

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
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BNTD 542 – Stu.: 1 Peter and Contemporary Ministry

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Spring Semester 2005

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Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An English Bible study (with reference to the Greek text) of First Letter of Peter which the orthodox Christian tradition affirms, albeit with modern higher-critical challenges, as the work of the Apostle Peter. Particular attention will be given to the importance of this letter for contemporary ministry as carefully interpreted against its historical and cultural backgrounds and examined for relevant theological themes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES--GLOBAL

Upon completion of this course, the student should have demonstrated in papers, classroom discussions and presentations, and examinations accomplishment of the following global domain objectives:

Knowledge

1. A preliminary understanding of what may reasonably be inferred about the historical and social backgrounds of the letter.
2. An understanding of the critical issues that bear on the question of the authorship of the letter.
3. The ability to outline from memory the basic contents and ideas of the letter.
4. A thorough grasp of the major theological and ethical issues reflected in the letter.
5. A comprehension of the particular issues and themes in the letter relevant to the practice of ministry in contemporary society.

Attitude

1. A demonstrated appreciation of the nature of the letter as sacred Scripture.
2. A willingness to lay aside previous biases and understand the letter on its own terms.
3. A desire to be personally shaped by the message of the letter.
4. A desire to explicate the universal truths of the letter in contemporary ministry and church life.

Skill

1. The ability to critique modern life in terms of the ancient biblical message.
2. The ability to bring the insights of the letter to bear on contemporary ethical issues.
3. The ability to bring the theology of the letter to bear on the practice of ministry in the contemporary milieu.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

The Bible (Modern version as NIV, NASB, NKJV, NRSV, ESV, *et al.*)

Marshall, I. Howard. *1 Peter* (IVPNTC). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.

McKnight, Scot. *1 Peter* (NIV AC). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Recommended

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1 – Ministry in Dangerous and Uncertain Times

Unit 2 – Ministry in Personal and Congregational Transformation

Unit 3 – Ministry in Social Transformation

Unit 4 – Ministry Challenges in a Hostile Age

Unit 5 – Ministry Leaders and their Charge/s

METHODOLOGY

This course will utilize lectures by the professor, audio-visual presentations, dialogue between the professor and students, and seminar-type presentations and critiques by the students.

Unit Outline	Assignments	Session Outlines
Unit 1 – Ministry in Dangerous and Uncertain Times	Read: 1 Peter 1:1-12; 4:10-11. Marshall, 13-50, 145-150; McKnight, 17-82, 239. Objectives: 1. Describe what we know of the Apostle Peter’s historical, social, and religious backgrounds. 2. Discuss Peter’s leadership role and activities in the Gospels and Acts. 3. Assess the information available to us about the probable location and circumstances of the churches addressed. 4. Draw out the major theological themes of the letter.	1. Peter: Life and Ministry 2. Young Churches Under Fire 3. Historical and Cultural Backgrounds 4. Peter in Rome 5. Petrine Theology
Unit 2 – Ministry in Personal and Congregational Transformation	Read: 1 Peter 1:13-2:10; Marshall, 51-77; McKnight, 83-123. Objectives: 1. Describe the inner dynamics of the personal transformation depicted in the letter. 2. Explore the implications of Peter’s view of “salvation history.” 3. Discuss the basis and nature of Peter’s ethical appeals. 4. Develop Peter’s Christology and notions of atonement. 5. List the ways Peter describes the church.	1. New Birth 2. Salvation History 3. Atonement 4. Transformative Faith 5. People of God
Unit 3 – Ministry in Social Transformation	Read: 1 Peter 2:11-3:12; Marshall, 77-111; McKnight, 124-210. Objectives: 1. Determine the Christian lifestyle for the times. 2. Explore Peter’s teachings on citizenship. 3. Assess the recommended attitudes for slaves. 4. Explore the example of Christ in suffering and redemption. 5. Evaluate the submission taught for wives and husbands. 6. Describe the nature of the harmonious life taught by the letter.	1. Lifestyles in the World 2. The Authorities 3. Slaves/Masters 4. Christ the Example 5. Wives/Husbands 6. Harmonious Living
Unit 4 – Ministry Challenges in a Hostile Age	Read: 1 Peter 3:13-4:11; Marshall, 111-149; McKnight, 211-246. Objectives: 1. Note the attitude of the Christian under pressure from the world. 2. Determine the meaning and function of Peter’s discussion of Christ and the spirits? 3. Draw out the implications of Christ’s sufferings for life in the world. 4. Describe the behaviors expected in an eschatological setting. 5. Evaluate Peter’s teachings about the use of spiritual gifts in ministry.	1. Grace Under Pressure 2. Christ and the Spirits 3. Attitude of Christ in an Unholy World 4. Serving in Love with Spiritual Gifts
Unit 5 – Ministry Leaders and their Charge/s	Read: 1 Peter 4:12-5:14; Marshall, 149-177; McKnight, 247-286. Objectives: 1. Note and discuss the implications of Peter’s view of suffering. 2. Trace the nature and responsibilities of leadership as Peter presents it. 3. Explore the humility espoused in the letter. 4. Discuss Peter’s view of evil and the Christian response. 5. Study the people with whom Peter is working and his attitudes toward them.	1. Christian Suffering 2. Service of Elders 3. Humility 4. Resisting the Devil 5. Recognition for Fellow Workers

