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. 3, grace Feb. 5) (10%). Hand in an outline (1-2 pp.) and a “character”/thematic study (1 p.) of the Gospel of Luke by week 3 (Feb. 10, grace Feb 12) (20%). See “How to Write a N.T. Exegesis Paper” for sale and on reserve. These papers may be rewritten up to week 7 (March 10). Hand in both drafts + original cover sheet.

3. Choice of 1 final paper (55%) (double-spaced) due week 8 (March 17, grace March 19). Optional redone final papers due week 11 (April 7).
a. 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, and literary 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. M.Div. candidates are required to do at least two exegesis papers at the 600-level. Th.M. candidates will write 13-17 pp.

OR  

b. 8-12 topical paper. Take one topic (example in class is Reign of God), research from at least two gospels, and then show if Luke adds any particular dimensions or emphases. Consult professor for approval of topics. An application is also needed.

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 at least a passing grade is not received on the second quiz, the grade will be lowered 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.

a. Read all of Luke in Greek (30% - replacing grades of assignment #2 or to help in between grades). Due final class day April 14 (grace April 16). Interlinear may not be used. Use a Word List. Keep a list of all Greek words and parsing not recognized, which will be handed in.

IF:  
chapters 1 through 5 read = D
chapters 1 through 11 read = D+ - C
chapters 1 through 19 read = C+ - B
chapters 1 through 24 read = B+ - A

b. 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 review from the bibliography. Book must be at least 200 pp
WEEKLY SESSIONS

WEEK 1  
(Jan. 27)  
A. Goals and questions. Introduction to course, procedures, requirements.  
B. Explain “character” study, outline, historical context. How to write an exegesis paper.  


WEEK 2  
(Feb. 3)  
A. Who wrote Gospel?  
B. What can we learn about the author?  


WEEK 3  
(Feb. 10)  
A. Questions raised by 1:1-4. Historicity and Reliability  
B. Purpose  
Discussion – “character” study (1 hour)  
To whom written? From where and when written? (available in written form)


WEEK 4  
(Feb. 16-20)  
Reading Week, no class sessions

WEEK 5  
(Feb. 24)  
A. Translate 1:5-25. Discuss  

II Attestation to Jesus before he begins His ministry (1:5-4:13)  
Assignment: Translate 7:36-50 for next class. Bring synoptic parallels to class.

WEEK 6  
(March 3)  
A. Translate 7:36-50  
Problems with form criticism – sinful woman.  
III Jesus’ Ministry centers  
B. Overview of Jesus’ Life  
Reign of God – What is it and why so important (1 hour)  
Assignment: Translate 8:1-15. Do a sentence flow of 8:5-8 for class. Prepare 8:3 text evidence αὐτοὶ versus αὐτῷ.  
around Galilee Optional: rewriting of short papers due next week.  
(4:14-9:50)
WEEK 7  
(March 10)  
A. Translate 8:1-15  Go over sentence flow.  
B. Parables – what they are and how to interpret  
Assignment: Write full draft of final paper by next week.  
Read Global God, ch. 4.  
  
WEEK 8  
(March 17)  
A. Translate 10:1-12, 25-37  
B. Laborer deserves wages – Stewardship  
IV Jesus’ Ministry  
Determines  
Assignment: 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 9  
(March 23-27)  
Reading Week, no class session  
  
WEEK 10  
(March 31)  
A. Translate 11:1-23  
Mary and Martha  
B. The Greek Words for Prayer (2 classes)  
All redone final papers due next week.  
  
WEEK 11  
(April 7)  
A. Greek Words for Prayer, continued.  
Bring self-evaluation to last class.  
  
WEEK 12  
(April 14)  
Translate 23:26-49.  
V. Jesus Teaches  
Daily in the Temple at Jerusalem  
(19:45-22:53)  
Complete self and class evaluation  
Summary of what was learned in Luke  
VI. Jesus is Arrested, Crucified & Raised  
(22:54-24:53)  
WEEK 13  
(April 21)  
Back-up snow day
**Required Textbooks**

*Books for sale in Book Centre and necessary for class use*

**Textbooks (all will be read)**

Sakae Kubo. A READER’S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE N.T. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975. PA 881.K8 1971 *will be used regularly*


**Textbooks (part will be read)**

Herbert Danby, trans. THE MISHNAH. Oxford: University, 1933 or Jacob Neusner, trans. *One chapter will be read.*

Aida Besancon Spencer. BEYOND THE CURSE: WOMEN CALLED TO MINISTRY. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1985. BS 680.W7564 *one chapter will be read*


**References needed to complete assignments**


_____ , SYNOPSIS OF THE FOUR GOSPELS. American Bible Society (Greek-English edition) 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 concordance*


**Most Helpful Commentaries**


**References not required, but helpful**
Donald Guthrie. NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION. 3rd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1970. BS 2330.2.G85 good as a reference

Other References

Other Good Commentaries

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
Craig G. Bartholomew, Joel B. Green, and Anthony C. Thiselton, eds. READING LUKE:


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


