



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY

NT 650-2-1 Peter, James, Jude and John (3)

Winter 2009

Instructor: R. R. Remin

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Class Times: WF 11:15-12:30

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Class Location: L2100

Course Description

An exploration of the epistles of Peter, James, John, and Jude. (Hebrews may be discussed but only in general terms). These often under emphasized books reflect a major stream of early Christian thought and often provide the evidence of diversity within the unity of the NT. The approach is primarily an exposition of these books in their argumentative, historical, literary and theological contexts. Attention will be given to practical concerns of application and hermeneutical issues raised in applying them in the global world today.

James, Peter, Jude and John along with Hebrews have generally been referred to as the catholic (general) epistles.

Course Objectives

1. Learn as much as you can about each of these New Testament writings.
2. Learn what are the scholarly points of debate.
3. Learn what are the points of debate in the evangelical tradition.
4. Begin to reflect on the relevance of these documents to our community of faith today.

Required Texts

Students are required to read these epistles in modern English translations such as the *New Revised Standard Version*, *New American Standard Version* and *The Message*.

Students who have taken Greek are expected to use the Greek New Testament in either the *United Bible Society 4th Edition* or Nestle-Aland Greek text of the 27th edition.

Students are always encouraged to read and study the texts as well as they can before they turn to the commentaries. Although commentaries are almost always “thought stoppers,” student’s are encouraged to read as widely as possible in the secondary literature.

There are no specific commentaries or texts required for this course. A reading list will be provided from which students are expected to read extensively. The four best and most highly recommended commentaries at this point in time for this course are the relevant four in the *Word Biblical Commentary* series. This series is generally most excellent for their consistent ability to inform their readers of the scholarship up to the date of their publication. Students are advised to investigate the

purchase of the whole series in electronic format at substantial financial savings. Some platforms provide extremely efficient access to the specific sections of the commentaries.

Ralph P. Martin, *James* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1988).
J. Ramsey Michaels, *1 Peter* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1989).
Richard J. Bauckham, *2 Peter, Jude* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1990).
Stephen S. Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John* (rev. ed., Word Biblical Commentary, 2008).

Even more impressive is the scholarship represented in the *Hermeneia* series of commentaries which are particularly good at presenting the texts in their ancient social, religious and historical context and detailing their grammatical complexity. This series is also available in various electronic formats.

Dibelius and Greener, *James* (rev. ed., *Hermeneia*, 1988).
Georg Strecker, *Johannine Letters* (*Hermeneia*, 1990).
Paul Achtemeier, *Peter 1* (*Hermeneia*, 1996).

Two other series of commentaries, the *New International Greek Text Commentary* and the *New International Commentary of the New Testament*, serve us well. The *NIGTC* is very useful even if one does not know Greek well or at all. Many of the commentaries in these series have been issued in revised editions. For example, the first edition of Adamson's commentary in the *NICNT* series actually predates David's in the *NIGTC*. Incidentally Peter David's was professor of New Testament at Ambrose Seminary (Canadian Theological Seminary) just after his work was published. It is excellent.

Peter H. Davids, *The Epistle of James* (*NIGTC*, 1990).
James B. Adamson, *The Epistle of James* (rev. ed., *NICNT*, 1990).

In addition to commentaries there are also numerous monographs (books) which address various aspects of these epistles and provide bibliographies, introductions and in depth studies. Here are a few examples.

James B. Adamson, *James: The Man and His Message* (2001).
William Dalton, *Christ's Proclamation to the Spirits: 1 Peter 3:18-4:6* (1989).
Regis Martin, *The Suffering of Love: Christ's Descent into the Hell of Human Hopelessness* (1995).

There are also articles in journals, *festschriften*, and other collections of papers various scholars.

Robert L. Webb. "The Petrine Epistles, Recent Developments and Trends," *The Face of New Testament Studies*, ed. Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, Baker/ Apollos, 2004) 373-390.

Dennis Sylva, "A 1 Peter Bibliography," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 25.1 (1982): 75-89.

In addition there is no shortage of lighter reading on these epistles such as this one.

Kenneth O. Gangel, "Pictures of the Church in 1 Peter," *Grace Journal* 10.3 (1969): 29-35.

Many professors and educational institutions publish their syllabi with bibliographies and even lectures on the internet. Search and make use of the best of these. Be critical of the quality of your sources. Pay attention to the credibility of the educational institution, the church which provides the web site, and the scholar who publishes articles on his own site as opposed to publication in referred journals. Some of these bibliographies will also provide electronic links to journals and/or Amazon, etc. Here is just one example.

<http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/1peter.php#top>

Course Schedule

This class meets Tuesdays from 8:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This class does not meet during the week of Winterim Modular Courses (February).

There may also be a “community day” at some point in the semester.

Submit at least one assignment by the end of each month.

The last class meets on April 14.

Absolute deadline for late assignments is April 23 and beyond this date no professor can grant extensions. Extensions beyond this date must be applied for at the Registrar’s office.

Course Requirements

1. Attend all sessions of this course. Absences will be reflected as a reduction in your grade even though no points are assigned for “attendance.”
2. Read these epistles repeatedly. Read extensively and compile a report of this reading. The report shall include the number of pages read from each source and supply very brief notation on each item.
3. Select various projects as outlined below for a total of 100 marks.

