

Preaching Hebrews & the General Epistles

02DM8281 – Orlando

July 22–26, 2024

Professor:

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Professor of New Testament

Westminster Theological Seminary

Class Dates & Times:

Mon., July 22: 1:00 PM–6:00 PM

Thurs., July 25: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Tues., July 23: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Fri., July 26: 9:00AM–1:00 PM

Wed., July 24: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

I. Purpose & Content

Hebrews and the General (or Catholic) Epistles (James–Jude) contain some of the most neglected books in the New Testament. Yet these epistles have an important, relevant word for the church today. The purpose of this class is to equip you to grasp the message of these epistles more fully, with an eye to contemporary application. We will thus consider both exegetical and practical issues arising from these texts.

Class time will consist of both lecture and discussion. Students should come prepared to discuss the primary and secondary texts; the more prepared you are, the more fruitful our class discussions will be.

II. Assignments

→40%: *Required Readings (approx. 2,000 pages)*

1. Pre-Class Readings (30%)

By the first day of class, you should have read and be prepared to discuss in class the required readings labeled “Pre-Class Required Readings” below. You must also write a short assessment of between 400–800 words for each book / essay in the pre-class readings [unless otherwise noted below]. Each of these summaries should do two things: 1) concisely summarize the thesis, argument, and contribution of the book; 2) comment on practical implications for ministry derived from the book. You should bring this first reading report and all your summaries to class the first day.

2. Post-Class Readings (10%)

Additional readings are required after our class meetings (“Post-Class Meeting Required Readings” below). The pre-class readings constitute 1,700 pages of reading. The remainder of the 2,000 pages of required readings will come from the following readings along with additional research you do toward your final paper. Works that count toward this page number include: a) commentaries on the relevant letter; b) monographs or specialized books on the relevant letter; c) academic articles on the relevant letter; d) theological or pastoral works that are directly relevant to your research. You are thus responsible for reading 300 additional pages of your choice.

Note that no summaries are necessary for these post-class readings; only the reading report is required. The deadline for this second reading report is Oct. 31, 2024.

→10%: Participation in Class Discussions

You should come to class prepared to discuss both the biblical texts and the relevant secondary literature in the pre-class reading. Class time will consist of some lecture, but much discussion and integration. The success of the course will depend upon the level of your interaction. The more prepared you are, the more we will have to discuss.

→50%: Final Paper

You should identify an area of interest in Hebrews–Jude on which to focus for your final paper. This could be a matter of exegesis, a pertinent theme, an historical issue, an issue of special introduction, reception history, pastoral issue, etc. The options are numerous, and you are encouraged to think of how this project might interface with your research focus in the D.Min. program.

These papers must be no more than 8,000 words, inclusive of footnotes (no endnotes, please). **Include the word count and a Works Cited at the end of your paper.** Unless otherwise indicated by RTS policy, you should use either Chicago/Turabian or SBL. Each paper should be double-spaced, with appropriate margins and at least a 12-point font. A useful guide can be found here: <http://rts.libguides.com/DMin-resources>

This paper is due Oct. 31, 2024

III. Required Texts (ca. 2,000 pages)

1. Pre-Class Meeting Required Readings: 1,622 pp. (Reading Report due by **July 22, 2024**)

1. **Biblical texts.** Read the letters of Hebrews–Jude twice in the translation of your choice. (You should also familiarize yourself as much as possible with the Greek texts of these writings). [ca. **34 pages**] [*the biblical books do not require a 400–800 word summary*]
2. **Bass, Christopher D.** *That You May Know: Assurance of Salvation in 1 John*. NACSBT 5. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2008. [**202 pp.**]
3. **Bauckham, Richard.** *James*. NT Readings. London: Routledge, 1999. [**210 pp.**]
4. **Crowe, Brandon D.** *The Boast of Faith: James, Jesus, and Biblical Theology*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, forthcoming [**146 pp.**; *an electronic copy of this book will be available to students of the class.*]
5. _____. *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2015. [**ca. 195 pp.**]
6. _____. “Son and Priest, Then and Now: Christology and Redemptive History in Hebrews in Light of the History of Interpretation.” *WTJ* 84 (2022): 19–38. [**20 pp.**] [*this essay does not require a 400–800 word summary*]
7. **Elliott, John H.** *Conflict, Community, and Honor: 1 Peter in Social-Scientific Perspective*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2007. [**85 pp.**]
8. **Hurtado, Larry W.** *Destroyer of the gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016. [**271 pp.**]

9. **Jamieson, R. B.** *The Paradox of Sonship: Christology in the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Studies in Christian Doctrine and Scripture. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2021. [169 pp.]
10. **Kruger, Michael J., ed.** *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016, 411–516. [106 pp.] [these essays do not require 400–800 word summaries]
11. **Lane, William L.** *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment*. Repr., Vancouver: Regent College, 2004. [165 pp.]
12. **Moffitt, David M.** “It is Not Finished: Jesus’s Perpetual Atoning Work as the Heavenly High Priest in Hebrews.” Pages 157–75 in *So Great a Salvation: A Dialogue on the Atonement in Hebrews*. Edited by Jon C. Laansma, George H. Guthrie, and Cynthia Long Westfall. LNTS 516. London, T&T Clark, 2019. [19 pp.] [this essay does not require a 400–800 word summary]

2. *Post-Class Meeting Required Readings: 378 pages. (Reading Report due by Oct. 31, 2024)*
 Choose 378 additional pages of relevant material, to be documented on a reading report, as indicated above (more details listed above, under “Assignments”).

IV. Probable Course Schedule

Date	Probable Topic
Mon., 7/22 1:00–6:00	Introductory Issues Hebrews Reading Report, Part 1 Due
Tues., 7/23 9:00–5:00	Hebrews James
Wed., 7/24 9:00–5:00	James 1 Peter
Thurs., 7/25 9:00–5:00	2 Peter Jude 1–3 John
Fri., 7/26 9:00–1:00	1–3 John Concluding Issues
Oct. 31, 2024	Final Paper & Reading Report, Part 2 Due

DMin SLOs Chart

Course: 02DM8281
 Professor: Brandon Crowe
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: July 22–26, 2024

<u>DMin Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</i> <u>NOTE:</u> DMin Emphases are: 1. Reformed Expository Preaching (REP), and 2. Reformed Theology and Ministry (RTM)		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Biblical/Theological Foundations:	Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)	Strong	Course focuses on exegesis of Hebrews–Jude
Historical/Contemporary Practices:	Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.	Minimal	Only covered in class discussions in <i>ad hoc</i> manner.
Integration:	Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.	Moderate	Discussions will focus to a significant degree on application and integration.
Sanctification:	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.	Moderate	These letters speak directly to Christian discipleship in the present age.
Hermeneutical/Homiletical Analysis	Demonstrates ability to interpret a text and apply homiletical principles to the text.	None	

Appendix: Required Reading Report (to be filled out and turned in twice: in July & Oct.)

Student Name: _____

[illegible]

Total Number of Pages Read	
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