

Unit Outline

Townsville Campus



NT302/502 Early New Testament Church

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information you will need to find your way around the unit, **Early New Testament Church**. It attempts to provide a structure for your learning, giving details of the topics, and how they will be assessed.

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 Undergraduate or Postgraduate 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 section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays 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 New Testament (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 that 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 NT writings (Epistles and Revelation) not covered elsewhere in the course.

Learning outcomes

There are two focal points in this unit:

- to consider the Book of Acts as a presentation of history, theology and narrative.
- to investigate the contents, themes and theology of the various books of the New Testament.

NT302 learning outcomes

- Candidates will develop an understanding of key developments in the growth of the earliest church, together with an awareness of emerging patterns and common themes alongside exceptional and notable events.
- Candidates will also gain an ability to summarise and outline relevant information from Acts and various epistles, with an increased capacity to review significant themes, perspectives and interpretations associated with the material in view.

NT502 learning outcomes

- Candidates will develop an understanding of key developments in the growth of the earliest church, together with an awareness of emerging patterns and common themes alongside exceptional and notable events. In analysing and exploring these texts, candidates will develop an increased ability to recognise and employ inter-disciplinary skills and perspectives.
- Candidates will also gain an ability to summarise and outline relevant information from Acts and various epistles, with an increased capacity to synthesise and review significant themes, perspectives and interpretations associated with the material in view.

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 for this unit

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

How this unit is organised and what we expect of you

This unit is taught over two intensive blocks of 3 days each, plus two skype sessions.

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

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.

Teaching staff

LECTURER AND UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

Rev Wesley Redgen,

ph 3149 3654 (W); 3381 0301 (H), 0423962892 or email me wredgen@qtc.edu.au

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

Unit timetable: topics & teaching & learning activities

The unit timetable below indicates the pre-reading required before each intensive weekend.

Students may choose to read from either Peterson or Schnabel, whichever they decide to purchase.

DAY/TIME	LECTURE TOPIC	REQUIRED PRE READINGS
	Weekend 1: 6-8th August	
Thurs 6-9pm	Course intro Acts 1:1-6:7 Jerusalem under Peter and the 11. <i>'And the Word of God increased'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 1:1-6:7 Barnett, 13-26,195-217
Fri 9am – 12pm	Historical background plus Acts 6:8-9:31 Greek speaking Jewish Christians, Samaria, Palestine and Damascus. <i>'Church built up and multiplied'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 6:8-9:31 Barnett 217-230
Fri 1-3.3pm	Historical background plus Acts 9:32-12:24 Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch <i>'But the Word of God grew and multiplied'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 9:32-12:24 Barnett, 231-246
Fri 4-6pm	Historical background plus Acts 12:25-16:5 From Jerusalem to Antioch, Cyprus and Asia Minor <i>'So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 12:25-16:5 Barnett 269-271, 276- 296, 328-329
Sat 9am-12pm	Historical background plus Acts 16:6-19:20 Macedonia, Achaia and parts of Asia Minor <i>'So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 16:6-19:20 Barnett, 329-337
Sat 1-4pm	Historical background plus Acts 19:21-28:31 Paul in Jerusalem, Caesarea and Rome <i>'Preaching the Lord Jesus Christ openly and not hindered'</i>	Peterson or Schnabel on Acts 19:21-28:31 Barnett, 337-343
Date TBA	2 hour skype tutorial – questions from reading/previous weekend / preparing for essays	
	Weekend 2 : 15-17th October	
Thurs 6-9pm	James	Book of James + Carson Moo Ch. 20 on James
Fri 9am – 12pm	Galatians	Book of Galatians + Carson Moo Ch. 12 on Galatians
Fri 1-3.3pm	Thessalonians 1 & 2	Book of 1,2 Thess. + Carson Moo Ch.16 on Thessalonians
Fri 4-6pm	Ephesians/Colossians	Books of Eph./Col. + Carson Moo Ch. 13 & 15 on Eph./Col.
Sat 9am-12pm	Hebrews	Book of Hebrews + Carson Moo Ch. 19 on Hebrews
Sat 1-4pm	Revelation	Book of Revelation + Carson Moo Ch. 25 on Revelation
Date TBA	2 hour skype tutorial – exam prep/essay writing Questions from reading/previous weekend	

