

CONTACT INFORMATION

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course you will study the introductory background, structure, and content of the New Testament books, Acts to Revelation, understood within their first century life setting. The authors of Acts, the letters, and Revelation not only relate the advance of the Early Church in proclaiming redemption globally, they provide the contemporary church with normative missionary documents to guide it in fulfilling Christ's commission.

II. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Howell, Don N. Jr. **BIB 5133 Acts-Revelation Study Guide.**

Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament.*
Zondervan: 2005. Abbreviation: **CM.**

Howell, Don N. Jr. *Servants of the Servant. A Biblical Theology of Leadership.*
Wipf & Stock, 2003. Abbreviation: **SoS.**

*Recommended:

Beitzel, Barry J. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Discuss the basic introductory background of each of the books from Acts through Revelation, providing evidence for these introductory matters.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of each New Testament book's content by means of an outline.
- C. Describe the historical sequence resulting in the establishment of the New Testament church by listing key events from the resurrection of Jesus to the writing of Revelation.
- D. Develop an elementary synthetic understanding of each book.
- E. Apply the teaching of New Testament books to your life, relationships, and ministry.

- F. Continue to grow in understanding and commitment to maximizing your contribution to world evangelization through awareness of how the first century church impacted its world as a missionary church.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Synthetic Readings/Recordings of New Testament Books (23)

Historical Background on “Synthetic Studies”

SYNTHETIC BIBLE STUDIES

- In the tradition of James M. Gray (see *Synthetic Bible Studies* [Revell, 1906-23]), synthetic studies of Bible books represent a method for mastering (or one might say *becoming possessed by*) the content of Scripture. The goal of the synthetic study is to first *synthesize* the biblical text (to consider the whole), rather than to immediately analyze it (to break it into parts). Gray, a minister, author, and former president of Moody Bible Institute, was instrumental in encouraging this method to counter a pattern of sometimes haphazard, fragmented Bible study that left the student bereft of any true understanding of context or the unity of Scripture.
- The synthetic method should help you uncover the book’s organizational structure, including patterns and movements of thought, ultimately crystallizing in your mind the book’s overall theme or purpose. Synthetic readings should help you get a feel for the atmosphere and approach of Bible books. Finally, using the synthetic method should help you discover emphases, highlights, and clues for understanding the interrelationship of various parts of a Bible book.

General Instructions for Completing Synthetic Readings

- Read the Bible book:
 - Prayerfully*—Pray during the reading as the Spirit prompts you to respond to His Word.
 - At one sitting*—At the pace of about 200 words per minute or 10 pages per hour.
 - Independently*—without secondary aids like Bible dictionaries, handbooks, commentaries.
 - Observantly*—making notes either after a complete reading or along the way.

Three Step Procedure for Synthetic Readings

- (a) **Read** the English text (NASB, NIV, or ESV) of the Bible book (your only source) prayerfully, continuously, i.e. in one sitting. Read it independently from outside sources or study helps. Disregard, as much as possible, all editorial features of the translation including section and paragraph headings and chapter, paragraph, and verse divisions.
- (b) **Observe**, while you are reading:
- ❑ The book’s impact on you: How did the book’s content personally impact you? Describe your initial reactions and impressions, making reference, as much as possible, to all the major portions of the book.
 - ❑ The atmosphere of the book as a whole: Atmosphere refers to the interaction between the author, the audience, and the book’s purpose. In this category you should categorize the “mood” of the book. What is the relationship between the author and the audience given the circumstances at the time of writing (occasion)? How do these relationships call forth the purpose of the book?
 - ❑ Highlights: key passages; key words and phrases, often indicated by repetition.

(c) **Write a 1-2 page** summary of the Synthetic Reading of each of the 23 New Testament books under study. The summary should include the following:

- ❑ The comments you have about the book: Impact, Atmosphere, and Highlights.
- ❑ Make one personal application from the book's content. Be transparent in applying the text to your thoughts, attitudes or behavior.

(d) **Estimated time required** for each of the Synthetic Readings (**23 books**):

Acts	3 hrs 30 min	Titus	1 hr
Romans	1 hr 30 min	Philemon	30 min
1 Corinthians	1 hr 30 min	Hebrews	1 hr 30 min
2 Corinthians	1 hr 30 min	James	1 hr
Galatians	1 hr	1 Peter	1 hr
Ephesians	1 hr	2 Peter	1 hr
Philippians	1 hr	1 John	1 hr
Colossians	1 hr	2 John	30 min
1 Thessalonians	1 hr	3 John	30 min
2 Thessalonians	1 hr	Jude	30 min
1 Timothy	1 hr	Revelation	2 hrs
2 Timothy	1 hr		

*Total time: **36 hrs** (26 hrs reading plus 10 hours conservation/recording)

*The written summaries of the S.R. for each of the 23 New Testament books are to be submitted on the day that particular book is covered in class. See Class Schedule.

B. Unit Examinations

Two unit exams will cover the books listed in the Class Schedule. The exams will take the form of short essay-style answers, assessed according to their thoroughness and clarity. Review for the exams should focus on those areas given detailed coverage in class.

