

#217 General Epistles
Western Reformed Seminary
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Fall 2010

COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

By successfully completing this class the student will be familiar with the special introduction of each general epistle, and be able to defend the text's statements regarding introductory matters against intelligent opposition. He will know a general outline of each book, and will have read a commentary and have discussed in class the text of each book. He also will have completed a major assignment involving translation, sermon or lesson preparation, or detailed research in the general epistles.

Reading assignments

The following books are to be read by the dates indicated on the Course Schedule:

First Reading Assignment

- Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude, in an English translation
- Everett F. Harrison, *Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 18-22; OR Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, ch. 19-22, 24; OR D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 17-20, 22
- Douglas J. Moo, *The Letter of James (TNTC)*
- Wayne A. Grudem, *The First Epistle of Peter (TNTC)*
- Michael Green, *The Second Epistle General of Peter and the General Epistle of Jude (TNTC)*

Second Reading Assignment

- Donald Guthrie, *The Letter to the Hebrews (TNTC)*

Major assignment

In addition to the required reading, each student shall select one major assignment. Select from the following four possibilities:

- 1) Translate the following portions from Greek to English, using the format described in class:

James 1:19-27
2:14-26
Jude 5-16
1 Peter 3:17-22
5:1-11
2 Peter 1:16-21
Hebrews 1:1-14
2:14-18
4:14-16
5:7 - 6:8
7:1-10
10:19-31
11:39 - 12:6
13:4-14

- 2) Prepare 8 sermon outlines or Bible lesson outlines from one or more of the general epistles.
- 3) Prepare a research paper of about 3,000 words on an interesting or controversial passage in the general epistles. Use the format specified in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
- 4) Conduct at least 40 hours of concentrated research on a particular aspect or passage of the general epistles. Document the time spent, and write a brief report explaining the procedures and results of your investigation.

Grading

The midterm and final examinations will count 25% each for the final grade; the major assignment will count 30%; and the readings will count 20%.

Course schedule

We will attempt to follow this lecture schedule as closely as possible. Assignment due dates are indicated also.

Sept. 8 Introduction to the course

22
29 (no class)
Oct. 6 (NW Presbytery meeting; no class)
13
20
27 Midterm Examination; First Reading Assignment Due
Nov. 3
10
17
24
Dec. 1
8 Major Assignment Due
15 Final Examination, Second Reading Assignment Due