Assessment NT302

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.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK(S)	DESCRIPTION
<p>1. Essay</p> <p>2000 words</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p> <p>DUE DATE: Friday 11 September 2015</p>	<p>A 2000 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the NT church</p> <p>Choose ONE of the following essay topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main points Peter was making in his Pentecost sermon? 2. What purpose does Acts 6:1-7 serve in Luke's account of the spread of the word of God. 3. What is the significance of Acts 13:13-49 in the development of the book of Acts?
<p>2. Take home exam</p> <p>2700 words</p> <p>50% of final Grade</p> <p>DUE DATE: Friday 13 November 2015</p>	<p>A take home exam which will assess the events and issues of the early church and the context, content and themes of selected epistles</p> <p>The Take Home Exam will have 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. • Each answer is to be of about 300 words. • Section A counts for two-thirds of the total examination marks. <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must answer one from three questions. • Your answer is to be of about 900 words. • Sections B counts for one-third of the total examination marks. <p>The total word length of your examination script is to be 2700 words, (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2430 and 2970 words long).</p>

ASSESSMENT NT502

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.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK(S)	DESCRIPTION
<p>1. Essay 2,500 words 50% of final Grade</p> <p>DUE DATE: Friday 11 September 2015</p>	<p>A 2500 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the NT church</p> <p>Choose ONE of the following essay topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why should Acts 2 be considered to be recording a special event in redemptive history, rather than setting a model for every Sunday? 2. Why does Luke give such full accounts of the trials of Paul before Felix and Festus? 3. What purpose does Luke's detailed account of Paul's dangerous journey to Rome serve within the development of Acts?
<p>2. Take home Exam 3000 words 50% of final Grade</p> <p>DUE DATE: Friday 13 November 2015</p>	<p>A take home exam which will assess the events and issues of the early church and the context, content and themes of selected epistles</p> <p>The Take Home Exam will have 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. • Each answer is to be of about 333 words. • Section A counts for one-third of the total examination marks. <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must answer two from five questions. • Each answer is to be of about 1000 words. • Sections B counts for two-thirds of the total examination marks. <p>The total word length of your examination script is to be 3000 words, (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2700 and 3300 words long).</p>

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 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.

Assessment 2: Take home exam

This is designed to assess how well you have mastered the breadth of the content of the subject and your ability to apply that content to specific questions. Submission will be via Moodle.

The best preparation is to know the course content and work through past exam questions. As you will see the questions may require you to apply the information to a particular question. The most common mistake students make is to give information, but not answer the question. Please do not simply repeat my lectures back to me. I will be looking for interaction with the text of Acts and evidence (i.e. footnotes) of having consulted at least the set text books.

RESOURCES FOR ESSAYS AND TAKE-HOME EXAM will be available to you via:

- the online full-text Journal Databases (link via the QTC Library webpage),
- The QTC Townsville Library at Willows Presbyterian Church, Thuringowa.
- Ebooks available through the QTC Library Catalogue on the QTC Library webpage,
- Books and chapters of books scanned or sent to you in Townsville from the QTC main library in Brisbane. QTC will send any books you request post-free and then you pay for the postage back. Chapters will be scanned and sent to your email address.
- Through the Northreach Bible College in Townsville which has said that our students would be welcome to borrow from them. Please call the Northreach Baptist Church on 4723 2371 to make a time to use the library. You will need to present your QTC student card as a form of ID.

Learning resources

The unit timetable on page 5 indicates chapters in the Text Books for pre-reading. 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 emphasised and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

ESSENTIAL REFERENCES – TEXTBOOKS

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.

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: Zondervan, 2005.

Students also need access to a good Bible dictionary that contains articles on each of the NT 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

Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Book of Acts in its Palestinian Setting*. Vol. 4 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1995.

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.

Levinskaya, Irene. *The Book of Acts in its Diaspora Setting*. Vol. 5 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1996.

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.

Winter, Bruce W. and Andrew D. Clarke, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Ancient Literary Setting*. Vol. 1 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1993.

This is only a short listing. Students should consult the ACT *Undergraduate Manual* or ACT *Post-Graduate Manual* for a fuller listing.

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