

#217 General Epistles  
Western Reformed Seminary  
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Fall 2016

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### ***Course description***

Special introduction to the epistles of Peter, James, and Jude, and the Epistle to the Hebrews; outline and general teaching of each book.

### ***Course objectives***

By successfully completing this class you 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. You will know a general outline of each book, and will have read a commentary and have discussed in class the text of each book. You also will have completed a major assignment involving translation, sermon or lesson preparation, or detailed research in the general epistles.

### ***Course outcomes***

By successfully completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Pass this part of an English Bible examination
2. before a presbytery or similar body
3. Preach or teach Bible lessons or sermons on these books of the New Testament
4. Compare and relate the content of these epistles to the rest of Scripture and to Reformed theology
5. Defend and teach the various doctrines taught in these epistles
6. Discuss and defend the authorship and background information for each of these letters
7. Engage in further study and exegesis of these 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 D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), ch. 19-22, 24
- 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, you will select one major assignment. Select one 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**

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Required reading 20%
- Major assignment 20%
- Midterm examination 25%
- Final examination 25%

### **Course schedule**

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

Sept.	12	Introduction to the course
	19	
	26	
Oct.	3	
	10	
	17	(no class); First Reading Assignment Due
	24	Midterm Examination
	31	
Nov.	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	Major Assignment Due
Dec.	5	Second Reading Assignment Due
	12	Final Examination

