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NT 740 James and 1 Peter: The New Testament, Theology, and Ethics

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NT/DO740 James and 1 Peter: The New Testament, Theology, and Ethics

Joel B. Green, Instructor
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Fall 1999
3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: 15

Description
What is the relationship between biblical exegesis, on the one hand, and the disciplines of theology and ethics on the other? This seminar will employ these two New Testament letters, James and 1 Peter, as case studies in the relationships among these theological disciplines. Prerequisites: NT500 or 501, NT520, and either DO501 or CS700.

Objectives
Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able:

• To discuss knowledgeably important exegetical issues in the study of James and 1 Peter, the substance of these letters, and the potential contribution of each to theology and ethics;
• To differentiate between the tasks of exegesis, “doing theology,” and engaging in ethical discourse;
• To apply one or more models of theology hermeneutics to the study of these letters, and to other epistolary texts in the New Testament;
• To analyze the rhetoric of an epistolary text in order to reflect on how a New Testament author has engaged in the theological task, and to apply the results of that analysis to one’s own theological undertaking;
• To propose with respect to particular texts how one might work between the two horizons of theological hermeneutics; and
• To evaluate the relative success of attempts to deploy the Scriptures in theological and ethical discourse.

Course Requirements and Reading
On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carole Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 10th ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997).
Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts in James or 1 Peter (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the assigned New Testament text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following commentaries. (15%)

For James


For 1 Peter


Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than three sessions may be missed.

(2) Critical Reviews: Each student should complete three book reviews, one from each of the three sections below, during the course of the semester. Each review should be approximately 1250-1500 words (i.e., 5-6 pages) in length, typed, double-spaced. (45%)

Section One: 1 Peter and James

Due Date for James: 28 September 1999
Due Date for 1 Peter: 28 October 1999

For James:

Cargal, Timothy B. Restoring the Diaspora: Discursive Structure and Purpose in the Epistle of James. Society of Biblical Literature
For 1 Peter:

Section Two: Scripture and Ethics
Due Date: 12 October 1999

Section Three: Scripture and Theology
Due Date: 16 November 1999

More information regarding my expectations of book reviews can be located on the Asbury network in the Media Center: T:\Facibm\Green\Assignments\BookReviews.

(3) A Research Assignment: An essay of approximately 15-18 pages (i.e., 3750-4500 words), typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected theological/ethical motif within either James or 1 Peter. This paper should evidence a close reading of the text, critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study, and constructive work in theology and/or ethics. Due by 4:00 pm, 16 December 1999. (40%)

More information regarding my general expectations of research papers can be located on the Asbury network in the Media Center: T:\Facibm\Green\Assignments\Research Papers.

**Course Schedule**

- **7 Sept** 1. Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, and Ethics: The Problematic
- **9 Sept** 2. Reading James Today: Some Assumptions
- **14 Sept** 3. Reading James (1:1-27)
- **16 Sept** 4. Reading James (2:1-26)
- **21 Sept** 5. Reading James (2:1-26; 3:1-4:12)
- **23 Sept** 6. Reading James (3:1-4:12)
- **28 Sept** 7. Reading James (4:13-5:20)

**Due: Review for Section One Books (James)**

- **30 Sept** 8. Reading James (4:13-5:20)
- **5 Oct** 9. James and Contemporary Ethical Discourse
- **7 Oct** 10. James and the Ethics of Speech
- **12 Oct** 11. James and the Ethics of Faith and Wealth

**Due: Review for Section Two Books**

- **14 Oct** 12. James and the Ethics of Faith and Wealth
- **19 Oct** 13. Reading 1 Peter Today: Some Assumptions
- **21 Oct** 14. Reading 1 Peter (1:1-2; 1:3-2:10)
- **26 Oct** 15. Reading 1 Peter (2:11-4:11)
- **28 Oct** 16. Reading 1 Peter (2:11-4:11)

**Due: Review for Section One Books (1 Peter)**

- **2 Nov** 17. Reading 1 Peter (4:12-5:11)
- **4 Nov** 18. Reading 1 Peter (4:12-5:11; 5:12-14)
- **9 Nov** 19. 1 Peter and “Canonical Conversations”
- **11 Nov** 20. 1 Peter and Constructive Theology
- **16 Nov** 21. 1 Peter and Christology

**Due: Review for Section Three Books**

- **18 Nov** 22. 1 Peter and Eschatology
- **30 Nov** 23. 1 Peter and “Household Relations”
- **2 Dec** 24. 1 Peter and Theodicy
- **7 Dec** 25. 1 Peter and Christian Identity
- **9 Dec** 26. Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, and Ethics
- **16 Dec** **Due: Research Assignment**

**Encouraged Reading**


