

Syllabus for
BIB 376—Hebrews and General Epistles
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2005

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, and Jude, as seen in the light of their original historical settings and their relevance for today.

Course Prerequisite: BIB 261, BIB 306, THE 217

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the historical background, content, and interpretation of each epistle.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Discuss the historical, social, and religious background of the Jewish, Greek, and Roman world in the first century.
- B. Discuss key introductory material for each epistle, such as author, date, audience, etc.
- C. Relate the life setting behind the composition of each epistle.
- D. Explain the major theological theme(s) of each epistle.
- E. Identify important literary features in each epistle, such as genre, structure, rhetorical style, etc.
- F. Apply exegetical insights from each epistle both in personal and ministry contexts.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Hagner, Donald A. *Encountering the Book of Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Dauids, Peter H. *James*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1989.

Skaggs, Rebecca. *Pentecostal Commentary 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude*. London: T & T Clark, 2004.

Schenck, Kenneth. *Understanding the Book of Hebrews: The Story Behind the Sermon*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2003.

Lamp, Jeffrey S. *A Study Guide for BIB 376—Hebrews and General Epistles*. ORU Copy Center, 2003.

The New Testament. Any modern English version or Greek text. The text of each epistle is to be read in the context of course assignments.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course

- a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
- b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**

- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Attendance

- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Book review on the Schenck textbook (10%)
- 2. Introduction reports on each of the epistles covered in the course (25%)
- 3. Mid-term Exam (25%).
- 4. Final Exam (25%).
- 5. Assigned Reading (15%)—on the date of the Final Examination, the student will submit a reading affidavit indicating how much of the assigned reading s/he completed from the Davids, Skaggs, and Hagner textbooks, and from the biblical letters Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude.
- 6. Grade Scale:
The final grade is given on the basis of the percentage of the total points possible:
90+=A; 80+=B; 70+=C; 60+=D; 59 and below=F.

V. COURSE CALENDAR

Jan 6	Course Introduction	
11	Overview of General Epistles	Lamp 1-2
13	Hebrews 1 (Introduction Report Due)	Hagner, 19-51, 179-195; Lamp 7-8; 21-29
18	Hebrews 2	Hagner, 53-62
20	Hebrews 3	Hagner, 63-69
25	Hebrews 4	Hagner, 71-79
27	Hebrews 5	Hagner, 81-85
Feb 1	Hebrews 6	Hagner, 85-95
3	Hebrews 7	Hagner, 97-107
8	Hebrews 8	Hagner, 109-116
10	Hebrews 9	Hagner, 117-126
15	Hebrews 10	Hagner, 127-140
17	Hebrews 11	Hagner, 141-156
22	Hebrews 12, 13	Hagner, 157-177
24	Mid-term Examination	
Mar 1	James 1 (Introduction Report Due)	Dauids, 1-55; Lamp 3, 9-12
3	James 2	Dauids, 56-79
8	James 3	Dauids, 80-97
10	James 4	Dauids, 98-114, 127-128
22	James 5	Dauids, 114-127, 128-137
24	1 Peter 1 (Introduction Report Due)	Skaggs, 2-29; Lamp 4-5, 13-16
29	1 Peter 2	Skaggs, 29-42
31	1 Peter 3 (Book Review Due)	Skaggs, 42-54
Apr 5	1 Peter 4	Skaggs, 54-68
7	1 Peter 5	Skaggs, 69-76
12	2 Peter 1 (Introduction Report Due)	Skaggs, 80-113; Lamp 17-18
14	2 Peter 2	Skaggs, 113-131
19	2 Peter 3	Skaggs, 131-145
21	Jude (Introduction Report Due)	Skaggs, 148-175; Lamp 6, 19-20
	Final Examination; Reading Affidavit due	

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 376 — Hebrews & General Epistles
Spring 2005

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		X		
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	