NT 740 Exegetical Studies in the General Epistles

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NT740 Exegetical Studies in the General Epistles

Joel B. Green, Instructor

Final Version

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Office Hours: Wed’s 1:00–2:00; Thur’s 1:30–3:00

Catalog 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(IBS)510 or 511, NT520, and 501/502 or equivalent.

Fall 2006 Semester Focus: James and 1 Peter.

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

- to employ a range of exegetical approaches relevant to the interpretation of James and 1 Peter, and to apply those approaches to other NT letters;
- to understand James and 1 Peter within their socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts;
- to identify central issues in the critical study of James and 1 Peter;
- to articulate the importance of one’s own presuppositions in the task of interpretation;
- to articulate primary theological and ethical concerns of James and 1 Peter;
- to demonstrate awareness of how the theological and ethical concerns of James and 1 Peter contribute to those of the canon and of constructive theology and ethics;
- to differentiate between critical and homiletical/devotional commentaries and studies of James and 1 Peter, as well as other NT books;
- to evaluate critically the usefulness of secondary literature in the study of James and 1 Peter; and
- to demonstrate proficiency in lexical semantics, identify grammatical constructions, engage in syntactical analyses, diagram passages, translate with minimal lexical assistance, and perform rudimentary exercises in text criticism in James and 1 Peter.

Course Reading: Required


Students are expected to interact significantly with at least one of the following commentaries for James and 1 Peter.


Additional bibliography is included within the Course Schedule, below.

**Course Requirements**

*On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see either Patrick H. Alexander, et al., eds., The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999); or Carole Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses (11th ed.; Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).*

*Students should submit written materials on time. Late papers will receive no written comments. Assignments that are more than one week late will be penalized one-third of a grade per day. Late assignments related to class presentations will not be received.*

(1) **Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation:** Participants should prepare for each class session by carefully reading the assigned texts in James or 1 Peter (see “Session Focus,” below), comparing their observations with at least one of the required commentaries, and preparing translations as assigned weekly (see “Trans.,” below).

*Attendance at and readiness to participate in all sessions of the course is expected. Persons who attend all sessions of the course will have 2 points added to their final grade.*

(2) **Outlines of James and 1 Peter:** Prepare an outline for each of these two books, including justification for each decision. The outline should cover the whole book and reach the level of individual units (that is, a stretch of text that has a unity, adequate size for interpretation of its parts, and a sense of completeness; textual markers in letters include such elements as connectives [e.g., “therefore” or “above all”] and the use of direct address [i.e., the vocative]). Each completed, annotated outline should extend no more than four pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins, typed, double-spaced). Due at the beginning of class — for James, 13 September; for 1 Peter, 25 October. (10% — 40% for James, 60% for 1 Peter)

(3) **A Critical Review:** A review of one of the books on the “Secondary Reading” list, below, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due — in hard copy to the Instructor at the beginning of class, in e-copy to the Class Icon (either *.doc or *.pdf), and in a 15-minute oral presentation — on the
date assigned in the Course Schedule. Participants will be able to sign up for a Review on 6 September. For my expectations for Critical Reviews, see the Course Center. (20%)

(4) Translation Consultant: Each participant is expected to serve as “the expert” on the translation assignment for one week (see “Trans.,” below). This involves both leading the class through the translation of the assigned text and serving as the expert on all aspects of translation and with reference to any text-critical issues. A sign-up sheet will be available on 6 September. (15%)

(5) Final Exam: Scheduled during exam week, the final exam will consist of two parts. The first part (65%) will be the translation into good, idiomatic English of a text or texts chosen from James and/or 1 Peter. The participant may bring his or her own lexicon (BDAG or LSJ); however, the text will be of sufficient length and the time of sufficient brevity to allow only minimal usage of the lexicon. The second part (35%) will consist of a series of three essay questions, from which the participant may choose one, concerned with an overarching issue related to the reading or the message of James and/or 1 Peter. (20%)

(6) Research Paper: A major essay (i.e., approximately 2500 words, using a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within either James or 1 Peter. For my expectations for Research Assignments, see the Course Center. Due by 4:00 pm, 14 Dec. (35%)

For bibliographical help, see New Testament Abstracts (available in the library) and, for 1 Peter, Anthony Casurella, Bibliography of Literature on First Peter (NTTS 23; Leiden: Brill, 1996).
## Course Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Focus</th>
<th>Trans.</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Secondary Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>The “Plan” of James; Jas 1:1-27</td>
<td>1:2-8</td>
<td>Outline of James</td>
<td>David Hutchison Edgar, <em>Has God Not Chosen the Poor?</em> (Sheffield, 2001)</td>
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<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>James, Theology, and Ethics</td>
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<td>Richard Bauckham, <em>James</em> (Routledge, 1999)</td>
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<td>22 Nov</td>
<td>No Class — Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Dec</td>
<td>1 Peter, Theology, and Ethics</td>
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<td>Sharon C. Pearson, <em>The Christological and Rhetorical Properties of 1 Peter</em> (Mellen, 2001)</td>
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<td>?? Dec</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>14 Dec</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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