An exegetical study of the Greek text, with attention to the unique theological themes, structure and historical context of Luke. Class sessions will be divided between lectures and translation discussions in order to create an environment which allows Luke’s text to speak with its original force.

GENERAL GOALS

1. The primary goal for the lectures and assignments is to create opportunities for Luke’s text to speak to us. What is Luke’s perspective(s)? Who is the Jesus he tells us about? What is he like? What does the Gospel of Luke signify and how may we apply it to contemporary situations? In the process, at the affective level we will simultaneously aim to further an enjoyment and awe of God and of the New Testament.

2. As important as it is to learn data about the Gospel of Luke, it is also important to become equipped in the skills with which people can exegetically interpret the text. This course addresses the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Mission statement by:
   a) Encouraging students to become more knowledgeable of the structure and theology of the Gospel of Luke in its historical milieu and more competent in using language, interpretative, and application skills learned in NT502 and Greek 1 & 2 (mission goal 1). Students will be encouraged to become creative, original, careful scholars who employ primary source materials, and who allow their conclusions to flow from a careful and accurate reading of the text;
   b) Introducing students to the Christian scholarship issues in Luke (mission goal 2);
   c) Helping students mature in their character, outlook, conduct, relationships, and involvement in society by the teacher’s model, class dialogue, mentoring opportunities, and prayer (mission goal 4);
   d) Providing resources and strategies that will lead to effective local and global ministry, missions, evangelism, and discipleship as evident in Luke (mission goals 3, 5, 6).

ASSIGNMENTS


2. Complete a historical context study (3-5 pp.) of Luke by week 2 (Feb. 4, grace Feb. 6) (10%). Hand in an outline (1-2 pp.) and a “character”/thematic study (1 p.) of the Gospel of Luke by week 3 (Feb. 11, grace Feb 13) (20%). See “How to Write a N.T. Exegesis Paper” for sale and on reserve. These papers may be rewritten up to week 6 (March 6). Hand in both drafts + original cover sheet.

3. Complete an exegesis paper (55%) (double-spaced) due week 7 (March 11, grace March 13). Optional redone final papers due week 11 (April 10).
8-12 pp. (double spaced) exegesis paper with interpretation and a brief (1-2 page) application (sermon or lesson outline), an appendix (sentence flow, etc.) and a bibliography of books used. The interpretation should include your own translation and lexical, grammatical, literary and Jewish/Greco-Roman studies and at least one study of a textual variant. When the chapter is covered in class, the findings will be briefly presented to the class. Th.M. candidates will write 13-17 pp.

4. The completion of the required translation (8%), journal (1%), and reading (1%), is 10% of the final grade. Grammar quizzes (5%) will be given weeks 2 and 12. The higher grade will be recorded. If the second quiz does not have at least a grade of D, the grade on the first quiz will be penalized by one grade. Keep a journal with Greek words which were not recognized, notes of insights, and questions encountered in reading Luke. Present one or two insights at every translation session. After up to 4 hours of continued translation on a one-week assignment, full credit may be received. Competence in Greek is necessary for a passing grade for the course.

5. For extra credit:

Read one of the “Books of Selected Topics” to help in-between grades. The books under “Luke as Historian” are recommended. In addition, the student is very much encouraged to read from the bibliography or on any topics which give light to the Gospel of Luke or to the topic of exegesis. For grading purposes, border factors are attendance, completion of required reading, extra reading, and effort. Th.M. candidates are required to do one book (at least 200 pp.) review from the bibliography.

WEEKLY SESSIONS

WEEK 1  A.  Goals and questions. Introduction to course, procedures, requirements.
(Jan. 28, 30)  B.  Explain “character” study, outline, historical context. How to write an exegesis paper.


WEEK 2  A.  Who wrote Gospel?
(Feb. 4, 6)  B.  What can we learn about the author?


