

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
MADISON LEARNING COMMUNITY
Acts (English Exegesis)
BI 567/CLPB ###
Fall 2025

Instructors

Rev. Tisha Brown, Dmin
Rev. Dr. Devin White, PhD

Course Description

This class explores the literary, religious, theological, historical, and social worlds of The Acts of the Apostles. It also attends to the reception of Acts throughout history and how the book is presently read in various social contexts. In the class, students will practice and develop various exegetical skillsets related to the interpretation of the New Testament and Acts specifically. In the act of interpretation, they will merge their own intersectional social worlds with that of Acts.

Course Format and Location

This course topic is taught simultaneously in two formats: as a for-credit graduate course (3 credits) and as a non-credit enrichment course. These two courses have overlapped instruction time and a shared course Moodle page but different coursework expectations. All students are expected to attend all in-person sessions. Students taking the for-credit course are required to do more reading and writing. For-credit students will receive a letter grade while enrichment students will be graded pass/fail for the course.

Both enrichment and for-credit students will engage with both online (Canvas) and in-person course elements. Canvas is where you will find the syllabus, weekly video lectures, and links for uploading your assignments. Lectures will be posted every Thursday to be watched before Tuesday's class.

This class meets in person at (TBD church, Madison, WI) on Tuesdays (6:00-7:40 pm) from 9/9/2025 through 12/8/2025 with a Saturday morning retreat in September. No class will be held on two dates, TBD. Optional community dinners are available at 5:30 pm.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Exegete a select passage from Acts, paying attention to the world behind, world of, and world in front of the text.
2. Identify and articulate central tenets of your own social context, explaining how these affect how you interpret the New Testament and Acts in particular.
3. As part of the interpretive process, make use of multiple biblical commentaries that adopt various exegetical, theological, and ideological perspectives.
4. Utilize tools in service of interpretation of Acts and select passages from it.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition (MDiv)
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity (MDiv)
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church (MDiv)
- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world (MAMD)
- Identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures (MAM)

Required Textbooks

TBD

Important Course Policies

1. Canvas: Course materials, schedules, and announcements will be posted at the course site on moodle.dbq.edu. It is the responsibility of each student to keep themselves current with this material.
2. Electronic Communication: Students are expected to check their UD e-mail accounts regularly for course updates. Instructions for forwarding e-mail from a dbq.edu account can be found here <https://www.dbq.edu/CampusLife/OfficeOfTechnology>.
3. Late work: It is always best to request an extension before the assignment deadline if you need one. Assignments submitted late will be marked down.
4. Cell phones and all other electronic devices that are not medically necessary will be turned off during class times unless permission is given by the instructor.
5. Due Dates: All assignments are due online on Mondays by 11:59 pm.
6. Attendance: Attending less than two-thirds of class sessions is an automatic “F” for the course, per seminary policy.
7. Academic Integrity: Be sure you know what [plagiarism](#) is. There is no good reason to plagiarize. Do not plagiarize. Do not include quotations or ideas without proper citation. Also, do not use AI to assist with writing your assignments without explicit instructor permission. Written assignments will be processed by a plagiarism and AI detector. We expect students to be honest, truthful, forthright and direct, and to value integrity. All suspected cases of lapses of academic integrity will be referred to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Seminary.
8. Students with Disabilities (ADA statement): Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center (563-589-3262 or ASC@dbq.edu).
9. Library: Librarians are available to assist you in finding and accessing resources: 563-589-3770, reference@dbq.edu.
10. This syllabus, course calendar, and other attending documents are subject to change during the semester.

Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act Policy Information

Title IX: The University of Dubuque is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/AboutUD/TitleIX/>

Jeanne Clery Act: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires the distribution of an Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report to all current faculty, staff, and students and notice of its availability to prospective students, faculty, and staff no later than October 1st of each year. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/SafetySecurity/JeanneCleryAct/>