New Testament Exposition: Selected Studies
in the General Epistles (NT 621X)
Spring Semester 2008

A Course offered at the extension campus of the
Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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Course Description:

This course is designed to be a NT elective for those students who have completed
the NT Survey courses (NT 511 or NT 512). According to the BMATS Handbook
on p. 70, “This course is a directed exposition of one or more of the New Testament writings. Emphasis is
given to the discovery of the historical purposes, theological content, and
practical applications of the teachings of the book(s) studied.” This course will focus
specifically upon the seven letters of the NT commonly known as the General Epistles
(James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude).

This class will meet on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, AR,
beginning on January 29, 2008. The class meets each Tuesday evening from 6-9 PM.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, the student should . . .

- know who the human authors of the General Epistles are including the
  contributions of their writings and impact on early Christianity.

- know the historical settings and period in which the General Epistles
  were written.

- know the particular theological emphases present in each of the
  General Epistles.

- possess a working outline for each of the General Epistles.

- possess a firm grasp on the introductory matters surrounding each of
  General Epistles.
possess an effective tool for preaching and/or teaching through the particular books of the General Epistles.

gain a greater appreciation for the General Epistles as the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God, and the contribution they make to the overall message of the Bible.

Course texts:

1. The Bible (The KJV will be used for the class lectures).


Course Assignments:

Reading:
- The Bible books of the General Epistles (James thru Jude) must be read in their entirety.

- The commentary on the General Epistles must be read in its entirety from *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, vol. 12, edited by Frank E. Gaebelein (*The commentary on Hebrews and Revelation is not required to be read for this course*).

- The portion of Hiebert’s *Introduction* dealing with the General Epistles must be read in its entirety (*except for Hebrews and Revelation*).

* See the class schedule for the reading assignments. On the class session when a reading assignment is due, the students will report their reading on a 3 x 5 card.

Writing:
- Each student will present at least two presentations on the introductory matters on selected books of the General Epistles. These presentations must be typed out and a copy provided for each student. The student can type his handout in paragraph or detailed outline form (*See class schedule for the due dates for these presentations*).

- A 2-3 page critical review must be written on the Hiebert’s *An Introduction to the New Testament*. The critical review must contain a brief summary of the format of the book, a discussion of strengths and
weaknesses, and the reviewer’s opinion of Hiebert’s Introduction as a tool for ministry. *This review is due on the last day of class.*

**Course Exams:**

In the course of this semester, there will be three exams given:
- Exam #1 – General information on Epistles; Intro and Contents of James
- Exam #2 – Intro of 1 & 2 Peter; Contents of 1 & 2 Peter, Jude
- Exam #3 – Intro of Johannine epistles; Contents of Johannine epistles

**Course Grading:**

There is a possibility of 1,000 points to be earned in this course. The breakdown of percentage and point values are as follows:

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
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<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Exam #3</td>
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<td>Presentation #1</td>
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<td>Critical Book Review</td>
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<td>Reading &amp; Participation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**BMATS Grading Scale:**

- A 91-100%  F below 61%
- B 81-90%    I Incomplete
- C 71-80%   WP Withdrawal while passing
- D 61-70%   WF Withdrawal while failing
Course Schedule:

January 29th:
- Introduction to course
- Introduction to the General Epistles
- General information about the authors and historical setting

February 5th: Required Library night (Work on Introductory Matters for James)

February 12th:
- Introductory matters of James (Student Presentations)
  Authorship & Date ______________________________
  Purpose ______________________________
  Structure ______________________________
  Themes ______________________________
  Canonization ______________________________
  Commentaries (Bibliography) ______________________________
- James 1
  trials and temptations
doers of the Word
- Reading: Hiebert on James / James 1 from the Bible
  Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC) on James 1

February 19th:
- James 2 & 3
  The Law of God
  Faith and Works
  The Righteous Tongue
- Reading: EBC on James 2 & 3 / James 2 & 3 from the Bible

February 26th:
- James 4 & 5
  Humility before God
  James’ Theology of Suffering
- Reading: EBC on James 4 & 5 / James 4 & 5 from the Bible

March 4th:
- Test #1
- Introductory matters of 1 Peter (Student Presentations)
  Authorship & Date ______________________________
  Purpose ______________________________
  Structure ______________________________
  Themes ______________________________
  Canonization ______________________________
  Commentaries (Bibliography) ______________________________
March 11th:
- 1 Peter 1 & 2
  Privileges of Salvation
  Holy Living
  Blessing of Election
- Reading: Hiebert on 1 Peter / 1 Peter 1 from the Bible
  EBC on Intro of 1 Peter and chapter one

March 18th:
- 1 Peter 3 & 4
  Submissive Living
  Peter’s Theology of Suffering
- Reading: EBC on 1 Peter 3 & 4 / 1 Peter 2 & 3 from the Bible

March 25th:
- 1 Peter 5 (Practical living out humility)
- Intro to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 1
  True Knowledge
  Importance of Scripture
- Reading: Hiebert on 2 Peter / 1 Peter 5, and 2 Peter 1 from the Bible
  EBC on 1 Peter 5; Intro to 2 Peter; 2 Peter 1

April 1st:
- 2 Peter 2 & 3
  Coming false teachers
  The Day of the Lord
- Jude (presence of false teachers)
- Reading: Hiebert on Jude / 2 Peter 2 &3 and Jude from the Bible
  EBC on 2 Peter 2 & 3; Intro to Jude; Contents of Jude

April 8th:
- Test #2
- Introductory Matters of 1 John (Student Presentations)
  Authorship & Date ______________________
  Purpose ____________________________
  Structure __________________________
  Themes ____________________________
  Canonization _______________________
April 15th:
- 1 John 1 & 2
  Walking in the Light
  The truth about sin
  Obedience expected
  Avoiding worldliness

  - Reading: Hiebert on 1 John / 1 John 1 & 2 from the Bible
  EBC on Intro to 1 John; John 1 & 2

April 22nd: SPRING BREAK (BMAA Annual Meeting at Waco, TX)

April 29th:
- 1 John 3-5
  Loving One Another
  Testing the Spirits
  Understanding God’s Love
  Having Faith in the Son of God

  - Reading: EBC on 1 John 3-5 / 1 John 3-5 from the Bible

May 6th:
- Intro to 2 and 3 John
- Contents of 2 & 3 John

  - Reading: Hiebert on 2 & 3 John / 2 & 3 John from the Bible
    EBC on 2 & 3 John

May 13th:
- TEST #3
- Critical Book Review on Hiebert due

This course schedule and syllabus are subject to change by the instructor at his discretion.
Bibliography

New Testament Surveys and Introductions


Commentaries

James


1 and 2 Peter; Jude


____________. *Now Unto Him: Messages from Jude for Our Day*. Cordova, TN: Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, n. d.


1, 2, 3 John