WEEK 3  A.  Questions raised by 1:1-4. Historicity and Reliability
(Feb. 11, 13)  B.  Purpose (if time allows). Discussion – “character” study (1 hour)

To whom written? From where and when written? (if time allows)

WEEK 4  Reading Week, no class sessions  
(Feb. 17 - 21)

WEEK 5  A.  Translate 1:5-25. Discuss  
(Feb. 25, 27)  B.  Genesis Project (2) (and American Bible Society) films on Luke (4 short films)

II Attestation to Jesus before he begins His ministry (1:5-4:13)

WEEK 6  A.  Translate 7:36-50  
(March 4, 6)  B.  Problems with form criticism – sinful woman.  
III Jesus’ Ministry centers around Galilee (4:14-9:50)  
 Assignments: Translate 7:36-50 for next class. Bring synoptic parallels to class.  
Optional: rewriting of short papers due next week.

WEEK 7  A.  Translate 8:1-15  
(March 11, 13)  B.  Parables – what they are and how to interpret  
Read Global God, ch. 4.  
Count all the electrical appliances in your dorm room/apartment/home.

WEEK 8  Reading Week, no class session  
(March 17-21)

WEEK 9  A.  Translate 10:1-12, 25-37  
(March 25, 27)  B.  Laborer deserves wages – Stewardship  
IV Jesus’ Ministry determines to go to Jerusalem (9:51-19:44)  
 Assignments: Read chapters 1-2 on Lord’s prayer in The Prayer Life of Jesus and “Benedictions” (Berakoth) in the Mishnah (trans. Herbert Danby or J. Neusner) and I.7 in Eusebius Church History. Translate 11:1-23.  

WEEK 10  A.  Translate 11:1-23  
(April 1, 3)  B.  The Greek Words for Prayer (2 classes)  
 Assignments: Translate 18:1-14. Read Beyond the Curse ch. 2.  
All redone final papers due next week.
**WEEK 11**

(April 8, 10)

**A.** Greek Words for Prayer, continued. Discuss ch. 2 *Prayer Life of Jesus.*

**B.** Translate 18:1-14. The Parables on Prayer

**Assignments:** Complete all reading assignments.
Read chs. 3, 5 in *The Prayer Life of Jesus.*
Bring self-evaluation to last class.

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**WEEK 12**

(April 15, 17)


**V. Jesus teaches Daily in the Temple at Jerusalem (19:45-22:53)**

**VI. Jesus is Arrested, Crucified & Raised (22:54-24:53)**

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**WEEK 13**

Back-up snow days (April 22, 24)
BIBLIOGRAPHY

** textbooks (all will be read)

*textbooks (part will be read)
Herbert Danby, trans. THE MISHNAH. Oxford: University, 1933 or Jacob Neusner, trans. (Ref. BM 497.5.E5) 019815402 One chapter will be read.
Aida Besançon Spencer. BEYOND THE CURSE: WOMEN CALLED TO MINISTRY. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985. BS 680 W7564 9780801047748 one chapter will be read
et. al. THE GLOBAL GOD. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. BT102.G574 0801021634 one chapter will be read

*References needed to complete assignments
SYNOPSIS OF THE FOUR GOSPELS. American Bible Society (Greek-English edition) 9783438054050 Ref. BS2560.A2 A35 1972 will be consulted in class (also in Bible Works)
A Schmoller. HANDKONKORDANZ ZUM GRIECHISCHEN NEUEN TESTAMENT. 14th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1968. or another Greek concordance

*Most Helpful Commentaries
References not required, but helpful

Other Good Commentaries
Good introduction.
David Gooding. ACCORDING TO LUKE: A NEW EXPOSITION OF THE THIRD GOSPEL. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. BS2595.3 An excellent study of literary themes OP
Books on Selected Topics

Purpose


Luke as Historian

John Drury. TRADITION AND DESIGN IN LUKE’S GOSPEL. A STUDY IN EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1976. BS2595.2.D78

Other Topics


Reuben Swanson, ed. NEW TESTAMENT GREEK MANUSCRIPTS: LUKE. Sheffield: Sheffield, 1995. Ref. BS 1965


