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NT 740 Exegesis of General Epistles Jude, 1 and 2 Peter

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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:

• 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 (5%): 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 (25%): 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) the location of the assigned section in relationship to what comes before it 3) significant translation issues (i.e., multiple word meanings, multiple grammatical possibilities, etc.) 4) significant theological issues generated by the translation with particular attention to the theological tradition (e.g., Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley et al.).

• Commentary Review (20%): 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 the course folder on the Intranet.

• Final Paper or Project (30%): A research paper or project on a topic of your choosing related to Jude or 1-2 Peter. 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 or 1-2 Peter. The translation should contain appropriate notes related to the translation. A list of hapaxlegomenoi and other rarely used words will be provided.

Required Reading:

Required: pick one for each epistle
1 Peter

2 Peter & Jude

Recommended Reading/Bibliography:

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.).

You will receive letter grades from me. These are the numbers I use with those grades.
A+ = 98-100  A = 95  A- = 92
B+ = 88  B = 85  B- = 92
C+ = 78  C = 75  C- = 72
D+ = 68  D = 65  D- = 62
F = TBD

Course Schedule

Week 1  Introduction to Exegesis
Thurs  Further Introduction to Exegesis: Demonstration in Jude
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  What Constitutes a Theological Approach? Praxis in Jude
Week 3  A Theological Approach to Jude
       Required: Finish Reese; Finish Chester and Martin
Thurs  Introduction to 1 Peter
       Due: Commentary Review
Week 4  1 Peter 1:1-12
       Required: Begin Commentary
Thurs  1 Peter 1:13-25
       Required: Commentary
Week 5  1 Peter 2: 1-10
       Required: Commentary
Thurs  1 Peter 2: 11-25
       Required: Commentary
Week 6  1 Peter 3: 1-12
       Required: Commentary
Thurs  1 Peter 3: 13-22
       Required: Commentary
Week 7  1 Peter 4: 1-11
       Required: Commentary
Thurs  1 Peter 4: 12-19
       Required: Commentary
Week 8  1 Peter 5: 1-14
       Required: Commentary
Thurs  Theology of 1 Peter
       Required: Commentary, Chester & Martin, Finish Green
Week 9  Theology of 1 Peter
Thurs  Intro to 2 Peter
       Required: Commentary
Week 10 2 Peter 1:1-11
       Required: Commentary
Thurs  2 Peter 1: 12-21
       Required: Commentary
Week 11  2 Peter 2: 1-10a
Required: Commentary

Thurs  2 Peter 2: 10b-22
Required: Commentary

Week 12  2 Peter 3: 1-13
Required: Commentary
Due: Major Paper or Project

Thurs  No Class

Week 13  2 Peter 3: 14-18 & Theology of 2 Peter
Required: Finish Chester & Martin; Finish Reese

Thurs  Theology of 2 Peter

Final Exam