

Epistles of Peter, James, Jude and John 3 credits
Prerequisite(s): NT 501

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Wed., Sept. 9, 2015
Days:	Tuesdays	Instructor:	R. Remin	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun., Sept 20, 2015
Time:	2:30 – 5:15	Email:	rremin@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon., Oct. 26, 2015
Room:	L2084	Phone:	403 410 2000 ext 7906	Last day to withdraw from course:	Thu., Nov. 12, 2015
Lab/Tutorial:	None	Office:	L2081	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Mon., Nov 23, 2015
FINAL EXAM: None		Office Hrs:	See below!	Last day of classes:	Mon., Dec 14, 2015

Textbook:

There are no specifically required texts for this course. Students are to use the materials available in the Ambrose library.

Course Description:

An exploration of the epistles of Peter, James, John, and Jude. (Hebrews may be discussed but only in general terms and as it relates to these epistles). 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 for their argumentative, historical, literary and theological context in their context. Attention will be given to practical concerns of application and hermeneutical issues raised in applying them in the world and church today.

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

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Perhaps it is best for students to view this course as a guided tour of these epistles with the instructor as a tour guide. Participants in this course of study are expected to:

1. Learn as much as they can about each of these New Testament writings. In particular their content and the context in which they were written.
2. Learn how these epistles represent the diversity of the earliest Christian church; their emphases as distinct to themselves and their emphases as shared with the other texts of the N.T. These epistles

represent a form of the earliest non-Pauline Christianity. The same may be seen in Acts and Hebrews. Of particular interest are theological perspectives and the use of scripture.

3. Learn the scholarly points of debate with each of these epistles.
4. Learn the points of debate within the evangelical tradition.
5. Begin to reflect on the relevance of these documents to our community of faith today and to you personally.

Course Schedule:

The course will deal with the epistles in the order of Peter, James, Jude and John.

Each class will consist of periods of detailed reading of the text, lecture, and student participation and response.

Requirements:

The student who wishes to complete this course successfully must complete all of the following requirements.

Summary of Course Requirements

1. Attend all class sessions, listen, take notes and engage oneself in the topic(s) at hand!
2. Read!
 - a. Read these epistles.
 - b. Read as directed.
 - c. Read a thousand and five hundred (1,500) pages of secondary literature.
 - d. Prepare a concise report of the reading in secondary sources.
3. Research and write!
 - a. Four concisely written ten page research papers as directed.

Details of Course Requirements

4. Attend, listen, take notes and engage oneself in the topic(s) at hand!
 - a. Attendance at all sessions of this class is considered mandatory. The class sessions are not “data dumps” which can be found in any particular book or internet resource. The class sessions are designed to challenge your thinking and give you direction in how to reflect on the contents and application of these epistles. This course assumes that you can learn from observing and participating in discussions with your class mates and the professor.

Please remember that each session of this course is a double block and is the equivalent of two classes or a week of classes in typical courses. Persistent absences will result in the professor adjusting your grade accordingly.

5. Read! Read! And read some more!
 - a. Read in English at least three times before the end of this course. If you know Greek, read select portions in Greek. File a confirmation that this reading has been completed.

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- b. Read as directed from time to time in preparation for the next class. E.g. read the first half of the *Didache* as distributed in class. Read handouts as distributed.
 - c. A thousand and five hundred (1,500) pages of secondary literature in the major critical commentaries, monographs, *festschriften*, multi-volume Bible dictionaries, and **submit a list completed items read in proper bibliographic format and the number of pages read**. No one particular commentary is necessary.

Please remember there is no text book for this course. A reasonable portion of articles from electronic sources is acceptable. This reading is in addition to the reading for your research projects as described below.

Demonstrate some initiative in the selection of your reading materials.

Very Select Bibliography

Luke Timothy Johnston, *Brother of Jesus, Friend of God: Studies in the Letter of James* (2004).

F.F. Bruce, *Peter, Stephen, James & John, Studies in Non-Pauline Christianity* (Eerdmans, 1979).
Diversity of the earliest church.

M. Eugene Boring, Klaus Berger, Carsten Colpe, *Hellenistic Commentary to the New Testament* (Abingdon Press, 1995).

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (3rd ed., Eerdmans 2003).

