



Queensland
Theological College



NT302/502 The Early New Testament Church Brisbane Day Class Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **The Early New Testament Church**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 2 2018

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.acttheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the ACT's **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed **"Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units"** (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

One writer has said that all Christians have within them something of a "restoration" mentality when it comes to "fixing" the church. i.e., we tend to feel that if we could just restore the church to the way that it used to be in NT days, everything would be all right. Well, I hope this unit helps you to understand that there were lots of problems within the early church and persecutions from without. I trust that you will find it exciting and interesting that despite these challenges the word continued to grow and spread. I pray this will encourage you to trust God as he continues to spread the word today, in the face of problems within the church and pressures from outside the church.

The first section of the unit focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and investigates the history, theology and features of the early church as it grew, expanded, and matured.

In the second section, students will examine in outline several other New Testament Writings (various Epistles and Revelation) not covered elsewhere in the course.

Learning Outcomes

NT302 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

Know and understand:

- The history, themes, theology and narrative of the Book of Acts
- The contents, context, themes and theology of major New Testament Epistles

Be able to:

- Discuss: a) the history, themes, theology and narrative presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
- Analyse key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
- Explain the issues confronted by and teaching of selected New Testament Epistles

Be in a position to:

- Integrate perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' with their other theological studies
- Apply perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to current issues in Christian life and thought

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Be able to:

- Discuss: a) the history, themes, theology and narrative presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles

- Analyse key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
- Explain the issues confronted by and teaching of selected New Testament Epistles
- Evaluate selected approaches to Acts and the early New Testament Church

Be in a position to:

- Integrate perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' with their other theological studies
- Apply perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to current issues in Christian life and thought

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The unit is a core unit in your degree. It is concerned not so much with critical issues as with enabling students to grasp a firm understanding of the development of the early church and of the contents, themes and theology of the various books of the New Testament.

This unit caters for students studying either of the following accredited units:

- NT302 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin.
- NT502 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the MDiv/ GradDipDiv/ GradCertDiv.

Each of these units is a 4-credit point unit in its respective award.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This is a core unit and as such there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught over a 13-week semester. There are three lectures each week, each of 50 minutes duration.

At Bachelor level a 4 cp unit is considered to require 6 – 8 hrs of time commitment per week. At MDiv level the expectation is 7-9 hours on average.

Students are required to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete the assessment tasks by the due dates.

Teaching staff

UNIT COORDINATOR

Rev Dr Wesley Redgen

LECTURERS

Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, James, Revelation

Rev Dr Wesley Redgen

E wredgen@qtc.edu.au

P 07 3062 6939 or 0423 962 892

Theology of Acts, 1 John, 1 Peter

Rev. Nick Brennan

E nbrennan@qtc.edu.au

P 07 3062 6939

Please feel free to contact us if you have any problems or concerns about the unit.

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3062 6939, extension 2

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 2

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, & for how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 3

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

	LECTURE TOPIC	AFTER LUNCH	READINGS
WEEK 1 WR	Acts 1:1-6:7 Jerusalem under Peter and the Eleven. 'And the Word of God increased'	Course Introduction	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 1:1-6:7 Barnett, 13-26,195-217 Carson Moo on Acts
WEEK 2 WR	Acts 6:8-9:31 Greek speaking Jewish Christians, Samaria, Palestine & Damascus. 'Church built up and multiplied'	Background lectures	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 6:8-9:31 Barnett, 217-230
WEEK 3 WR	Acts 9:32-12:24 Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch 'But the Word of God grew and multiplied'	Background lectures	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 9:32-12:24. Barnett, 231-246
WEEK 4 WR	Acts 12:25-16:5 From Jerusalem to Antioch, Cyprus and Asia Minor 'So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily'	Background lectures	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 12:25-16:5 Barnett 269-271, 276-296, 328-329
WEEK 5 WR	Acts 16:6-19:20 Macedonia, Achaia and parts of Asia Minor 'So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily'	Background lectures	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 16:16-19:20 Barnett, 329-337
WEEK 6 WR	Acts 19:21-28:31 Paul in Jerusalem, Caesarea and Rome 'Preaching the Lord Jesus Christ openly and not hindered'	Background lectures	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 19:21-28:31 Barnett, 337-343
WEEK 7 NB	Theological Themes in Acts	Background lectures	
WEEK 8 WR	James	Same as before lunch	Book of James + Carson Moo on James
WEEK 9 WR	Galatians	Same as before lunch	Book of Galatians + Carson Moo on Galatians
WEEK 10 WR	Ephesians/Colossians	Same as before lunch	Books of Ephesians & Colossians. + Carson Moo on Eph. & Col.
WEEK 11 NB	1 John	Same as before lunch	Book of 1 John + Carson Moo on 1 John
WEEK 12 NB	1 Peter	Same as before lunch	Book of 1 Peter + Carson Moo on 1 Peter
WEEK 13 WR	Revelation	Same as before lunch	Book of Revelation + Carson Moo on Revelation

