Acts, Paul and Earliest Christianity
MWF 4th
Anderson 013

Instructor: James R. Mueller
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Office Hours: M 5th period
W, F 3rd period
or by appointment

Purpose: The purpose of the course is to expose the student to both canonical and non-canonical texts that helped to shape the various forms of earliest Christianities.

Required Texts:
- Sanders, E.P., Paul: The Apostle’s Life, Letters and Thought
- Jefford, Clayton, Reading the Apostolic Fathers

Books on Reserve: (for completing some Short Written Assignments)

Course Grade:
10% Class Participation/Attendance
30% Short Written Assignments (listed below – generally 1-page long – must complete all for Acts, and one for each Pauline letter, e.g., one of the three assignments for Corinthians)
20% In-class Presentations (one on an Apocryphal Act and one on an Apostolic Father text)
20% Quizzes – 2 Quizzes (Acts, Pauline Quotations)
20% Two Book Summaries (one academic book on Acts and one on Paul) – 1000 words min. each

Attendance is required at all class meetings. Excessive unexcused absenteeism will result in lowering of the student’s grade.

For UF policies on grading, please see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

ASSIGNMENTS

AUG 22  General Introduction to the Course

24  Earliest Christianity – What came first?

26  Luke/Acts
    Sanders, pp. 13-17
    *Assignment: Read the sections on authorship, date, etc, in one of the commentaries on reserve. Describe 5 things you found interesting/enlightening/confusing (include commentary author and page numbers).

29  Acts 1-4
    *Assignment: Read one of the commentaries on Acts 2 (e.g., Fitzmyer, pp. 231-275). Describe 5 things you found interesting/enlightening/confusing. (include commentary read and page numbers)

31  Acts 5-8
    *Assignment: Read a different commentary on Acts 6:8-7:54. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers)

SEP 2  Acts 9-12
    Sanders, pp. 17-82
    *Assignment: In Sanders direct discussion of Acts description of Paul’s conversion, describe 5 things . . . . (include page numbers)

5  LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

7  Acts 13-15:35
    *Assignment: Read a third one of the commentaries on Acts 15:1-35. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).

9  NO CLASS
12 Acts 15:36-19:41
*Assignment*: Read the fourth commentary on Acts 17:16-34. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).

14 Acts 20-23
*Assignment*: Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 20:1-38 (and any relevant introductory material on the “we” sections). More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).

16 Acts 24-26
*Assignment*: Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 26:1-30. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).

19 Acts 27-28
*Assignment*: Read any of the four commentaries on Acts 28:17-31. More 5 things (include commentary read and page numbers).

21 Apocryphal Acts – Introduction
Klauck, pp. 1-14

23 QUIZ 1 – Acts (canonical)

26 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)
Klauck, pp. 15-79

28 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)
Klauck, pp. 81-140

30 Apocryphal Acts – (student presentations)
Klauck, pp. 141-79

Klauck, pp. 231-63
5  Introduction to Paul
    Sanders, pp. 83-123
    *Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

7  Paul’s Travels, Dates of Letters
    Sanders, pp. 125-161
    *Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

10 1 Thessalonians
    Sanders, pp. 163-224
    *Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

12 2 Thessalonians
    *Assignment: Using examples from the biblical text, why do you think many scholars consider 2 Thessalonians not to be a Pauline letter?

14  NO CLASS – HOMECOMING

17 Corinthian Correspondence
    Sanders, pp. 225-271
    Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

19  Corinthian Correspondence
    Sanders, pp. 273-333
    Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

21  Corinthian Correspondence
    Sanders, pp. 335-442
    Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

24  Galatians
    Sanders, pp. 443-499
    Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

26  Galatians
    Sanders, pp. 501-574
    Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).

28  Philippians, Philemon
    Sanders, pp. 575-614
    *Assignment: More 5 things (include page numbers).
31 Romans
Sanders, pp. 615-669
**Assignment**: More 5 things (include page numbers).

**NOV 2** Romans
Sanders, pp. 671-705
**Assignment**: More 5 things (include page numbers).

4 Colossians and Pauline Conclusion
Sanders, pp. 707-725
*Assignment*: Using examples from the biblical text, why do you think many scholars consider Colossians not to be a Pauline letter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Post-Pauline – Ephesians; Pastoral Epistles; Hebrews; 1,2 Peter; Jude; Hebrews; James; Jude; 1,2,3 John; Revelation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>QUIZ 2 – Pauline Quotations</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>14</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16 | Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)
Jefford, pp. xvii-xxviii, 1-42 |
| 18 | Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)
(read Roberts-Donaldson translations of each letter – to Polycarp, Smyrnaeans, Philadelphians, Romans, Trallians, Magnesians, Ephesians)
Jefford, pp. 43-72 |
| [21] | **NO CLASS** |
| 23, 25 | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** |
Apostolic Fathers – Polycarp (student presentations)

Jefford, pp. 73-101

Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)

1 Clement: [http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/1clement-roberts.html](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/1clement-roberts.html)
Jefford, pp. 103-39

DEC 2
Apostolic Fathers – (student presentations)

Jefford, pp. 141-77

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5
Post-Pauline Letters and the Apostolic Fathers

7
Conclusions and Summary

BOOK SUMMARIES DUE – DEC 15