*Estimated time of review for each unit exam: **6 hrs**

C. Study Guide Written Assignments

The **Study Guide** includes written assignments which are block-identified. The filled-in **Study Guide** will be submitted according to the Class Schedule (below).

*Total time: approx. **42 hrs**

*The **Study Guide** contains three kinds of written assignments:

(a) **Introductory Matter (IM)** assignments require reading designated sections of **CM** and recording their findings in such areas as: authorship; provenance; date; addressees; integrity/historicity. **Background Matter (BM)** assignments involve reading an article in a Bible dictionary, or using a concordance or lexicon, and recording information on a selected topic which will illumine the historical, religious, or cultural background of the book under study. Cite the dictionary that is referenced in the BM-assignment.

*Average estimated time for each **IM/BM** assignment: **90 minutes**

- (b) **Observation (O):** This involves looking for patterns, themes, central points, and main lessons of the passage under study. Careful attention to the argument or flow of thought of the writer/speaker is essential. Map work is included in this category.

*Average estimated time for each **Observation** assignment: **30 minutes**

- (c) **Interpretation (I):** Beyond the initial step of observation, the student is asked to probe the meaning of a particular text. Attention must be given to context to arrive at correct interpretation. Assessment of alternative viewpoints, usage of the Old Testament, theological implications all fit into these Interpretation assignments. Be sure to cite the commentaries, theological dictionaries, reference works that are used in the I-assignments.

*Average estimated time for each **Interpretation** assignment: **60 minutes**

D. Reading and Summary of Selected Chapters in *Servants of the Servant* (SoS):

Read selected chapters on New Testament leaders in D. Howell, *Servants of the Servant*. Take notes on key principles and pertinent Scripture references. Write up and hand in a summary of the NT data on these key personalities that God used in establishing the first century church in the Roman Empire. The one page summary of each assigned chapter in **SoS** should demonstrate one's thoughtful and application-oriented interaction with the material. The summaries are not intended to be a mere rehearsal of content.

*Average estimated time for the reading and recording of each chapter is indicated in the schedule below.

V. COURSE EVALUATION AND ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

Synthetic Reading of 23 New Testament books:	20 %	36 hrs
Class Participation:	10	30
Study Guide written assignments:	40	42
Summary of Chapters in SoS :	10	15
Two Unit Examinations:	<u>20</u> 100%	<u>12</u> 135 hrs

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE

Week #1: January 28

Session 1 (8:00-9:15 a.m.): **Introduction to the Course**

Session 2 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): **Birth of the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1-2:47)**

Week #2: February 4

Session 1: Birth of the Church in Jerusalem, cont. (Acts 3:1-6:7)

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 1-4): IM/O/I (3 hrs)

Session 2: Growth of the Church “throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (Acts 6:8-9:31); Epistle of James

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 5-8): BM/O/I (3 hrs)

*Synthetic Reading summary of James (1 hr)

One page summary of SoS, Ch. 19: **Barnabas: Power of the mentor** (2 hrs)

Week #3: February 11

Session 1: Extension of the Church “as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch” (Acts 9:32-12:24)

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 9-10): O/BM (2 hrs)

Session 2 First Missionary Journey: Expansion into Cyprus and Southern Galatia (Acts 12:25-14:28); Galatians

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 11-13): O/IM (2 hrs)

*Synthetic Reading summary of Galatians (1 hr)

*Map: Paul’s First Missionary Journey (30 min)

Week #4: February 18

Session 1: Jerusalem Council and Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:1-18:22)

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 14-17): I/O (1 hr 30 min)

*Map: Paul’s Second Missionary Journey (30 min)

*One page summary of SoS, Ch. 20: **Timothy: Extraordinary usefulness of an ordinary vessel** (2 hrs)

Session 2: 1 and 2 Thessalonians

*Study Guide Assignment (pp. 18-19): IM (1 hr 30 min)

*Synthetic Reading summary of 1 and 2 Thessalonians (2 hrs)

Week #5: February 25

Session 1: Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:17)

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 20-22): BM/O/O (2 hrs 30 min)

*Map: Paul’s Third Missionary Journey (30 min)

*One page summary of SoS, Ch. 22: **Paul: Characteristics of His Leadership** (4 hrs)

Session 2: 1 Corinthians 1-10

*Synthetic Reading summary of 1 Corinthians (1 hr 30 min)

Week #6: March 4

Session 1: 1 Corinthians 11-16

*Study Guide Assignment (p. 30): O (30 min)

Session 2: 2 Corinthians

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 31-34): IM/O (2 hr)

*Synthetic Reading summary of 2 Corinthians (1 hr 30 min)

*One page summary of SoS, Ch. 21: **Titus: Paul's troubleshooter** (1 hr)

Week #7: March 11

Session 1: Unit Examination #1

Session 2: Romans 1-4

*Study Guide Assignment (pp. 35-39): I (1 hr)

*Synthetic Reading summary of Romans (1 hr 30 min)

