

GNT 632 Exegesis and Exposition of the General Epistles

Spring 2021

Instructor Information

Dr. David Potter

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Office Location: OM 301

The best way to connect with Dr. Potter is through email. He will check email daily and do his best to respond within 24 hours. If you do not receive a respond within 24 hours, please assume that the email was accidentally overlooked and send a follow-up email.

If your question needs a response sooner than 24 hours, please call/text.

Requirements

I. Course Description

Advanced exegesis of the Greek text of the General Epistles with attention given to the mastery of the syntax, vocabulary, interpretive problems, and practical and homiletical value of each book. (3 credit hours)

II. Course Objectives* Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Understand the reason that each of the general epistles studied in this course was written
2. Understand the argument in each of the general epistles and how the content of each book supports that argument
3. Correctly interpret the content of general epistles, especially those passages of Scripture that are problematic
4. Apply a proper exegetical method to the Greek text of the general epistles resulting in both proper interpretation and application of God's Word
5. Communicate the proper interpretation and application of God's Word to other believers
6. Articulate some initial conclusions concerning issues which are discussed in general epistles like the relationship of faith to works, Christian suffering, assurance of salvation, separation, and contending for the faith
7. Glorify God for the relevance that each of general epistles have to the issues facing believers in today's church

III. **MBU Institutional Outcomes** supported by this course.

1. **Communication Skills:** Students will demonstrate competence in written, oral, and aesthetic communication.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Students will apply a framework for logical decision-making in various contexts.
3. **Biblical Application:** Students will use discernment in moral situations by applying biblical precepts and principles to contemporary issues and lifestyle choices.

IV. **Course Text**

Required:

1. Thomas Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude*. New American Commentary. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2003.
2. J. Ramsey Michaels. *1 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco: Word, 1988.

V. **Course Requirements**

A. **Translation**

The student should **translate** the book of 1 Peter according to the course schedule. This translation should also include parsing. Students may use any Bible software programs available for translation but must not look at an English translation. Students must bring their completed translation to class the day on which it is due. It will be the basis for class discussion. It must be turned in at the end of class with your correction notes included. The pace of translation is brisk. My goal is to prepare you to use Greek in ministry where you will also have competing demands upon your time.

B. **Worksheets**

The students should complete the worksheets for each translation section. These worksheets are provided to the student. Answers to the worksheet questions should include two sections: 1) possible answers [if applicable], 2) list of arguments/reasons to support the [best] answer. Ample use of the course texts is expected here. Quality worksheets will also include research outside of the assigned commentaries. Document your sources. You may choose to skip any two worksheet assignments without penalty to your grade (if you choose not to skip any, I will just drop your two lowest scores from your grade). You must complete these assignments before class and bring them to class on the day they are due.

C. **Reading**

Each week the student will be assigned supplemental reading related to the exegesis of 1 Peter. The student should write a one paragraph typed summary of the assigned reading. These assignments should be completed according to the course schedule and turned in via MyMaranatha. A reading packet with all of the supplemental reading is available in

MyMaranatha.

D. Exegetical Steps

1. Students must produce three worksheets that describe your exegesis of a paragraph in 1 Peter. You may select your own paragraph. No two students will be allowed to write on the same paragraph.
2. These worksheets will be written in three steps. While historical and linguistic context are not part of these steps, it should be evident in your exegesis that you considered these factors.

Step 1 Due Feb 10	Provisional translation and block diagram (Your diagram must clearly identify the main point(s) of your paragraph)
Step 2 Due Mar 3	Grammatical analysis and semantic diagram (your grammatical analysis must be thorough; i.e., address all relevant grammatical questions)
Step 3 Due Mar 26	Lexical and Theological analysis (you must address important lexical and theological issues)

3. Any sources that you use for these worksheets can be used in your exegetical paper as well. Try to avoid devotional commentaries and internet sources.

E. Exegetical Paper- Due April 14, 2021

1. Students must write a 15+ page exegetical paper which explains the content of a paragraph in the books of 1 Peter. You may select your own paragraph. No two students will be allowed to write on the same paragraph.
2. Your paper should resemble a commentary on your chosen passage. It can be arranged by verse order or by the order of your block diagram. You should include any relevant textual issues that appear in your paragraph.
3. You should include a bibliography of at least 20 sources for this paper. At least 7 of the sources must be scholarly journal articles. Try to avoid devotional commentaries and internet sources.

F. Sermon- Due April 28, 2021

The student should prepare and deliver a sermon from the book of 1 Peter. The sermon should reflect quality exegesis of the biblical text. A detailed outline of the sermon should be turned in after it is preached along with a paragraph summary of the “sermon delivery experience.” (The summary should include date, location, positives, negatives, things learned, etc.)