REQUIREMENTS

1. Bible Content Examination. Each student must sustain an examination over the content of 1 Peter that focuses largely on identifying subject matter by chapter. There will be a pre-test (non-graded) in the first session and a post-test (graded) in the last (using the same examination) to assist in assessing the student's learning and achievement of the class objectives.
2. Reading Report. Each student must submit a reading report at the end of the course that logs all class reading by author, book, date, time, and so forth (excluding the Bible text). A reading report form will be provided on the first day of class.
3. Presentation Reports. Each student will prepare a written paper, two to three (2-3) double-spaced pages in length, as a basis for discussion or a possible oral report (depending on the class size and quality of the papers) to one or more sessions of the class beginning with Unit 2. Topics from which students may chose may be identified from the unit objectives and assignments, from additional topics provided by the professor, or from special textual interests negotiated by the student. Each report must close with a brief, well-reasoned application to contemporary Christian life and ministry where such application is possible and appropriate. Presentation papers are due at the end of each class period. Topics must be agreed upon with the professor one week in advance while in attendance at a class session so that the professor may weave them into the lesson plan for each succeeding session if appropriate. **Papers are due at the end of each class session (2-5).**
4. Final Paper. One of the presentation reports must be expanded into a research paper of not less than 10 pages, employing not less than 10 sources, and presented in standard Turabian form. **Due at beginning of last class session.**
5. Quizzes. The professor may administer up to 4 quizzes at the end of the class period covering information discussed in the class. Advance completion of assigned readings will be significant in preparation for and understanding of class presentations.

Possible Presentation Report Topics:

In addition to (or expanding upon) the topics that may be derived from the outline and objectives of Units 2 – 5, the student may wish to consider the following for a presentation report:

Unit 2

Compare/contrast “new birth” in 1 Peter and John
 Peter's understanding of personal holiness
 Peter's doctrine of atonement
 Peter's doctrine of the Word of God
 Peter's “images” of the Church

Unit 3

Explore Peter's “aliens and strangers” language for ethical insight
 Explore Peter's understanding of “every authority instituted among men”
 Responsibilities of citizenship
 Peter's attitude toward slavery
 The significance of Christ's sufferings

Domestic relationships
 Meaning of “weaker partner”
 Peter’s use of the OT

Unit 4

Meaning, “set apart Christ as Lord” (3:15)
 Peter’s understanding of “suffering for doing good” (3:17)
 Identity of the “spirits in prison” (3:19)
 Meaning of “gospel...preached even to those who are now dead [lit. “even to the dead”]” (4:5)
 Meaning of “the end of all things is near” (4:7)
 Significance of “spiritual gifts” in 1 Peter

Unit 5

Participation in the sufferings of Christ
 “the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you” (4:14)
 Peter’s understanding of final judgment
 Nature and role of the elder
 Nature and activity of the devil
 Resisting the devil
 Identity and role of Silas

