

**Alabama Course of Study
Huntingdon College
Winter Session 2019
January 18-19 and February 8-9**

Course: COS 521 – Bible V: Acts, Epistles, Revelation
Instructor: Jason Borders
Professor of New Testament
Chair, Department of Religion Huntingdon College
Address: Office: Jackson Home 202 (Huntingdon Campus)
Phone: Office: 334-833-4221 Cell: 334-649-9034
Email: jborders@hawks.huntingdon.edu

Your work for Sessions One and Two should include an ALCOS Cover Sheet.

Course Introduction:

This course is an introduction to Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and Revelation. The course is intended to help the student understand the broad contours and theological significance of these texts. Our task will be twofold: exploring the context of the text itself and the variety of ways these texts continue to speak to persons in the contemporary world.

Course Objectives:

The student, upon completion of this course, should be able to:

1. identify the various genres that make up this literature and its importance for the task of preaching and teaching
2. understand the major theological themes that appear in the literature
3. engage in “close reading” of scriptural texts necessary in exegesis for sermon and teaching preparation

Required Texts:

1. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) will be the Bible translation used for the course. The particular NRSV Bible used is the student’s choice. Other translations are certainly welcome in class discussion.
2. Bassler, Jouette M. *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. [ISBN: 9780664227418]
3. Carter, Warren & Amy-Jill Levine. *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013. [9781630885779]
4. Gorman, Michael J. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness, Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011. [9781606085608]

Recommended Supplementary Texts:

1. Gorman, Michael J. *Reading Paul*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008. [9781556351952]

Pre-Work Assignments:

1. Reading Assignment

Students should read all biblical texts and textbooks before the first session. In particular, students should read Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and Revelation in their entirety *before* reading the textbooks. After each biblical book is read, students should refer to Pre-work Assignment 2 for instructions on creating an “Exegetical Outline.”

2. Exegetical Outlines (1 page each; 6 total Outlines; 10% each - 60% total)

The Exegetical Outline is intended to help the student begin the process of exegesis, particularly as it regards sermon preparation. A Exegetical Outline should be created for each book covered in the course, namely, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and Revelation. Each sketch should be one page in length, 1-inch margins. However, creative license is allowed depending on the student’s ideas in arranging the document. In brief, the Exegetical Outline should follow the major contours of the biblical text in question while noting the following: a) What does the text have to say on its own terms (i.e., what are the texts main points)?, and b) What does the text have to say to us? For every major point identified, scriptural reference is required.

The Outline may take various formats. Information may be presented linearly, circularly, chiastically, etc. ***Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible in arranging the information in this one-page document.*** The main objective is to create a sketch of the book that will help the student in sermon preparation at a later time. Part of the challenge of this assignment will rest with the student’s ability to write and outline concisely and responsibly.

NOTE: Exegetical Outlines for Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Revelation are due at the beginning of the first Friday session. Exegetical Outlines for Acts, Hebrews, and James are due at the beginning of the second Friday session.

1. Sermon Sketch (3 pages each; 2 required; 15% each - 30% total)

Read the following sections in *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings*: Acts (91-111); Romans (112-128); 1 Corinthians (129-145); Hebrews (266-282); James (283-297); Revelation (341-358). In each of these chapters above, the authors subdivide each biblical book into smaller sections and discuss the text’s possible *meaning*. For each Sermon Sketch, choose one subsection of two different biblical books listed above. One sketch must come from Romans, 1 Corinthians, or Revelation and one sketch must come from Acts, Hebrews, or James. In the sketch itself, engage what the text chosen might mean and how that meaning is reached. Use the textbook as a conversation partner, comparatively or contrastively. Be sure to reference the textbook in your work. So, for instance, on page 138, the authors’ subdivision of the chapter on

1 Corinthians is named "Sexuality and Gender." If you choose this section for one of your sketches, discuss the possibilities for meaning derived from this portion of 1 Corinthians. How do you arrive at your conclusion? What are the authors' understanding of the meanings in this text? How did they arrive at their conclusions? One sketch is required for each subdivision chosen, each 3 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman 12 point font. If applicable, reference to Bassler, *Navigating Paul*, is also welcome.

NOTE: A Sermon Sketch for Romans, 1 Corinthians, or Revelation is due at the beginning of the first Friday session. A Sermon Sketch for Acts, Hebrews, or James is due at the beginning of the second Friday session.

In Class Participation: (10%):

Students should be able to participate in class discussions in a manner that shows completion of all required readings prior to class attendance.

Instructions for Written Work:

Please avoid excessive quotation of sources. All sources should be cited appropriately with footnotes, but it is unnecessary to reproduce the source in your written work unless absolutely necessary. Written work should reflect the student's engagement with the texts rather than act as a summary of the sources used. In addition, a bibliography is not necessary for your papers. Citation of sources is sufficient. All work should have the student's name, class, and date as its header for each page, including page numbers if applicable.

Policy for Submitting Work:

Work must be submitted on time. Late work will be accepted in only the most extreme circumstances, such as a medical emergency, at the discretion of the instructor and Director of the Course of Study. Work that does not adhere to the guidelines above will not be accepted. Work must be typed.

All written work should be submitted as a Word or Pages document to the instructor's email address: jborders@hawks.huntingdon.edu on the due date. Early submissions are welcome.

Grading Scale:

A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

Course Schedule:

First Session (January 18-19, 2019 – Huntingdon College)

- Texts covered: Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Revelation

Second Session (February 8-9 – Huntingdon College)

- Texts covered: Acts, Hebrews, and James

PreCourse / MidCourse / PostCourse Work Policy

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:
 1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
 2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
 3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of "F" will be given in the course.
 4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.