G. Devotional- Due April 21, 2021

The student must write a devotional using the template provided. This devotional should be written on a passage in 1 Peter that was particularly relevant to you during this class. Full disclosure: this devotional may be used in a future Maranatha Baptist Seminary publication. You might want to keep that in mind when writing. A template for these devotionals is available in MyMaranatha.

VI. Course Grading

A. Translation	15%
B. Worksheets	25%
C. Reading	10%
D. Steps	10%
E. Paper	20%
F. Sermon	10%
G. Devotional	10%

VII. Course Policies

1. Late Work-All work is expected to be completed on time. Any work turned in after the due date will have its grade reduced 4% per calendar day. See Appendix A.
2. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Consult the section in the Seminary catalog regarding Academic and Intellectual Expectations for a description of academic dishonesty and appropriate penalties for violation. See Appendix A.
3. Collegiality-The Seminary catalog states, "The Seminary has an expectation of collegiality in and out of the classroom. There must be an ability and willingness to talk about controversial issues in an attitude of mutual respect between students, professors and others. The classes should not degenerate into arguments, especially over issues that have been debated regularly among fundamental Baptists. You should not attempt to pit one teacher against another in your classes. We desire that there be an openness in class discussion and a transparency of both faculty and students. The class professor has the right to end a discussion which he believes has become nonproductive."
4. **ADA Policy.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

5. **Academic Success Center.** Once source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

VIII. Grading Scale

	B+	90-91.99	C+	81-82.99	D	64-72.99	
A	94-100	B	85-89.99	C	75-80.99	F	0-63.99
A -	92-93.99	B-	83-84.99	C-	73-74.99		

IX. Course Schedule (Spring 2021)

Monday	Wednesday	Saturday (online)
January 25 Course Introduction	27 Worksheet #0	29 Read Guthrie, <i>NT Intro.</i> , pp. 771-813
February 1 Translate 1 Peter 1:1-6	3 Worksheet #1	5 Read Page, "Obedience and Blood-Sprinkling in 1 Peter 1:2"
February 8 Translate 1 Peter 1:7-12	10 Worksheet #2 Step 1 due	12 Read Zuck & Bock, "A Theology of Peter and Jude" (Due by 2-14-21 at 11:55pm)
February 15 Translate 1 Peter 1:13-25	17 Review	19 Read Glenny, "The Israelite Imagery in 1 Peter 2" Worksheet #3
February 22 Translate 1 Peter 2:1-10	24 Worksheet #4	26 Read Miller, "Deliverance and Destiny"
March 1 Translate 1 Peter 2:11-20	3 Worksheet #5 Step 2 due	5 Read Kirk, "Endurance in Suffering in 1 Peter"
March 8 Translate 1 Peter 2:21-3:7	10 Worksheet #6	12 Read Van Unnik, "The Teaching of Good Works in 1 Peter"

March 15 Translate 1 Peter 3:8-17	17 Worksheet #7	19 Read Feinberg, "1 Peter 3:18-20, Ancient Mythology, and the Intermediate State"
March 22 Translate 1 Peter 3:18-22	24 Review	26 Read Grudem, "He Did Not Descend into Hell: A Plea for Following Scripture" Worksheet #8 Step 3 due
March 29 Translate 1 Peter 4:1-11	31 Worksheet #9	April 2 Read Howe, "Christ, the Building Stone, in Peter's Theology"
April 5 Translate 1 Peter 4:12-19	7 Worksheet #10	9 Read Howe, "The Cross of Christ in Peter's Theology"
April 12 Translate 1 Peter 5:1-5	14 Worksheet #11 Paper due	16 Read Howe, "The Christian Life in Peter's Theology"
April 19 Translate 1 Peter 5:6-14	21 Worksheet #12 Devotional due	23 Read Howe, "God's Grace in Peter's Theology"
April 26 Discuss 2 Peter, James	28 Discuss 1-3 John, Jude Sermon due	30 Read Porter & Pitts, "τούτο πρῶτον γινώσκοντες ὅτι in 2 Peter 1:20 and Hellenistic Epistolary Convention"
May 3-5 Open Final Exams		

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, and it can exist in many forms. For example, the following would be considered a sample of academically dishonest activities that might occur in this class:

- ◆ Sharing advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Receiving advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Using a previous student's old tests or quizzes as a study guide for this semester's tests and quizzes.
- ◆ Handing in the same paper or substituting a similar paper in more than one class without permission.
- ◆ Plagiarism. Representing the words or unique thoughts of another as your own.
- ◆ Submitting as your own, materials that have been enhanced by another.

Academic penalties for academic dishonesty range from an F grade on the particular evaluation to an F grade in the course. Also, a range of serious disciplinary penalties may apply. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Consult the section in the Seminary catalog regarding Academic and Intellectual Expectations for a description of academic dishonesty and appropriate penalties for violation.

Library Services. The Maranatha Cedarholm Library is committed to providing services to distance education students that are equivalent to residential students. Read about the library services that are available to you through Cedarholm Library. You can search the library resources by clicking on the Library link found under Quick Links on the sidebar in MyMaranatha.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to the standards of behavior for online communication.