WR = Wesley Redgen NB = Nick Brennan

It is strongly advised that students read the set portions prior to the class, rather than after.

The unit timetable above indicates chapters in the textbooks for pre-reading. Students should read the chapters on the passage for the week from either Peterson or Schnabel, as well as the set pages from Carson & Moo and/or Barnett. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbook. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the pre-reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasized and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

NT302 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your assessment pieces must be within 10% of the prescribed word limit. Assessment pieces that are more than 10% longer than the prescribed word limit will be returned to students for reduction in length and resubmission. A Late Penalty of 3% per day will apply, commencing on the day that the assessment piece is returned to you for correction.

ASSESSMENT TASK(S)	DESCRIPTION
<p>2000 word Essay</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p>	<p>A 2000 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the New Testament church, and will cover the topics of weeks 1-8 of the unit – The Book of Acts and the Letter of James.</p> <p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did Luke give such prominence to Stephen’s speech? 2. Explore the similarities and differences in the presentation of the gospel to Jewish and Gentile audiences presented in the Book of Acts. 3. What do we learn about the status of Christianity from the dealings of the Christians with Roman authorities in Acts? 4. What does James mean by the terms ‘rich’ and ‘poor’, and what does he say about them?
<p>90 minute Exam</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p>	<p>A 90 minute exam which will assess the content of unit topics not covered in the essay topics in Assessment Item 1.</p> <p>The exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must answer six from ten short answer questions, with all questions weighted equally. • Section A will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks. <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One essay question out of three questions. • Section B will count for one-third of the total examination marks.

NT502 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your assessment pieces must be within 10% of the prescribed word limit. Assessment pieces that are more than 10% longer than the prescribed word limit will be returned to students for reduction in length and resubmission. A Late Penalty of 3% per day will apply, commencing on the day that the assessment piece is returned to you for correction.

ASSESSMENT TASK(S)	DESCRIPTION
<p>2500 word Essay</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p>	<p>A 2500 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the New Testament church and will cover the topics for Weeks 1-8 of the unit – The Book of Acts and the Letter of James.</p> <p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why were the decisions of the Jerusalem Council so important for Paul's mission to the Gentiles. 2. Who were the "God-fearers" and what was their role in the spread of the early church? 3. What competing ideologies and religions did the early church encounter in its spread and to what extent were they a vibrant challenge to the young faith? 4. Is James a Christian Writing, or a Jewish Writing with a few Christian interpolations?
<p>2 hour Exam</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p>	<p>A two-hour exam, in two sections, which will assess the content of unit topics not covered in the essay topics in Assessment 1.</p> <p>The exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must answer three from seven short answer questions, with all questions weighted equally. • Section A will count for one-third of the total examination marks. <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two essay questions out of five questions. • Section B will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.

Guide to Assessments

All students are expected to read the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbooks, available in the library or online. You should also read the relevant sections of the QTC Student Manual.

All written work for this course should conform to the guidelines of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions.).

All assessments should be in Word Doc format, double-spaced with a right hand margin of at least 3cm on each page.

All Greek and Hebrew cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL BibLit is commended as one font covering Greek, Hebrew and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website: <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx>

The Learning Resources listed in this outline provide a beginning point for research for assessments for this course; students are expected to engage with the works listed there, but are not limited to these resources. The literature on the gospels is massive, and you are encouraged to consult widely.

Do note carefully the *number of words required* for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for NT302 or NT502.

Assessment 1: Essay

This essay is designed to assess your ability to research an aspect of Acts and in the process weigh up the differing views of the scholars in the light of scripture. Your primary task is answering the question from the scripture. Please ensure the essay answers the question.

The essay must be in formal essay format. i.e. no dot points, good grammar, good paragraph and essay structure.