Week #8: March 17-22: Spring Break

Week #9: March 25

Session 1: Romans 5-8

*Study Guide Assignment (pp. 39-40): O (30 min)

Session 2: Romans 9-11

*Study Guide Assignment (p. 41): I (1 hr)

Week #10: No Class: Prayer Day

Week #11: April 8

Session 1: Romans 12-16

Session 2: Paul's Imprisonments, Defenses and Fulfillment of His Purpose to Reach Rome (Acts 21:18-28:31)

*Synthetic Reading summary of Acts (3 hrs 30 min)

Week #12: April 15

Session #1: Prison Epistles: Colossians and Philemon; Ephesians; Philippians

Session #2: Prison Epistles: Ephesians; Philippians

*Study Guide Assignments (pp. 45-55): IM/BM/O (3 hrs 30 min)

*Synthetic Reading summaries of Colossians; Philemon; Ephesians; Philippians (3 hrs 30 min)

Week #13: April 22

Session 1: Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy

- *Study Guide Assignments (pp. 56-65): IM/I (2 hrs 30 min)
- *Synthetic Reading summaries of 1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy (3 hrs)
- * One page summary of SoS, Ch. 23: **Paul: Criteria for Community Leaders** (2 hrs)

Session 2: Hebrews 1-7

- *Synthetic Reading summary of Hebrews (1 hr 30 min)

Week #14: April 29

Session 1: Hebrews 8-13

- *Study Guide Assignments (pp. 66-72): O/I/BM (3 hrs)

Session 2: 1 Peter; 2 Peter; Jude

- *Study Guide Assignments (pp. 73-79): BM/IM (3 hrs)
- *Synthetic Reading summary of 1 Peter; 2 Peter; Jude (2 hrs 30 min)
- * One page summary of SoS, Ch. 17: **Peter: A broken rock becomes a foundation stone** (2 hrs)

Week #15: May 6

Session 1: Epistles of John

- *Study Guide Assignments (pp. 80-83): IM/IM (3 hrs)
- *Synthetic Reading summary of 1-3 John (2 hrs)
- * One page summary of SoS, Ch. 18: **John: The taming of ambition** (1 hr)

Session 2: Revelation

- *Study Guide Assignments (pp. 84-90): IM/IM/IM (4 hrs 30 min)
- *Synthetic Reading summary of Revelation (2 hrs)

Week #16: May 13

Session 1: Unit Examination #2

- *Please fill out course evaluations online.

Academic Success Center

Students with physical, emotional, ADHD, or learning disabilities who need academic accommodations should make requests through the Academic Success Center. These requests will be kept confidential and will be used only to provide academic accommodations. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests should be made as early as possible. You may contact the Academic Success Center by phone at 1-803-807-5611, or by email at academicsuccess@ciu.edu. If you already receive services through ASC, please contact that office so they can help make your academic experience in this course as successful as possible.

SSM Stylesheet

The official guide for all written work in connection with this course is the *SSM Stylesheet*, which is available from the Faculty Administrative Assistant's office. It is based on the Chicago Manual of Style as summarized in the latest edition of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. It includes guidelines related to grammar and style, organization of papers, abbreviations and numbers, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, quotations, using Greek and Hebrew words, using and citing sources, footnotes, bibliography and using the internet. The instructor reserves the right to return written work that displays poor spelling, consistent grammatical errors, incorrect style and/or poor general appearance. The basic parameters are set out in the *Stylesheet*. If your work is returned for any of these reasons, you may resubmit it within two weeks of its return. If you do not revise and resubmit your work, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

*To find an electronic copy of the Stylesheet, you may follow this path:

CIUOnline>Student Life>Seminary Information>Resources>Stylesheet

Plagiarism

CIU SSM expects you to be honorable in your studies and responsible for your own academic work. Dishonesty in assignments, examinations, written papers, or other work is contrary to scriptural principles of Christian living and an affront to fellow students and your instructors. Plagiarism occurs when you present another person's ideas or words as your own, or when you intentionally or unintentionally fail to acknowledge or cite the source of the ideas you use.

Acknowledging and citing sources involves placing quotation marks around all the material you have taken (or paraphrased) from books, articles, internet sites, other students' papers, or other work you have not personally produced. It also involves listing full information about that source in a footnote or a parenthetical reference. See the *SSM Stylesheet* for examples of how to cite sources correctly.

Specific examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following:

1. Borrowing the words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment from a source (e.g., a book, an article, another student's paper, a tape/video, an internet site) without acknowledging the source.
2. Submitting work done by another student—in part or in whole—in place of original work.
3. Submitting assignments received from the Internet, from commercial firms or from any other person or group.
4. Knowingly aiding another student in plagiarizing an assignment as defined above.

You may not submit work that is part of a group consultation unless it is related to an assignment your syllabus specifically indicates is to be completed as part of a group. If you study for an exam with a review group, you may not reproduce any answers that others have written and submit it as your own work. You may not share with others answers to exam questions you have composed in advance. Any of these actions will be considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in academic penalty, and may result in failure in the assignment, failure in the course, and further disciplinary action. When appropriate, your Student Life chaplain will be informed.