflect: (1) the content of the section; and (2) the main message of the section, or what the author is trying to accomplish through it. That is, DO NOT simply state what the section is about, but reflect on what Luke is trying to do by communicating the section. For example: *Luke 3:1-19 - Description of John the Baptist's Ministry: Repentance as the Way to Prepare for Jesus' Coming*. (Depending on your level of detail, this assignment should be about 2-3 single-spaced pages.)

3-1 Gospel Anomalies (blog): Using the attached file of passages unique to Luke's gospel, choose one of the passages and write a **300-word blog** defending of Luke's inclusion of the passage in his gospel. Be sure to identify the unique contribution the passage makes in Luke's unfolding argument and what would be different/missing/incomplete in his argument without this material. Reference at least **TWO** sources in your answer and comment on at least one other student's blog about a different passage. (Please put your name and passage reference in the title box of the blog.)

4-1 NT Without Acts (2-pp paper): How would the New Testament be different without the book of Acts? What wouldn't we know? What might be difficult to understand without it? Write a **two (2) page** paper giving your perspective.

5-1 Comparing Contexts (Chart): Fill in the chart recording the events surrounding the reception of the Spirit through the **first 19 chapters of Acts**.

5-2 Lying to the Holy Spirit (2 pp paper): Write a **two (2) page** paper in which you identify the precise sin that Ananias and Sapphira committed, and suggest why God ended their lives. Be sure to consider the context and include biblical evidence to support your conclusions.

6-1 On the Defense (chart): Choose a Pauline defense speech in Acts (e.g., 24:10-25:12 OR 21:26-22:29), then create a chart to highlight the salient points of Paul's defense in that passage. For each point, describe what Paul emphasizes.

6-2 Getting the Story Straight (chart): Compare and contrast Paul's conversion account in Acts 9:1-31 with Acts 22:3-16 and 26:9-18. Who is the audience for each? Why are the differences in each passage? How do these relate to Luke's purpose? Type your answers in the chart provided.

7-1 Paper (2 pp paper): Analyze Paul's speech in Athens (Acts 17) and write a **two (2) page** paper on his approach to evangelism in a secular culture.

7-2 Four-Part Discipleship Curriculum: Using the template provided, you will create a **four-lesson curriculum** designed to help new believers in your church understand what it means to follow Christ, based on Luke-Acts. This curriculum should be exegetically based and utilize scholarly research. **The assignment is due in week 7.**

Using the template, fill in each of these four parts for each of the lessons:

1. 2-to-3 Student Learning Outcomes
2. A description of the focus of the lesson
3. Teaching/learning outline
4. Assessment of learning with key metrics

Finally, include a bibliography indicating the resources you utilized in creating the curriculum. Resources should also be footnoted in the body of the curriculum. The topics chosen should be based on your close engagement with Luke-Acts. Some examples of what to include would be: Discussion of who Jesus is; what the church is; what participation in the church should look like today based on Luke-Acts; ethics (including finances, treatment of the poor, mission, etc. There is considerable room for creativity in this assignment.

8-1 The Holy Spirit in Acts (chart/diagram): Create a chart or diagram highlighting the role of the Holy Spirit in conversions in the book of Acts.

8-2 Biblical Theology Paper (8-10 pp paper): In the first week, choose one of these seven topics on which to write your paper: (1) The Holy Spirit, (2) Christology, (3) Prayer, (4) Possessions, (5) the Kingdom of God, (6) Salvation, or (7) the Great Reversal (that is, the Jews and Gentiles in the historical narrative of the early church).

The paper will be divided into three parts: (A) definition of the term and exegesis of an example passage; (B) development of the theme in Luke-Acts; (C) Relation of this theme to the rest of the canon and ways in which it speaks to the church today (i.e., application).

This paper should be **approximately 8-10 pages** and grounded exegetically in Luke-Acts, with a relevance to contemporary life. You need not be exhaustive (you do not have to interact with every single passage in Luke-Acts relevant to this theme), but you should have a good representation of the important texts in Luke-Acts that reflect Luke’s thinking in this area. This paper should reflect that you have read carefully Luke-Acts and your textbooks. Present evidence that you have engaged in creative thinking, which enabled you to integrate the biblical text, textbooks, other research, and contemporary life. The paper should reflect how you have changed or challenged your own thinking on the subject through your prayerful study. It will be helpful to start taking notes early in the course as you read the Bible and textbooks. You also should look for other relevant supporting resources, such as academic journal articles and other books.

Assessments

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Blackboard Discussions (7)	25%
Charts, Diagrams, Lists, blog: 1-2, 2-1, 2-2, 3-1, 5-1, 6-1, 6-2, 8-1 (8)	36%
Two-Page Papers: 1-1, 4-1, 5-2, 7-1 (4)	20%
7-2 Four-part Discipleship Curriculum	9%
8-2 Biblical Theology Paper	10%
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work