

## Acts, Paul and Earliest Christianity

MWF 4<sup>th</sup>

Anderson 013

### Instructor:

James R. Mueller  
131 Anderson Hall  
Tel. 392-1625  
Email: [jmueller@ufl.edu](mailto:jmueller@ufl.edu)

### Office Hours:

M 5<sup>th</sup> period  
W, F 3<sup>rd</sup> period  
or by appointment

### Purpose:

The purpose of the course is to expose the student to both canonical and non-canonical texts that helped to shape the various forms of earliest Christianities.

### Required Texts:

Sanders, E.P., Paul: The Apostle's Life, Letters and Thought  
Klauck, H.-J., The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles  
Jefford, Clayton, Reading the Apostolic Fathers  
Any New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Attridge, H., The HarperCollins Study Bible)

### Books on Reserve: (for completing some Short Written Assignments)

Conzelmann, H., Acts of the Apostles: A Commentary  
Witherington, B., The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-rhetorical Commentary  
Haenchen, E., The Acts of the Apostles: A Commentary  
Fitzmyer, J., The Acts of the Apostles

### Course Grade:

- 10%** Class Participation/Attendance
- 30%** Short Written Assignments (listed below – generally 1-page long – must complete all for Acts, and one for each Pauline letter, e.g., one of the three assignments for Corinthians)
- 20%** In-class Presentations (one on an Apocryphal Act and one on an Apostolic Father text)
- 20%** Quizzes – 2 Quizzes (Acts, Pauline Quotations)
- 20%** Two Book Summaries (one academic book on Acts and one on Paul) – 1000 words min. each  
Attendance is required at all class meetings. Excessive unexcused absenteeism will result in lowering of the student's grade.

For UF policies on grading, please see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- AUG 22**      General Introduction to the Course
- 24              Earliest Christianity – What came first?
- 26              Luke/Acts  
                 Sanders, pp. 13-17  
                 \***Assignment:** Read the sections on authorship, date, etc, in one of the commentaries on reserve. Describe 5 things you found interesting/enlightening/confusing (include commentary author and page numbers).
- 
- 29              Acts 1-4  
                 \***Assignment:** Read one of the commentaries on Acts 2 (e.g., Fitzmyer, pp. 231-275). Describe 5 things you found interesting/enlightening/confusing. (include commentary read and page numbers)
- 31              Acts 5-8  
                 \***Assignment:** Read a different commentary on Acts 6:8-7:54. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers)
- SEP 2**              Acts 9-12  
                 Sanders, pp. 17-82  
                 \***Assignment:** In Sanders direct discussion of Acts description of Paul’s conversion, describe 5 things . . . . (include page numbers)
- 
- 5                      **LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**
- 7                      Acts 13-15:35  
                 \***Assignment:** Read a third one of the commentaries on Acts 15:1-35. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).
- 9                      **NO CLASS**

- 
- 12 Acts 15:36-19:41  
\***Assignment:** Read the fourth commentary on Acts 17:16-34. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).
- 14 Acts 20-23  
\***Assignment:** Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 20:1-38 (and any relevant introductory material on the “we” sections). More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).
- 16 Acts 24-26  
\***Assignment:** Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 26:1-30. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).
- 
- 19 Acts 27-28  
\***Assignment:** Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 28:17-31. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).
- 21 Apocryphal Acts – Introduction  
Klauck, pp. 1-14
- 23 **QUIZ 1 – Acts (canonical)**
- 
- 26 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)  
Acts of John: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actsjohn.html>  
Acts of Paul: : <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actspaul.html>  
Klauck, pp. 15-79
- 28 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)  
Acts of Peter: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actspeter.html>  
Acts of Andrew: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actsandrew.html>  
Klauck, pp. 81-140
- 30 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)  
Acts of Thomas: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actsthomas.html>  
Klauck, pp. 141-79
- 
- OCT 3** Apocryphal Acts – Later Acts of Apostles and Summary  
Klauck, pp. 231-63

- 5 Introduction to Paul  
Sanders, pp. 83-123  
**\*Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 7 Paul's Travels, Dates of Letters  
Sanders, pp. 125-161  
**\*Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 
- 10 1 Thessalonians  
Sanders, pp. 163-224  
**\*Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 12 2 Thessalonians  
**\*Assignment:** Using examples from the biblical text, why do you think many scholars consider 2 Thessalonians not to be a Pauline letter?
- 14 **NO CLASS – HOMECOMING**
- 
- 17 Corinthian Correspondence  
Sanders, pp. 225-271  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 19 Corinthian Correspondence  
Sanders, pp. 273-333  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 21 Corinthian Correspondence  
Sanders, pp. 335-442  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 
- 24 Galatians  
Sanders, pp. 443-499  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 26 Galatians  
Sanders, pp. 501-574  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 28 Philippians, Philemon  
Sanders, pp. 575-614  
**\*Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
-

- 31 Romans  
Sanders, pp. 615-669  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 
- NOV 2** Romans  
Sanders, pp. 671-705  
**Assignment:** More 5 things (include page numbers).
- 4 Colossians and Pauline Conclusion  
Sanders, pp. 707-725  
**\*Assignment:** Using examples from the biblical text, why do you think many scholars consider Colossians not to be a Pauline letter?
- 
- 7 Post-Pauline – Ephesians; Pastoral Epistles; Hebrews; 1,2 Peter; Jude; Hebrews; James; Jude; 1,2,3 John; Revelation
- 9 **QUIZ 2 – Pauline Quotations**
- 11 **NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY**
- 
- 14 Post-Pauline – Ephesians; Pastoral Epistles; Hebrews; 1,2 Peter; Jude; Hebrews; James; Jude; 1,2,3 John; Revelation
- 16 Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)  
Letter of Barnabas: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/barnabas-lake.html>  
Didache: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-lake.html>  
Jefford, pp. xvii-xxviii, 1-42
- 18 Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)  
Letters of Ignatius; Papias: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/ignatius.html>  
(read Roberts-Donaldson translations of each letter – to Polycarp, Smyrnaeans, Philadelphians, Romans, Trallians, Magnesians, Ephesians)  
Jefford, pp. 43-72
- 
- 21 **NO CLASS**
- 23, 25 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
-

- 28           Apostolic Fathers – Polycarp (student presentations)  
              To the Philippians: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/polycarp-lake.html>  
              Martyrdom: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/polycarp-lake.html>  
              Jefford, pp. 73-101
- 30           Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)  
              1 Clement: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/1clement-roberts.html>  
              2 Clement: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/2clement-roberts.html>  
              Jefford, pp. 103-39
- DEC 2**       Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)  
              Shepherd of Hermas: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/shepherd.html>  
              Diognetus: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/diognetus-roberts.html>  
              Jefford, pp. 141-77
- 
- 5            Post-Pauline Letters and the Apostolic Fathers
- 7            Conclusions and Summary

**BOOK SUMMARIES DUE – DEC 15**