

James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John & Jude (Jacob) (Judas)



Faculty Contact

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Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude make unique contributions to God's revelation of Himself and about His people, their trials and rewards, the future of His world and His promises about the glories of the new heavens and the new earth beyond the sufferings of the present. On these themes and truths these books (over ¼ of the total New Testament) occupy a crucial place in the whole canon of Scripture leading up to Revelation. They contain important eschatological and apocalyptic truths that call for holy living now in light of God's person and Jesus' coming again, judgment, justice and eternal consequences, rewards and righteousness.

We will examine truths and themes that the books share, their unique contributions and importantly, their relationships to other books in both the Old and New Testaments and occasional references to extra-Biblical books and other writings. We will examine the common introductory matters of each book and the important Christian, Jewish and pagan religious, socio-economic, cultural and political backgrounds of the Greco-Roman world and how they relate to the state of the world today.

This course pursues in-depth verse by verse study of James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude to deepen our faith and relationships with God, to develop our Biblical worldviews and equip us for ministry with God in its many dimensions: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. Know God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit in their relationship to one another and to us.
2. Allow God's Word to transform our thinking and behaviour so we may eagerly and effectively serve Him and His eternal purposes.
3. Become conversant with all the major truths and themes of James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude, their close interrelationships and their unique dimensions.
4. Observe and appreciate their language, structures and literary features and how they magnify the power of their overall messages.

5. Study and appreciate the integral relationship that these seven books have with the Old Testament, the Gospels, Acts, letters of Paul, Hebrews and Revelation.
6. Enhance our awareness of the people, religious, social, historical and geographical settings of James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude that deepen our appreciation for their communication of eternal truth and its perpetual relevance to every generation.

Bible & Ministry

8. Understand and apply our lives to all we learn in James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude to continue God's eternal ministry of faith and service leading to eternal life. Understand what they have to teach us about our relationship to each another in the one body of Jesus Christ, His assembly (*ekklesia*).
9. Meditate upon and memorise select verses in context to enhance our relationship with God and our effectiveness in ministry to others.
10. Research and articulate the many ways that James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude equip us, empower us and renew us in all dimensions of ministry: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc.

Worldview

11. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by articulating how God's revelations in James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude articulate answers to these twelve questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
12. Articulate ways we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others and fulfil His purpose for James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude.

Readings

Primary Sources

James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John & Jude

Secondary Resources

Warden, Duane. *James*. Truth for Today Commentaries. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2020.

———. *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*. Truth for Today Commentaries. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2009.

———. *1, 2 & 3 John*. Truth for Today Commentaries. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2020.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

Reading ahead and reflecting on God's Word will help you get the most from our time together each week. Credit students, please see course assignments on Pages 4–6.

	Scripture Text	Related Background Studies	Due
Lesson 1	James (Jacob) 1:1–18	Intro to Course & James	Weekly Work...
Lesson 2	James 1:19–2:13	Intro II	
Lesson 3	James 2:13–3:18	Intro III James & Paul	
Lesson 4	James 4–5		Paper Topic
Lesson 5	1 Peter 1	Intro to 1 Peter	Memory Verses
Lesson 6	1 Peter 2–3		
Lesson 7	1 Peter 4–5		
Lesson 8	2 Peter	Intro, Eschatology, // Jude	
Lesson 9	2 Peter 1		
Lesson 10	2 Peter 2–3		Memory Verses
Lesson 11	1 John 1	Intro, // Gospel & Revelation	
Lesson 12	1 John 2–3		
Lesson 13	1 John 4–5		Paper
Lesson 14	2 & 3 John	Intro to 2 & 3 John	Worldview
Lesson 15	Jude (Judas) 1	Intro to Jude, // 2 Peter	Memory Verses

Course Work

Bible

Weekly Readings, Summaries, Exegesis & Questions 30%

Bible & Ministry

Weekly Memory Verses & Applications 20%

Research Paper 35%

Worldview

Worldview of 1 author 15%

Bible

Weekly Reading Summaries, Exegesis and Questions 30%

Questions on the Text for the Week by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

By 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday post two questions on the Populi **Discussion page** on any aspect of the verses from the text for each week.* Please include the chapter and verse number(s) your questions are about. For the weeks where we are discussing the introduction to the book, one of your questions can be about any introductory matter that interests you.

For week 8 you may post two questions about the introduction to 2 Peter or eschatology or about the literary, historical and theological relationship of 2 Peter 2 and Jude.

Chapter/Verse Summaries, Exegesis by Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

By Thursday at 5:00 p.m. upload to the **Assignments** page on Populi your chapter verse summary and brief exegesis and reflection of minimum 150 words from any verse or section of the Scripture text verses of the week. Please keep all your summaries and exegesis in a single file for the course that you update weekly.

Include:

1. A brief one to two line summary of each chapter of the book we will discuss in the upcoming class. By the end of the course you will have summaries of all twenty-one chapters that will help you recall their contents, structures and locations of passages for future reference. A “mental map” of the Bible books is extremely helpful in your own spiritual growth and in the many works of ministry including preaching, teaching, apologetics and evangelism. If you wish, as you read week by week you may also add some cross references between your summaries to indicate related theme developments through these seven books (they’re amazing!).
2. A brief exegesis and reflection on any section of the Biblical text scheduled for discussion in class. Briefly discuss any features of the text you find spiritually and practically meaningful. Minimum 150 words.

Bible and Ministry

Research Paper

35%

1. Write a research paper on any clearly defined passage from one of James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John & Jude and its related historical, literary and eternal truths that you consider important for the church and the world today. Submit your choice of passage by week 4. Your passage should be well defined and no more than one chapter in length.
2. The body of your paper will be a minimum of 10 pages of research content (excluding title page, table of contents, bibliography, appendices, etc.)
3. In your paper conclusion discuss how your chosen passage can help you in your personal spiritual growth and ministry with God and His church. Your concluding applications for ministry should be at least 20% of the length of your paper (2 pages).
4. Use the *SBL Handbook of Style*, Second Edition. Available for free access and loan at www.openlibrary.org. Adjust the brightness up using the control on the upper left.

Memory Verses & Applications

20%

1. Memorise two verses each week of your own choice from each of the weekly readings. Think about the wider context of your verses when you memorise and meditate on them.
2. Record your verses each week in a word processing file along with the following,
3. For application, with each selection of verses include a brief written reflection of two or three sentences (or the equivalent in point form) on how your chosen verses can equip guide and encourage you in your walk and service with God.

Worldview

John's Worldview

15%

1. In a minimum of six pages, describe the worldview of one of James, Peter, John or Jude, integrating Scripture quotations from the writings of the one you choose to answer the following 12 questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?

6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
2. In a brief conclusion, express how your chosen quotations from John might help church members and unbelievers move closer to a Biblical worldview that aligns with God's view of His world.
 3. This assignment is informal based solely on Scriptures from book(s) of your chosen author (1 of James, Peter, John or Jude) and your own insights based upon them. Use double spaced 12 pt. font with standard default margins.

Online Class Resources Folder

Resources uploaded to Populi will also be available in this online folder so you will have access to them after the Populi page closes soon after the end of term.

<https://app.box.com/s/126oekch4yqo3g77uhq3lxpjn5ufb04p>

Your Zoom link for our class at 10:00 a.m. ET, 6:00 p.m. Kenya

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82896825214?pwd=eHJNYW94SE9mZ3hqMUE1TnYvcjFkQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 9682 5214

Passcode: 063959

God bless you as you

“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”

2 Peter 3:18b

Great Lakes Bible College

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