

#217 General Epistles
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2016-2017

COURSE INFORMATION

Course objectives

In this class you will become 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 should be able to do the following:

- Intelligently discuss the authorship and date of each of the General Epistles, and defend your view against intelligent opposition, especially against liberal criticism.
- Teach or preach through any of these epistles.
- Know and expound the main themes of these books.
- Intelligently describe the various major interpretations of difficult passages in these books.
- Pass questions about these books in an ordination exam in English Bible.
- Have a strong sense of the spiritual significance of these books.
- Gain spiritual strength and resolve to live by faith in God's promises and to hope in his promises.

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*, ch. 18-22; OR D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2nd ed.), ch. 19-22, 24

- 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

- Attendance and participation 15%
- Reading assignments 20%
- Major assignment 25%
- Midterm examination 20%
- Final examination 20%