GRADING

Bible Content Examination	25%
Quizzes	25%
Presentation Reports	25%
Final Paper	25%
[Participation	10%]

Prompt and timely completion of assignments is essential to the degree completion program. Late work will be accepted only by pre-arrangement with the professor and only on sufficient grounds. Late work submitted beyond agreed-upon dates, if accepted, may be penalized by one letter grade per week late. The professor reserves the right to allocate 10% of the grade for participation, raising or lowering for significant lapses or contributions. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY***Commentaries***

- Achtemeier, Paul J. *1 Peter: A Commentary on First Peter*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
- Beare, F. W. *The First Epistle of Peter*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1970.
- Beasley-Murray, G. R. *The General Epistles: James, 1 Peter, Jude, 2 Peter*. London/New York: Lutterworth/Abingdon, 1965.
- Best, E. *1 Peter* (NCB). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
- Blaiklock, E. M. *First Peter: A Translation and Devotional Commentary*. Waco, TX: Word, 1977.
- Boring, M. Eugene. *1 Peter*. Waco, TX: Word, 1988.
- Clowney, E. P. *The Message of 1 Peter*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988.
- Cranfield, C. E. B. *The First Epistle of Peter*. London: SCM, 1950.
- _____. *I and II Peter and Jude*. London: SCM, 1968.
- Dauids, Peter H. *The First Epistle of Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Elliott, John H. *1 Peter: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary* (Anchor Bible). New York: Doubleday, 2000.
- Goppelt, Leonhard. *A Commentary on 1 Peter*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Grudem, Wayne A. *The First Epistle of Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (TNTC). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *1 Peter*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.
- Hillyer, Norman. *1 and 2 Peter, Jude*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992.
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- Miller, Donald G. *On This Rock: A Commentary on First Peter*. Allison Park, PA: Pickwick Publications, 1993.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *1, 2 Peter, Jude*. Nashville: Broad & Holman, 2003.
- Selwyn, E. G. *The First Epistle of St. Peter: The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes, and Essays*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Stibbs, A. M. *The First Epistle General of Peter: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.
- Walls, David R. *I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 1999.

Special Studies

- Balch, David L. *Let Wives Be Submissive: The Domestic Code in 1 Peter*. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1981.
- Bechtler, Steven Richard. *Following in His Steps: Suffering, Community, and Christology in 1 Peter*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Campbell, Barth L. *Honor, Shame, and the Rhetoric of 1 Peter*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Elliott, John Hall. *1 Peter: Estrangement and Community*. Chicago: Franciscan Herald, 1979.
- _____. *A Home for the Homeless: A Social-Scientific Criticism of 1 Peter, Its Situation and Strategy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
- Martin, Troy W. *Metaphor and Composition in 1 Peter*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1992.
- Munro, Winsome. *Authority in Paul and Peter: The Identification of a Pastoral Stratum in the*

- Pauline Corpus and 1 Peter*. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
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Historical and Social Backgrounds

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- Holmberg, B. *Sociology and the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1990.
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- Sherwin-White, A. N. *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1963.
- Winter, B. W. *Seek the Welfare of the City: Christians as Benefactors and Citizens*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Witherington, Ben III. *Women in the Earliest Churches*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

New Testament Introduction

- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
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- Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. (2 Vols.) New York: Scribner, 1951-55
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Dictionaries/Encyclopedias

- Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997. Cf. esp. following articles:
- Angels, Heavenly Beings, Angel Christology*
 - Apostle, Apostleship*
 - Babylon*
 - Chronology*
 - Church as Israel, People of God*
 - Civil Authority*
 - Cross, Theology of*
 - Day of the Lord*
 - Death of Christ*
 - Diaspora Judaism*
 - Eschatology*
 - Gentiles, Gentile Mission*
 - Holy Spirit*
 - Household Codes*
 - Ministry*
 - Parousia*
 - 1 Peter*
 - 2 Peter*
 - Satan, Devil*
 - Social Setting of Early Non-Pauline Christianity*
 - Teaching, Paranesis*
 - Woman and Man*
 - Women in the Early Church*

SPECIFIC DATA: Prepared by Edgar R. Lee, October, 2005.