Keith Hopkins, *A World Full of Gods, The Strange Triumph of Christianity* (The Free Press, 1999).

E.G. Selwyn, *The First Epistle of St. Peter* (1969).

F.W. Beare, *The First Epistle of Peter: The Greek Text with Introduction and Notes* (1947).

F.W. Beare, *The First Epistle of Peter* (1961).

C.H. Dodds, *The Apostolic Preaching* (1936).

Further bibliography will be provided as the course proceeds.

6. Write four concise research papers. Here are some possible topics. Please consult with your professor before going too far in your research.
 - a. Describe after your research Peter's metaphors for the church.
 - b. What is an amanuensis? How did they work in the ancient world. This is particularly important in discussions of the style of the Petrine epistles.
 - c. If James is an example of wisdom literature, how does this affect our interpretation and explanation of the content of James.
 - d. What is actual content of Peter's *kērygma* (*the proclamation, preaching*) in the book of Acts? See C.H. Dodd, *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments* (1936) in which he makes distinction between *kērygma* and *didachē* (*teaching*), and E.G. Selwyn's comparison of Peter's sermons in Acts and 1 Peter in his *The First Epistle of St. Peter* (1969). For a discussion of this material see William Barclay's commentary on the epistles of Peter. Evaluate: What was the purpose of Peter's preaching? Who were his audience? Will this sort of proclamation and argumentation be effective in our context of the twenty-first century? Why?
 - e. If you know some Greek, consider the Greek style of one or more of these epistles. Consult Nigel Turner, *The Grammar of NT Greek, Vol. IV Style* (1976). Chapter 4 is all about Lucan style.
 - f. Investigate how eschatology and ethics are connected in 2 Peter.
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- g. Jude uses various OT stories and non-canonical authors. Examine, evaluate and consider the implications for his and our view of canonical.

Attendance:

Attendance at all sessions of this class is expected. If you signed up for a 12 day tour, would you just skip a day?

Failure to attend may result is a significantly reduced grade for this educational event.

Grade Summary:

The final grade for this course will be calculated as follows.

Participation in class	15 %
Reading as reported	15%
Four Research Papers	70%

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Other

1. **Office Hours.** These Office Hours on campus are subject to meetings called by higher authorities (president, dean, registrar), previously scheduled meetings with other students, the instructor's health (doctors' appointments, medical emergencies), snow storms, ice storms, highway closures, automobile failure, and/or "the crick rose." Book an appointment via email to ensure that I'm here, that you will receive notification of cancelation or you will not be preempted by another appointment (the above not withstanding).

- Monday Afternoons
- Tuesday Before my late afternoon class.
- Wednesday After 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday After chapel after my morning block class.
- Friday Not on campus.

2. Electronics in Class.

- Except for reading the relevant biblical texts, use of electronic devices for all other purposes are prohibited in the class sessions.
- The recording of class sessions by any means is absolutely prohibited under all circumstances.

3. Classroom Etiquette. The following activities are considered poor classroom etiquette:

- Coming in late,
- Talking while someone else is talking,
- Disruptive behavior,
- Consumption of meals as opposed to minor snacks,
(Definition. If a knife, fork, spoon or sticks are required it's a meal!)
- Consumption of snacks in a noisy, smelly and/or disruptive manner,
- Personal grooming,
- Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, i-pods, etc.,
- Use of laptops for purposes (e.g. watching videos, playing solitaire) not directly connected to the class, and
- The practice of any behaviours considered impolite in adult company or in contravention of the laws of Alberta, specifically those prohibited while driving a motor vehicle.

Depending on the degree and/or frequency of the breach(es) of etiquette, the professor may display his displeasure in any one or more of the following manners:

- Frown, scowl, rolling eye balls (his not yours),
- Utterance of sounds of disgust,
- Sarcastic comments,
- Utterance of specific prohibitions,
- Dismissal of a student from the class,
- Ending the class prematurely, or
- In extreme cases the professor's immediate departure from the classroom.

In extreme cases, in cases where the professor determines that a student's behaviour, attitude or consumables are affecting other student's negatively, the offensive individual and "theirs" will be summarily dismissed from the classroom for a "time out" the length of which will be determined unilaterally by the professor.

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Exam Scheduling

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office

in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.