Your paper should include an abstract and bibliography in the usual format.

The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible.

The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted via Moodle in word doc format, using the file name convention specified.

Assessment 2: Exam

While the essay is designed to assess your ability to dig deeply into one topic, the exam is designed to assess your broad knowledge of the subject. Therefore, the questions will reflect this and your approach to study for the exam should reflect this. The best preparation is to know the lecture material, required reading, and the relevant scriptures. Previous exam papers are available in the library and on Moodle for you to see the type of questions asked.

Learning Resources

ESSENTIAL REFERENCES – TEXTBOOKS – ALL STUDENTS MUST BUY THESE

Barnett, Paul. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity*. Leicester: IVP, 1999.

Carson, Don and Douglas Moo. *Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

And ONE of the following two commentaries:

Peterson, David. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Pillar. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

Or

Schnabel Eckhard. *Acts*. ZECNT. Zondervan Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Students also need access to a good Bible dictionary that contains articles on each of the New Testament Epistles.

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA MONEY TO BUY ANOTHER BOOK, IT WOULD BE BEST TO BUY:

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1993.

Or

Marshall, I. H. and David Peterson, eds. *Witness to the Gospel: a Theology of Acts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

OTHER REFERENCES

Winter, B. W. (Gen. Ed.), *Book of Acts in its First Century Setting* (6 Vols; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993-1996).

See especially

*Vol. 1 Winter, Bruce W. and Andrew D. Clarke, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Ancient Literary Setting*.

*Vol. 2 Gill, David W. J. and Conrad H. Gempf, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*

Vol. 3 Rapske, Brian. *The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody*

*Vol. 4 Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Book of Acts in its Palestinian Setting*. Levinskaya, Irene.

*Vol. 5 Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Diaspora Setting*.

Ed. Capes, David, Rodney Reeves and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011.

Crowe, Brandon. *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption: Wisdom from James, Peter, John and Jude*. Philadelphia, PA: P&R, 2015.

*Cunningham, S., *'Through Many Tribulations': The theology of persecution in Luke Acts* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997)

THE EARLY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH – BRISBANE DAY CLASS

Fitzmyer, J. A., *The Acts of the Apostles* (New York: Anchor, Doubleday, 1997). Gill, David W. J. and Conrad H. Gempf, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*. Vol. 2 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

Gill, David W. J. and Conrad H. Gempf, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*. Vol. 2 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Hengel, M., *Acts and the History of Earliest Christianity* (repr; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003).

Jobes, Karen H. *Letters to the Church: A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

*Keener, C.S., *Acts* (4 Vols: Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012-5).

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1997.

Rapske, Brian. *The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody*. Vol. 3 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Schnabel, E. J., *Early Christian Mission, Vol 2: Paul and the Early Church* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

*Witherington, B., *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998).

Woods, E. J., *The 'Finger of God' and Pneumatology in Luke-Acts* (Sheffield: SAP, 2001).

Classics

Goulder, M., *St Peter Verses St Paul: A Tale of Two Missions* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995).

*Hemer, C. J., *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History* (ed. By C.H. Gempf; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990).

Spencer, F. S., *The Portrait of Philip in Acts: A Study of Roles and Relations* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1992).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In most of the units you study at QTC, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the subject matter by writing a short response answer, essay, research paper, book review, take-home exam or the like. Your lecturers and the Moderators of the Australian College of Theology will expect to see that you have consulted current academic research in the form of Journal Articles.

Q: So how do you find good journal articles?....

A: Search the online Journal Databases



QTC makes available the following Journal Databases which will be useful for finding information for your Short Response answers and Take-Home Exam:

- **ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials**
ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials is the full text version of the ATLA Religion Database (ATLA). This database is a collection of major religion and theology journals selected by some of the major religion scholars in the United States. Coverage of this database dates back to 1949.
- **Religion and Philosophy Collection**
This database provides extensive full-text coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, and philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy.
- **New Testament Abstracts**
69,500+ records which cover New Testament general, Gospels-Acts, Epistles-Revelation, Biblical Theology and the World of the New Testament.

You can search all three databases at the same time through the same EBSCO Platform. Most journal articles will be available as a PDF which you can read, print or save. Access the databases via the QTC Library Webpage <https://www.qtc.edu.au/students/resources/library> and login with the username and password provided on Moodle under the QTC Library unit.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4