40 marks each

Exegetical commentary on select passage. (Pre-approval is necessary and details of expectations will be provided.)

e.g. James 2.14ff
James 5.13ff
2 Peter 1.3ff
1 Peter 3.18ff

15 marks each

Short papers on various scholarly discussions. (5 pages. Identify the problem and the proposed solutions as well as pay attention to the theological implications of the various solutions.) These are examples.

- The authorship of Peter
- The authorship of the Johannine epistles
- How many Jameses are there in the NT? (Correct answer is “zero.” They’re all Jacobs!.) Which one wrote “Epistle of James.”
- What is the genre of James and what are the implications for preaching/teaching and application?
- How Jewish is James?
- The Epistles of John and the Gospel? (Smalley)
- The identity of the addressees (Christian/non-Christian) and the nature of the problem being addressed.
- *ou(toj and e)keinoj* in First John
- Peter and Paul
- Diversity within the first century of the church
- James and NT canon
- Exegetical notes on selected passages.
 - test the spirits
 - idolatry

15 marks each

Theological Papers

- Christian self identity in Petrine epistles
- Christological images in Petrine epistles
- Ecclesiological images in Petrine epistles
- Faith and action in James
- idolatry in 1 John
- healing in James
- Does the message of James apply to the Gentile church (Matthew Henry)
- Suffering in Peter
- Christology in 1 John
- love in 1 John
- truth in 1 John

15 marks each

Sermon/lesson plans based on specific texts

Course Grade

The grade will be calculated as follows.

Reading Report	20%
Written Assignments as above	80%

Absenteeism will result in a reduction of grade. Each student may miss two class sessions with impunity. However, there after each session which is missed will result in a five percent reduction in the final grade.

Important Notes

1. Remember The Rules For The Class
 - Have fun!
 - Make mistakes!
 - Ask dumb questions! There are no dumb questions!
 - Cheat in class!

Consider this classroom a safe zone! There are no topics which are off limit.
2. All hand written tests and examinations must be written in ink. All other assignments must be submitted in hard copy. You must use Greek and/or Hebrew fonts, if you know Greek and/or Hebrew. Do not use Greek and/or Hebrew if you do not know these languages; to do use breaks one of the ten commandments. Assignments must not contain any “fancy formatting” that involves colours, unusual fonts or variations in font size. Email me and I will supply you with Hebrew and Greek fonts.
3. You may contact your professor by various means.
 - a. Office Hours on campus:
 - i. Monday After lunch if there are not meetings.
 - ii. Tuesday When not in class. Over lunch and after lunch.
 - iii. Wednesday Between first and second class or after lunch.
 - iv. Thursday By appointment only.
 - v. Friday Between first and second class or after lunch.
 - b. Email in the office: rremin@ambrose.edu
 - c. Voice in the office: 410-2000 ext 7906
4. Absences are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all.

5. The instructor shall comply with all academic regulations as printed in the current *Catalogue* and *Student Handbook*, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these regulations. The following academic policies are particularly relevant.
- **Add/Drop Policy:** Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.
 - **Course Extensions or Alternative Examination Requests:** Students may not turn in course work after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar's Office two weeks prior to examination week (noted as the "Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests" on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."
 - **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The seminary maintains a zero tolerant policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

1 Peter

Bibliographies

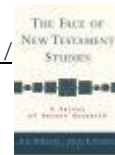
Anthony Casurella, *Bibliography of Literature on First Peter*. Leiden: E J Brill, 1996. Hbk. ISBN: 9004104887. pp.192.

Dennis Sylva, "A 1 Peter Bibliography," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 25.1 (1982): 75-89.

Introductions

Oscar Cullmann, *Peter: Disciple, Apostle, Martyr*, 2nd edn. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1962.

Robert L. Webb, "The Petrine Epistles: Recent Developments and Trends," Scot McKnight & Grant R. Osborne, eds., *The Face of New Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House / Leicester: Apollos, 2004. Pbk. ISBN: 0801027071. pp.373-390. **{CBD}**



John W. Wenham, "Did Peter Go to Rome in A.D. 42?" *Tyndale Bulletin* 23 (1972): 97-102.

Commentaries

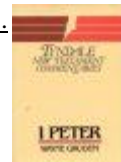
Commentaries



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Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Leicester: IVP, 1988. Pbk. ISBN: 0851118860. pp.239. **{CBD}** **{Amazon.com}**



I. Howard Marshall, *1 Peter*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Leicester: IVP, 1991. Hbk. ISBN: 0851116701. pp.224. **{CBD}** **{Amazon.com}**



J. Ramsey Michaels, *1 Peter. Word Biblical Commentary*, Vol. 49. Dallas: Word Books, 1988. Hbk. ISBN: 0849902487. pp.337. **{CBD}** **{Amazon.com}**



Mark and I & II Peter (Bob Utley)



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Other Subjects



1 Peter 5:7: Who is to cast their 'anxiety' upon the Lord? (Chip Anderson)






























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David L. Balch, *Let Wives Be Submissive: The Domestic Code in 1 Peter*, Society for Biblical Literature Monograph Series 26. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1981. Pbk. ISBN: 0891304290. pp.196. **{Amazon.com}**



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-  G. Edmundson, *The Church in Rome in the First Century*. London: Longmans, 1913.
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