

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Northwest College
Kirkland, Washington
February 25-March 1, 2002

BNTE 542 1 PETER
(2 Credits)

Blaine B. Charette

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1 Peter is an important, yet often under-valued, epistle. At the same time theologically profound and highly practical, it provides an impressive description of the character of the Christian community and how it is to conduct itself in an often hostile world. This analysis of 1 Peter will give close attention to its historical and literary contexts, its grammatical and thematic structures and its theological and pastoral significance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the reasons for the writing of 1 Peter, the situation of the communities it addresses and how it meets the specific needs and concerns of its first readers.
2. Identify the major theological emphases present in 1 Peter and the significant linguistic and structural features which serve to advance the theological argument.
3. Articulate the relevance of 1 Peter for contemporary Christian proclamation and teaching and its role in both individual spiritual formation and community self-definition.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *1 Peter*. Waco: Word, 1988.

Martin, R. P. and P. H. Davids. Eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments*. Downers Grove, IVP, 1997.

COURSE OUTLINE

Following introductory statements, 1 Peter will be analyzed section by section.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course will meet its objectives according to the following strategies:

1. Reflective reading assignments
2. Research and writing assignments
3. Classroom lecture and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Ideally, the student will have completed all the required reading before the week of classes begins. This includes reading Michael's commentary in its entirety (if this is not possible, the student must at least keep ahead of class discussion in their reading of the commentary) and the following articles from the *Dictionary of the Later New Testament*: 'Church as Israel'; 'Civil Authority'; 'Death of Christ'; 'Election'; 'God'; 'Holy, Holiness'; 'Hope'; 'House, Spiritual House'; 'Household Codes'; 'Hymns, Songs'; 'New Birth'; 'Old Testament in General Epistles'; 'Parousia'; 'Pastoral Theology'; 'Persecution'; '1 Peter'; 'Social Setting'; 'Stone, Cornerstone'; 'Suffering'; 'Virtues and Vices' [It is permissible to 'skim' those sections of the articles not dealing specifically with 1 Peter].
2. For the first class day (Feb. 25, 2002) the student is to prepare a detailed outline which traces the 'theological flow' of 1 Peter (worth 15%). The outline should be presented in a 'bullet' format and terms that are of particular theological significance to the letter should be underlined with a brief definition placed in parentheses.

B. Session

1. Punctual attendance at each lecture is expected. Given the time constraints imposed by the five day format of the course, it is imperative that the student not miss any class time.
2. Participation in classroom discussion is expected. Faithful completion of the pre-session work will prepare the student to take an active role during the class time.

C. Post-Session

1. The student is to prepare a research paper on 1 Peter 1.22-25 (worth 50%). The length of the paper is to be 10-12 typed double-spaced pages (approx. 4000-5500 words). As a research paper it will include documentation (footnotes are preferable to endnotes) and a

bibliography. The finished paper is to be sent directly to the professor post-marked no later than June 1, 2002.

2. The student is to prepare a thematic study on 'The Church as a Community of Exiles and Aliens According to 1 Peter' (worth 35%). The length of the paper is to be 6-8 typed double-spaced pages (approx. 2500-3500 words). The paper will involve research (including footnotes and bibliography) but primarily reflect on the significance of this Petrine theme for the Church today. The finished paper is to be sent directly to the professor post-marked no later than **June 1, 2002**.

NOTE: Work received after the due date specified on the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) even if an extension has been granted by the instructor.

The post-session work is to be submitted to:

Dr. Blaine B. Charette
Northwest College
P.O. Box 579
Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Commentaries

Achtemeier, P. J. *1 Peter*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.

Beare, F. W. *The First Epistle of Peter*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1970.

Best, E. *1 Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Davids, P. H. *The First Epistle of Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Elliott, J. H. *1 Peter*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Goppelt, L. *A Commentary on 1 Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Grudem, W. *1 Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter and Jude*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1969.

Michaels, J. R. *1 Peter*. Waco: Word, 1988.

Selwyn, E. G. *The First Epistle of Saint Peter*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981 [repr.].

Studies

Balch, D. L. *Let Wives Be Submissive: The Domestic Code in 1 Peter*. Chico: Scholars, 1981.

Brown, R. E. et al. *Peter in the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1973.

Chester, A., and R. P. Martin. *The Theology of the Letters of James, Peter, and Jude*.
New York: Cambridge, 1994.

Elliott, J. H. *A Home for the Homeless*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1981.

Martin, T. W. *Metaphor and Composition in 1 Peter*. Atlanta: Scholars, 1992.

Schutter, W. L. *Hermeneutic and Composition in 1 Peter*. Tübingen: Mohr, 1989.

Talbert, C. H. ed. *Perspectives on First Peter*. Macon: Mercer, 1986.

Thurén, L. *Argument and Theology in 1 Peter*. Sheffield: SAP, 1995.

Winter, B. W. *Seek the Welfare of the City*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Blaine Charette October 2001.