

#217 General Epistles
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2008-2009

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 times indicated:

First Reading Assignment (to be completed before taking the midterm exam)

- James, Jude, 1 & 2 Peter, in an English translation
- Everett F. Harrison, *Introduction to the New Testament* (1971), 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*
- Wayne A. Grudem, *The First Epistle of Peter*
- Michael Green, *The Second Epistle General of Peter and the General Epistle of Jude*

Second Reading Assignment (to be completed before taking the final exam)

- Hebrews, in an English translation
- Donald Guthrie, *The Letter to the Hebrews*

Examinations

There will be two examinations over the printed notes to the course. The questions will be selected from the Study Questions provided. The Midterm Examination will cover the questions on James, Jude, and 1-2 Peter. The Final Examination will cover the questions on the book of Hebrews.

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%.