- All communication in discussion forums and through email should be respectful and professional.
- If someone asks you a question in a discussion forum, take the time to respond.
- If a coursemate or the instructor sends you an email, acknowledge that you received it by responding with a quick email.
- Your posts should be related to the course content. If you would like to chit-chat with someone, use email or the Virtual Café
- found on the Collaboration page.
- Don't type your posts in ALL CAPS. This makes the reader think you are yelling.

Technology Problems:

Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Technology will break down and fail at some point. Its failure is a normal process life, not an emergency. As you plan ahead and manage your time, assume that technology will fail, especially if you wait until the last minute to do an assignment!

When you have a problem with MyMaranatha or any other MBU website, please contact support@mbu.edu. If you are having difficulties navigating this course or have questions about how to use technology required for this course, please go to the [IT and Online Support page](#) for answers. If you still need help please send me a quick email (David.potter@mbu.edu).

STRONGER TOGETHER

Our shared commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy campus makes it possible for MBU to continue face-to-face instruction this semester. Your acceptance of personal responsibility for your health (through consistent patterns of personal behavior and hygiene) and your learning (through diligent effort) are essential to advance your education, even amid the inconveniences and sacrifices we are called on to make. **Please note the following course policies:**

- If you are showing any symptoms of illness, do not leave your room or come to class. Immediately contact the student health center for instructions and assistance.
- If you cannot attend class in person due to symptoms of illness, please feel free to participate in the class virtually. **Please email the Student Health Center and me before class starts.** A link is provided in our My Maranatha course. If you contact me before class, we will start the Zoom session, and a recording will be made available even if you cannot attend live.
- You can only be counted as present for live attendance (in-class attendance or live virtual attendance; i.e., your live face showing on the screen). Unless you are enrolled as a virtual student, virtual attendance will only count in the case of illness, symptoms, or quarantine. The Student Health Center will verify this, so you must contact them for your virtual attendance to count. **Delayed viewing of the recording does not count as being present, but it will help you keep on track academically.**
- Sit in a way to maintain physical distancing.
- Until further notice, masks must be worn whenever you are inside a building, including class time. Exemptions on file with the Student Life Office will be honored.
- Use a sanitary wipe to clean your desk or table surface before each class. Desks should be cleaned before each class begins.
- If you are diagnosed as COVID-positive and required to isolate while you recover, don't worry! You will be well supported. Please let me know, and we will make every effort to help you keep up academically until you are released to rejoin the class.

Detailed late work policy

1. You are now studying at a graduate level; expectations are, therefore, high. The Seminary expects you to perform your academic work in a timely fashion. The development of time management skills while in seminary will greatly benefit you in the future, both in your personal life and in your ministry. Ministry involves managing numerous activities at one time. You are preparing for a life ministry, which will focus primarily on serving people. This demands a serious consideration of your own schedule and the schedules of those whom you serve. To encourage you in the development and strengthening of your time-management skills, the Seminary has established a Late Academic Work Policy. This policy is the minimum penalty for work not turned in on time. The professor may impose a greater penalty, but not a lesser. Work not turned in on the day it is due will have its grade reduced 4% for each calendar day that it is late. The Seminary realizes that serious extenuating circumstances, such as a lengthy illness or a death in the family, may prevent some students from completing class projects on time. Requests for appropriate extensions for these types of serious circumstances may be made by filling out the [Extension Deadline Request](#) and submitting it to the Seminary Office.

2. Collegiality-The Seminary catalog states, “The Seminary has an expectation of collegiality in and out of the classroom. There must be an ability and willingness to talk about controversial issues in an attitude of mutual respect between students, professors and others. The classes should not degenerate into arguments, especially over issues that have been debated regularly among fundamental Baptists. You should not attempt to pit one teacher against another in your classes. We desire that there be an openness in class discussion and a transparency of both faculty and students. The class professor has the right to end a discussion which he believes has become nonproductive.”

Attendance policy

We will make a roll call at the beginning of each class session. The professor will report attendance and tardy arrival to class for each session. See the Seminary catalog for more class attendance information.

General Classroom Policies

Electronic Devices. Laptops, tablets, and smartphones can be great tools in the classroom, but they may also be an enormous distraction to you and your fellow students. The use of electronic equipment in the classroom is a privilege, not a right. If you are found to be misusing that privilege, you will lose it for the remainder of the semester. Misuse could include using the device for anything other than course-related applications. It is expected that electronic communication devices be **muted and out of sight** for the class period unless an application is being used for a course activity. Suitable behavior regarding electronic devices is one way to show appropriate consideration to your fellow students and instructor.

Examples of inappropriate use of electronic devices:

- Texting
- Taking photos
- Web browsing
- Reading or writing an email
- Using an application that does not apply to the classroom experience