

# FAITHWALKERS: DISCIPLESHIP ACROSS CULTURES

## Living Testimonies to the Power of Full-bodied Faith in God

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Course Description: This course gives close examination to the ultimate apologetic in support of the Gospel and Christian faith: the lived lives of disciples of Christ. By looking at exemplary Christ-followers across the ages—men and women, black and white, Asian, Caucasian, African and Hispanic, rich and poor, in Europe and America, in Africa and South America, in India, Asia and the Pacific—students will be led to consider the claims of Christ on their own lives, with the ultimate goal being that presented information will lead to personal transformation. Story, video, text and interviews will be used throughout the course.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- (1) Explain why the lived life of faith is Christianity's ultimate apologetic.
- (2) Describe in detail the lives of at least 25 men and women of faith from different times, places, contexts and continents.
- (3) Articulate a biblical, theological, and historical rationale for becoming a "faithwalker."
- (4) Self-reflectively analyze his or her own faith.

Course Texts: NIV Bible (with both Old and New Testaments). Particular attention will be given to Hebrews 11.

Ruth Tucker, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 2004).

Article and internet readings (to be supplied and/or assigned by the instructor)

Course Schedule: The course will begin with an introduction and rationale for the study, addressing who "faithwalkers" are, how they live, and where they go. The introduction will include a discussion of why such study is important. Subsequent weeks will address the lives of various God-followers across the centuries, beginning with biblical characters and moving across Christian history up to the present. The course will end with a conclusion and review, challenging students to choose to be faithwalkers themselves.

A course calendar showing assignments due and testing dates is included at the end of this syllabus.

Assignments:

**Chapter tests.** The core text for the course will be the 2004 edition of Ruth Tucker's excellent work, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, composed of 18 chapters, each chapter approximately 20-25 pages in length. Beginning with the first century and continuing through the present, Tucker surveys the growth and expansion of the Christian faith biographically, examining the lives of persons from various cultures and countries who have lived faithfully, though always imperfectly, in their specific times and places.

As shown in the attached calendar, there will be 17 weekly chapter tests, with chapter 18 being included on the final exam at the end of the semester. Most tests will be administered on Fridays and will be short enough that they can be taken, graded and discussed during the class period.

Students absent the day before a test will still be required to take the test on the day it is scheduled.

Make-up tests will be administered in the media center lecture hall on Mondays and Wednesdays after school. *Make-up tests may be entirely essay tests.* **Very Important:** Tests not made up within five (5) school days will become a zero. See the Student Handbook for further information about make-up work.

**Section summaries.** Each chapter of Tucker's book highlights 5 or more "faithwalkers" from a specific time period or geographical region. Upon starting a new chapter each week, students will be assigned a particular person and/or section to summarize, providing oral highlights for the class of the most significant points of that person's life, ministry, and/or influence. Oral summaries will be assigned a grade as follows: excellent (15 pts.), good (13 pts.), fair (11 pts.)

**Interview presentation.** As a key component of the course, students will be assigned to interview a person who fits the criteria of a "faithwalker," an ordinary person, committed to Christ, who allows God to use him or her in both ordinary and extraordinary ways as he or she lives by faith each day.

Persons to be interviewed may be family members, GACS faculty, administration, staff, or students, people with whom class members worship each week or who are a part of their faith communities, missionaries or church leaders either in the U.S. or overseas, or other persons as approved by the instructor.

Oral presentations summarizing the interview will be made in class on block days according to the schedule in the attached calendar.

Presentations should be 7-9 minutes in length and should include visual aids, which may take the form of a video, PowerPoint, multi-media, pictures, personal memorabilia, etc. Students will be graded on both content (substance) and form (style). Further instructions regarding the interview process will be forthcoming.

**Mid-term and final exams.** A mid-term comprehensive exam will be administered after the first ten chapters of Tucker's book have been covered. At the end of the semester, a final exam will also be administered. However, it will cover only the final eight chapters of Tucker's book. Both of these exams will be worth considerably more points than the weekly chapter tests and should be prepared for accordingly by students.

**Required Materials:** Students should have two notebooks: (1) a bound, three-hole notebook and (2) a three-ring binder. Use the bound notebook for taking daily class and lecture notes. Keep it in the three-ring binder, which you should use for keeping handouts that will be distributed during the semester. **Note:** Experience indicates that students who keep their notes, notebooks, and other materials well-organized tend to make better grades than those who do not. (A word to the wise should be sufficient!)

Students are responsible for bringing a pen and/or pencil to class each day. If the instructor has to lend you a pen or pencil on test days, up to five points may be deducted from your test score.

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments should be completed on ruled looseleaf notebook paper. Points will be lost if these instructions are not followed.

Make sure you bring your course text, Bible, notebooks, and other required materials with you to class each day. Graded spot checks will occasionally be taken.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on a cumulative "total points" system rather than percentages. Grades will be posted and available for you and your parents to see on NetClassroom at least every two weeks.

The GACS senior high grading scale is as follows:

A - 90 or above	C - 74-79	F - 69 or lower
B - 80-89	D - 70-73	

**Homework:** Other than chapter readings and large assignments (i.e., interview presentation), written homework outside of class will be kept to a minimum. If and when outside homework is assigned, it must be turned in on the day and at the beginning of the class period that it is due.

Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment in question.  
Other than for excused absences, *late homework will not be accepted.*

Classroom Rules & Expectations:

Since the classroom setting constitutes a network in which the attitudes, actions, and behavior of each individual affect the entire group, the following general and specific guidelines are necessary in maintaining an orderly learning environment.

1. **General Guidelines:** You will be expected to follow school rules which apply to all school settings. See the Student Handbook for further instruction. Dress code and gum/candy/food/drink violations will be promptly addressed and receive appropriate consequences/referrals. (Clear plastic water bottles may be brought to class if used responsibly.)
2. **Specific Guidelines:** The following guidelines are essential for a healthy learning environment in this classroom:
  - a. Demonstrate mutual respect for your teacher & fellow students.
  - b. Speak up only when spoken to by the teacher, and listen respectfully to the comments of your peers. If you have a comment to make, raise your hand and you will be recognized. Side conversations and note passing are unacceptable and will be immediately addressed by the teacher.
  - c. Take care of personal hygiene needs (combing your hair, using bathroom facilities, putting on makeup, etc.) before coming to class. Brushes, makeup, combs, etc. used during class time will be taken up by the instructor and may or may not be returned to the student at a later date.
  - d. Be in class and in your seat on time with all needed materials for the day (pen and/or pencil, paper and notebook, textbook, etc.) Since the Senior High Bible Building is on the outer edge of the main campus, you will be given an extra minute to be in the classroom and in your seat after the tardy bell has rung. Tardies will be noted on the instructor's attendance chart. The school policy for tardies to class is as follows:
    - 4<sup>th</sup> offense - 1 unexcused class absence resulting in loss of exam exemption
    - 5<sup>th</sup> offense - administrative detention
    - 6<sup>th</sup> offense - two administrative detentions
    - 7<sup>th</sup> offense - Saturday school
    - 8<sup>th</sup> offense and all others - suspension
  - e. Stay awake and attentive in class. Sleeping or putting your head down will be interpreted as a sign of rudeness and disrespect. If you are too ill to be in class, check with the school office.

- f. Maintain personal integrity in the completion of class assignments, homework, projects, and tests. **Cheating (including copying homework or test papers) will not be tolerated. The penalty for cheating is an automatic zero for the assignment or test in question.** (See the Parent/Student Handbook for discussion of the Honor Code and penalties associated with cheating.)
- g. Respect the personal property of others. Other students' belongings and materials on the teacher's desk are not to be disturbed without specific permission. You should not use classroom computer hardware and video equipment unless instructed to do so by the teacher. Note: The thermostat for the cooling and heating system is off limits to students.
- h. No electronic or gaming devices are allowed in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off or set on silent. Failure to do so will result in their being taken up by the instructor and turned in to the high school office. (See the student handbook, p. 49, for policies and consequences regarding cell phones and electronic devices.)

3. **Classroom Rules: The Bottom Line!**

- (1) Follow directions—the FIRST time!
- (2) Listen, pay attention, and participate.
- (3) Keep heads up. No sleeping.
- (4) Bring required materials to class.
- (5) Respect others' property (including input to class).

4. **Rewards:** Compliance with classroom rules will result in the following:

- (1) Praise, encouragement and positive feedback.
- (2) Improved personal and academic performance.
- (3) Enhanced self-esteem.

5. **Consequences:** Non-compliance with classroom rules will result in the following (which will be noted in the teacher's gradebook):

- (1) 1st violation: Warning
- (2) 2nd violation: Conversation with instructor following class

- (3) 3rd violation: Parent contact
- (4) 4th violation: 40-minute detention
- (5) 5th violation: Administrative referral
- (6) Severe clause: Immediate dismissal from class; dean's office.

*What constitutes a situation resulting in "severe" consequences? A defiant attitude or abusive behavior (i.e., verbal or physical abuse of another student or the instructor, blatant refusal to follow the instructor's directions) on the part of a student will result in immediate ejection from class and subsequent contact with parents and administration.*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If at any point in the semester a student is asked to leave the room during a class period due to misbehavior, his or her exam exemption privilege will be automatically revoked.

Help Sessions:

I will be in my room from 7:30-8:05 a.m. each Thursday morning for help sessions. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to attend. I may also be reached at other times by appointment. If you need to contact me at home, my number is 770-254-8081. My campus voice mail extension is #549 and my e-mail address is [ahenderson@greateratlantachristian.org](mailto:ahenderson@greateratlantachristian.org). I look forward to learning together with you in class this semester!

The GACS Honor Code:

In order to maintain honor in my relationships,  
I agree to do what is right,  
to speak the truth,  
and to strive for integrity in all that I do.  
Therefore, I will not be involved in  
*lying, cheating, or stealing.*  
If I do vary from this path of honor,  
I will accept the correction from others  
and the established consequences of this school.  
Honor is a goal that I seek to attain.

*Return this page to the instructor with appropriate signatures*

Dr. Henderson, I have read and am familiar with the course syllabus for junior Bible for the spring semester, the classroom guidelines, and the GACS Honor Code. I understand and acknowledge my responsibility as a student for making this class a beneficial educational and spiritual experience for myself and my fellow students and instructor.

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Student signature

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Date signed

Dr. Henderson, I have read and am familiar with the course syllabus for junior Bible for the spring semester, the classroom guidelines, and the GACS Honor Code. I understand and acknowledge both my student's responsibility and my responsibility as a parent for making the classroom a place where genuine learning and spiritual transformation can occur.

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Parent signature

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Date signed