



McMaster Divinity
College

PETRINE EPISTLES

NT 2XP3 (GREEK EXEGESIS)

McMaster Divinity College
Dr. Christopher D. Land
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Spring 2023
May 1 – June 15
Monday 9:00am–12:50pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

It is always the case that some books of the Bible are emphasized more than others. In this course, we will examine two New Testament epistles that are often neglected in both academic and ecclesial contexts. Together, we will try to determine why these letters are often neglected, and we will strive to understand their distinctive contribution to the New Testament and to Christian theology. We will explore how the letters' emphasis on suffering and hope is relevant in different parts of the world today, including post-Christendom Canada.

In addition, this course will provide an opportunity for further engagement with the Greek of the New Testament. Students will learn additional vocabulary, and will practice reading and exegeting passages from the Petrine Epistles

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through their active participation in this course, students will:

KNOWING

- Memorize the basic structure and content of the Petrine Epistles;
- Learn about the historical and cultural setting in which the Petrine Epistles were written;
- Understand how 1 and 2 Peter seek to strengthen Christian faith;
- Be more familiar with the Greek of the NT.

BEING

- Appreciate the importance of participating in respectful discussions about biblical texts;
- Become self-aware as a modern reader of the Bible, recognizing both the antiquity of the texts and the various ways in which contemporary life influences our understanding of it;
- Learn about and respond to Jesus' example as a human sufferer;
- Be cautious interpreters of Greek texts.

DOING

- Have the ability to quickly locate reliable scholarly resources that discuss a particular NT passage;
- Have the ability to ask key questions in order to explore the meaning of a text;

- Have the ability to reflect canonically, theologically, and contextually so as to explore how people can/should understand the New Testament today;
- Be able to examine the Epistle of James in its original Greek.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *Written assignments must be uploaded to Avenue to Learn either as Word documents (.doc, .docx) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf). A penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all late assignments. Assignments cannot be submitted after June 15th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (strickpd@mcmaster.ca).*

CLASS MEETINGS (0%)

Attendance at weekly meetings is expected, because class discussions are a significant part of the overall learning experience. Each week during class, Greek exegesis students will meet with the professor and/or his graduate assistant to discuss student progress on the assignments and any questions prompted by the work.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS (5 x 20%)

These are due according to the Coursework Schedule below. In each assignment, students will perform the following tasks. Details will be disseminated on A2L.

1. Memorize a list of Greek words and complete a vocabulary/parsing quiz.
2. Read in Greek one of the biblical passages listed in the Coursework Schedule below.
3. Locate and read at least six resources that prove useful to you in exploring the Greek passage.
4. Identify at least five interpretive (or translational) issues in the passage and provide a discussion that illuminates the issue, citing your resources to show how they have helped you.
5. Answer four supplied interpretive questions that will help you to approach the language of your passage with a view towards its *overall* meaning and significance.
6. Come to class prepared to discuss your observations and questions with the professor or his GA.

GRADING SUMMARY

<u>Weekly Assignments</u>	<u>5 x 20%</u>
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to possess the following:

An English translation of the New Testament;

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (26th–28th ed.) or the UBS *Greek New Testament* (4th–5th ed.).

A suitable Greek–English lexicon (see bibliography below).

Students are recommended to have access to the following:

Omanson, Roger L. *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament: An Adaptation of Bruce M. Metzger’s Textual Commentary for the Needs of Translators*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the MDC chapel entrance. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON, M9A 3C3: phone 416.620.2934; mobile 416.668.3434; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topics	Written Assignments (Due at 11:59pm)
May 1	Introduction to the Course Peter in the Gospels Peter in Acts Peter in Extra-Canonical Tradition	
May 8	Introduction to 1 Peter	Assignment #1 (DRAFT)
May 15	1 Peter 1–3	Assignment #1 (1 Peter 1)
May 22	1 Peter 4–5	Assignment #2 (1 Peter 2–3)
May 29	Introduction to 2 Peter & Jude Jude	Assignment #3 (1 Peter 4–5)
June 5	2 Peter 1–3	Assignment #4 (Jude; 2 Peter 1)
June 12	Concluding Reflections	Assignment #5 (2 Peter 2–3)

SUITABLE GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICONS

[BDAG:] Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Danker, Frederick W. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Diggle, James et al. *The Cambridge Greek Lexicon*. 2 Vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

[LSJ:] Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. [Available @ <http://www.tlg.uci.edu/ljs/>] [8th edition available @ <https://archive.org/details/cu31924012909697>]

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889. [Available @ <https://archive.org/details/intermediategree00lidd>]

Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida, *Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.

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Black, Allen, and Mark C. Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. College Press NIV Commentary. Joplin: College Press, 1998.

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- . *The Letters of 2 Peter and Jude*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
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- Green, Joel B. *1 Peter*. Two Horizons New Testament Commentary. Grand Raids: Eerdmans, 2007.
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STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

In this course, we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for plagiarism detection and the student's continuation in the course represents his or her consent to the use of this service. If a student has objections to the use of this service, alternate arrangements for assignment submission must be made with the professor in advance of the assignment deadlines.

A useful guide to avoiding plagiarism is the Harvard Guide to Using Sources:

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.