

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2019
PR 650-CL	The Epistle of James (Directed study for Wang Zhen)	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Sept – December 2019	Instructor:	Dr. Wilson Tran	First day of classes:	Sept 4, 2019
Time:	N/A	Email:	wilsontran0920@hotmail.com	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	N/A
Room:	N/A	Phone:	587-438-6155	Last day to request revised exam:	N/A
Lab/ Tutorial:	N/A	Office:		Last day to withdraw from course:	N/A
Office Hours:	N/A	Office Hours:	By appointment	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	N/A
Final Exam:	N/A			Last day of classes:	Dec 11, 2019

Course Description

This course will equip the student with the methodology “The student, the Fish and Agassiz” to study the major theological themes in the Epistle of James, such as: Problem of Trials and Temptation, Problem of Religious Formalism, Problem of Discrimination, Problem of Counterfeit Faith, Problem of Speech and Wisdom, Problem of Worldliness and Materialism and Problem of Sickness and Sin within the Christian Community. This course will also equip the student with the basic elements and techniques of Greek exegesis which are essential for an accurate understanding of the text of the Epistle of James and developing expository sermons to contemporary hearers.

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

A. In terms of cognitive knowledge:

1. Explain the nature of the exegetical task.
2. Explain the variety of tasks involved in exegesis including historical analysis, textual criticism, lexical analysis, structural-grammatical analysis, synthesis, and interpretation.
3. Explain the content of the Epistle of James.

B. In terms of skills:

1. Apply the exegetical method, step by step, to a special passage in the Epistle of James.
2. State the “exegetical idea” of any passage from the Epistle of James.
3. Do the exegetical tasks: polished translation, statement of exegetical idea, historical background, literary context, textual criticism, grammatical layout and analysis, lexical analysis of key words, interpretive problems, exegetical outline, interpretation, theology and application.

4. Gather data from the exegesis of Greek texts for personal, communal and ministerial application, sermon and bible preparation.
5. Write expository sermons based on the passage of the Epistle of James.

C. In terms of spiritual character formation:

1. Grow in spiritual depth in the areas of personal faith and prayer.
2. Look after people in need.
3. Keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Textbooks:

1. Moo, Douglas J. *The Letter of James*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.
2. Motyer, J. A. *The Message of James*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1985.
3. 穆爾。《雅各書》。賀安慈譯。丁道爾新約聖經註釋。台北：校園書房出版社，1988。
Moo, Douglas J. *James*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries.

Reference Books:

1. Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Revised and edited by Frederick W. Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
2. Baumann, Daniel J. *An Introduction to Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book, 1972.
3. Blomberg, Craig L. and Mariam J. Kamell. *James*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
4. Davids, Peter H. *A Theology of James, Peter, and Jude*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.
5. Decker, Rodney J. *Reading Koine Greek: An Introduction and Integrated Workbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
6. Metzger, Bruce M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994.
7. Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.
8. 布羅森特。《三重看雅各書、猶大書》。古志薇譯。香港：明道社，2011。
William F. Brosend II. *James and Jude*. New Cambridge Bible Commentary. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Recommended Tools:

1. Seminar of Haddon Robinson on the Epistle of James:
VFC Online: <http://voicesforchrist.org/speakers/525?page=1>
2. Lexicon:
Logeion: Online: <http://logeion.uchicago.edu/index.html>
3. Parser:
Bible Hub:Strong's/ Englishman's Concordances. Online: <http://biblehub.com/text/james/1-1.htm>

Course Content

- I. Biblical Theology of James
 - A. Evaluation of Relative Importance of Major Theological Theme in James
 - B. Biblical Foundations for Christian Social Responsibility
 - C. Analysis of Major Theological Themes in James
 1. Problem of Trials and Temptation (James 1:1-18)
Exegetical Theology: (1) Theology of Hardship (cf. also James 5:7-11); (2) Theology of Temptation.
 2. Problem of Religious Formalism (James 1:19-27)

- Exegetical Theology: Theology of Life Affecting Worship.
3. Problem of Discrimination (James 2:1-13)
Exegetical Theology: Theology of Loving and Acceptance.
 4. Problem of Counterfeit Faith (James 2:14-26)
Exegetical Theology: Theology of Working Faith.
 5. Problems of Speech and Wisdom (James 3:1-18)
Exegetical Theology: (1) Theology of Speech; (2) Theology of Wisdom.
 6. Problems of Worldliness and Materialism
Exegetical Theology: Theology of Dependence.
 7. Problem of Oppression
Exegetical Theology: Theology of Un-abused Prosperity.
 8. Problem of Sickness and Sin within the Christian Community
Exegetical Theology: Theology of Healing and Restoration.
- II. Preaching Biblical Theology
- A. Discovering Sermonic Potentials in the Theology of James
 - B. Developing Biblical Principles for Contemporary Social Issues
- III. Applying Biblical Theology to Today's World
- A. Developing James as a Role Model for Church Leadership concerning Social Responsibility and Action
 - B. Transforming the Local Church into a Community of Concern
 - C. Equipping God's People as Agents of Change

Requirements:

1. The student will choose one of the following four major themes (faith, trials, wealth and poverty, or wisdom) in the Epistle of James as the topic for the essay below:
One major doctrine in James is the topic of _____. Trace and discuss James' understanding of this theme as he develops it throughout the epistle. How do you think this theme relates to the overall structure of James? Defend your argument.
This essay will count as 1/3 of the grade.
2. The student will do the exegetical tasks on the passage James 1:2-11. Put the exegetical research in the following order:
 - (1) Polished translation
 - (2) Statement of exegetical idea
 - (a) Subject
 - (b) Complement
 - (c) Combined exegetical idea
 - (3) Historical Background
 - (4) Literary Context
 - (5) Textual Criticism – give solution to all major variants
 - (6) Grammatical layout and analysis
 - (7) Lexical analysis of key words
 - (8) Interpretive Problem – solve the significant problems
 - (9) Exegetical Outline (with verse locations)
 - (10) Interpretation – summarize the argument of the passage incorporating the major insights gained in the exegetical process.
 - (11) Theology - summarize the major theological themes, and what James teaches about each
 - (12) Application – state one practical and specific application of the major emphasis (exegetical idea) of the passage. Make it pointed and concrete.
This will count as 1/3 of the grade.
3. The student will write an expository sermon relevant to contemporary hearers based on a passage from James.
This will count as 1/3 of the grade.

Submission of Assignments:

The reports should be submitted on or before Dec 15, 2019. Name, email address and course title should be put on the paper. Self-evaluation (1-10) must put on the first page of research paper.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

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

Ambrose University Academic 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.

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.

Exam Scheduling

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.