

1-1-2005

## NT 740 Exegesis of General Epistles

Ruth Anne Reese

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Reese, Ruth Anne, "NT 740 Exegesis of General Epistles" (2005). *Syllabi*. Book 2864.  
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2864>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact [thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu).

**NT 740 Exegesis of General Epistles  
Jude, 2 Peter, James**

**Final Version**

Ruth Anne Reese  
Office FM 105  
ruthanne\_reese@asburyseminary.edu

Spring 2005  
3 semester units  
x. 2184

---

**Description:** A close reading of the General Epistles (James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude) with special attention given to literary, socio-historical, and theological understandings of the epistles. May include readings from any or all of the General Epistles in a given semester.

**Prerequisites:** NT 501/502; NT 520; and, NT(IBS) 510 or 511.

**Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Employ a range of exegetical approaches relevant to the interpretation of the General Epistles and apply those approaches to other NT books of similar genre;
- Understand the General Epistles within their socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts;
- Identify central issues in the critical study of the General Epistles;
- Articulate the importance of one's own presuppositions in the task of interpretation;
- Articulate primary theological and ethical concerns of General Epistles;
- Demonstrate awareness of how the theological and ethical concerns of the General Epistles contribute to those of the canon and of constructive theology and ethics;
- Differentiate between critical, homiletic, and devotional commentaries; and
- Evaluate critically the usefulness of secondary literature in the study of the NT.

**Comprehensive Greek Students should be able to:**

- Diagram passages in the Greek New Testament;
- Translate with minimal lexical assistance any passage from the General Epistles assigned for the course;
- Perform rudimentary exercises in text criticism.

**Course Requirements and Reading:**

- Class preparation, attendance, and participation (10%): Each student should prepare for each class by (1) translating the assigned texts, (2) making their own notes on the text, and (3) comparing their observations with those made in one of

the required commentaries below. The attendance policy is that any more than 6 absences will result in a failing grade.

- Translation: Once during the semester the student will lead the class in a discussion of the translation of the text. This discussion should note the following aspects of translation: 1) significant text critical issues 2) significant translation issues (i.e., multiple word meanings, multiple grammatical possibilities, etc.) 3) significant theological issues generated by the translation with particular attention to the theological tradition (e.g., Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley et al.). (25%)
- Commentary Review (15%): Write a critical review comparing and contrasting two of the required commentaries below (both commentaries must address the same biblical text). The commentary review should be between 5-6 pages in length (i.e., approx. 1,250-1,500 words). General guidelines on book reviews are available in my folder on the Intranet.
- Final Paper or Project (30%): A research paper or project on a topic of your choosing related to Jude, 2 Peter, or James. The paper may address a theological or exegetical topic or some combination of the two. If you would like to turn in a project in some other form besides that of a paper, please talk to me about what you would like to do and how we can go about doing that. For details about what is expected for a research paper, please see the document in the course folder.
- Final Translation Exam (20%): Be prepared to provide a translation of any passage from Jude, 2 Peter, or James. The translation should contain appropriate notes related to the translation. A small lexicon will be the only allowable resource.

### **Required Reading:**

Chester, Andrew and Ralph Martin. *The Theology of the Letters of James, Peter, and Jude*.

New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Letter of James*. Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1995.

Maynard-Reid, Pedrito. *Poverty and Wealth in James*. Orbis Books, 1987.

Reese, Ruth Anne. *Jude and 2 Peter*. [This will be available via the Intranet, details to be provided in class.]

### **Required: pick one for this epistle**

#### **James**

Martin, Ralph. *James*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX: Word, 1988.

Wall, Robert. *Community of the Wise*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997.

### **2 Peter & Jude: pick one for this epistle**

Bauckham, Richard. *Jude, 2 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX: Word, 1983.

Green, Michael. *The Second Epistle General of Peter and the General Epistle of Jude*. 2nd, ed. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.  
Neyrey, Jerome. *2 Peter, Jude*. Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1993.

### **Recommended Reading/Bibliography:**

Bauckham, Richard. *James*. London: Routledge, 1999.  
Bede. *Commentary on the Seven Catholic Epistles*. Trans. David Hurst. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publishers, 1985.  
Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles*. Trans. John Owen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.  
DeMoss, Matthew S. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of New Testament Greek*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.  
Green, Joel B. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.  
Hartin, Patrick J. *A Spirituality of Perfection: Faith in Action in the Letter of James*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999.  
Schertz, Mary and Perry Yoder. *Seeing the Text: Exegesis for Students of Greek and Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.  
Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.  
Wesley, John. "On Friendship with the World" Sermon 80. Available at [http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_wesley/sermons/080.htm](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/080.htm)  
— "On Patience" Sermon 83. Available at [http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_wesley/sermons/083.htm](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/083.htm)

### **Instructions for Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading Criteria**

Asbury Seminary defines grades using the following criteria (catalog, p. 24):

A= Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives  
B= Good work: substantial achievement of course objectives  
C= Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives  
D= Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives  
F= Unacceptable work: failure of course work

A plus (+) or minus (-) indicates positions between categories (for example, B+ = very good; C- = slightly below acceptable, etc.).

### **Course Schedule**

Week 1 Introduction to Exegesis:

Thurs Further Introduction to Exegesis

- Required: Begin reading Chester & Martin on Jude
- Week 2 Exegetical Approaches to the General Epistles: Demonstration in Jude  
Required: Finish Chester & Martin on Jude and begin Reese  
Recommended: Neyrey's Introduction pp. 1-20
- Thurs Exegetical Approaches to the General Epistles: Demonstration in Jude
- Week 3 What Constitutes a Theological Approach? Praxis in Jude  
Required: Finish Reese; Finish Chester and Martin
- Thurs A Theological Approach to Jude  
Due: Commentary Review
- Week 4 Introduction to 2 Peter  
Required: Begin Commentary
- Thurs 2 Peter 1  
Required: Commentary
- Week 5 2 Peter 1  
Required: Commentary
- Thurs 2 Peter 2  
Required: Commentary
- Week 6 2 Peter 2  
Required: Commentary
- Thurs 2 Peter 3  
Required: Commentary
- Week 7 2 Peter 3  
Required: Commentary
- Thurs Theology of 2 Peter  
Required: Chester & Martin
- Week 8 Introduction to James  
Required: Begin Commentary; begin Maynard
- Thurs James 1  
Required: Commentary
- Week 9 James 1  
Required: Commentary
- Thurs James 2  
Required: Commentary
- Week 10 James 2  
Required: Commentary

Thurs James 3  
Required: Commentary

Week 11 James 4  
Required: Commentary

Thurs James 4  
Required: Commentary

Week 12 James 5  
Required: Commentary  
Due: Major Paper or Project

Thurs James 5  
Required: Commentary

Week 13 Theology of James  
Required: Chester & Martin; Maynard

Thurs Theology of the General Epistles

Final Exam: Monday, May 16th 1-3pm