

SNT522/01
Hebrews through Revelation
Winter 2012 @ RTS/Orlando
Jan. 17-21
8:00am – 5:00pm
Course Syllabus, v. 1.2
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The primary goal of the course is to explore the content, theology, pastoral thrust, and critical issues surrounding the last nine books of the New Testament. This is a richly diverse set of books.

Two issues have circulated around these books: how united and how diverse were churches and indeed Christian theology in the first century? and what right do some of these documents have to canonical status alongside the gospels and Pauline epistles? Therefore, in addition to looking at the letters by themselves, we will be considering them against the backdrop of two broad theological motifs: so-called “early catholicism” and canonicity.

Criteria for Evaluation

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| 10% | Completing all course readings (including the biblical texts at least 3x through) — simply indicate to me the percentage of readings you have managed to complete by the time you turn in your last paper. |
| 90% | Three papers (about 2500 words per paper — about 6 or so pages, Times Roman Font at 12 point, double spaced) |

Reading/Writing Assignment

You have some latitude here. Select three of the books (or groups — e.g., 2Pt/Jd or 1, 2 & 3 John together) and write about what each book/group brings to your ministry situation. That’s three books/groups and three papers. And I’m looking for. I realize library resources are limited, and I envision these to be papers you can largely write on the basis of our class time, your course readings and online resources. Here are the kinds of questions you could ask:

- You could simply tackle one of the major theological or interpretive issues that surfaces in a particular book — e.g., faith and works in James; apostasy in Hebrews; suffering in 1 Peter; heresy in 2 Peter & Jude; perfectionism in 1 John; the millennium in Revelation.
- You could imagine what your life or ministry (you could generalize to the ministry of the church-at-large) would be without a particular book/group — that is: if it were missing from our canon. Reflect on ways in which your (or the church’s) theological and pastoral task would at least *appear* to be less complicated without a particular document (e.g., James, with its emphasis on faith and works). At the same time, reflect on ways in which you would be theologically and pastorally the poorer without this book/group. In the end, what is the contribution this book/group makes to the unity of the NT canon and to your calling?
- You could read through and write a review of a significant monograph or commentary on any of these biblical books. You would need to get approval from me, but here are some recommendations:
 - Philip Edgcumbe Hughes, *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Eerdmans, 1977)
 - Albert Vanhoye, *A Different Priest: The Epistle to the Hebrews* (Convivium, 2011)
 - Luke Timothy Johnson, *Brother of Jesus, Friend of God: Studies in the Letter of James* (Eerdmans, 2004)
 - Ralph P. Martin, *James*. Word Biblical Commentary 48 (Word, 1988)
 - John H. Elliott, *A Home for the Homeless: A Sociological Exegesis of 1 Peter, Its Situation and Strategy* (Fortress, 1981)
 - Paul J. Achtemeier, *1 Peter*. Hermeneia Commentary (Augsburg, 1996)
 - Richard Bauckham, *Jude & 2 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary 50 (Word, 1983)
 - Stephen S. Smalley, *1,2,3 John*. Word Biblical Commentary 51 (Word, 1984)
 - Gregory K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Eerdmans, 1998)
 - Aaron Milevec, *The Didache: Text, Translation, Analysis, and Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 2003)
 - Kurt Niederwimmer, *The Didache* Hermeneia Commentary (Augsburg, 1998)
- Special note: For one of these papers you could substitute a more inclusive paper on “early catholicism” and some or all of these documents, or on “canonicity” and some or all of these documents.

All three of these papers will be due Saturday, March 17, 2012 — e-mail attachments are acceptable, as are snail mail submissions (papers are “on time” if postmarked by Mar. 17).

Required Texts:

Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge, 1993. ISBN: 0521356101

Carson, Moo, & Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Zondervan, 1992. ISBN: 0310519403 - relevant chapters

Karen Jobes, *Letters to the Church: A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 9780310267386

Ralph Martin & Peter Davids (eds.), *Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments*. IVP, 1997. ISBN: 0830817794 - selections only - see “The Plan” below for which readings will be covered on which days

Vern Poythress, *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*. P&R, 2000. ISBN: 0875524621

Herman Ridderbos, *Redemptive History and the New Testament Scriptures*. P&R, 1988. ISBN: 0875524160

**Raft of Articles (available online @
<http://www.rts.edu/Site/Staff/rkidd/kiddcourses.aspx>
(see the documents for Fall 2008, Hebrews through Revelation)**

ON “EARLY CATHOLICISM”

Ernst Käsemann, “The Canon of the NT and the Unity of the Church,” from his *Essays on NT Themes* (SCM Press, 1964), 95-107.

_____. “The Problem of a NT Theology,” in *New Testament Studies* 19, pp. 235-245.

N. Perrin, “The Church on the Way to Becoming an Institution: The Literature of Emergent Catholicism,” from his *The New Testament, an Introduction: Proclamation & Parenthesis, Myth & History* (HBJ, 1974)

Gerhaardus Vos, "The Structure of NT Revelation," from his *Biblical Theology* (Eerdmans, 1948), pp. 321-327).

_____. "The Idea of Biblical Theology as a Science and as a Theological Discipline," from his *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation* (P&R, 1980), pp. 3-24.

The Didache ("Teaching of the Twelve Apostles"), in *The Apostolic Fathers*, Vol. 1, Loeb Classical Library 24, edited and translated by Bart Ehrman (Harvard Univ. Press, 2003).

ON HEBREWS:

P. E. Hughes, *Commentary on Hebrews* (Eerdmans), excerpts, "Introduction," & "6:4-6"

Allen Mawhinney, "The Structural Function of the Major Quotations in Hebrews" (unpublished).

Vern Poythress, "Strategy for Dialogue with Dispensationalists," & "Hebrews 12:22-24," Chaps. 6 & 12 of his *Understanding Dispensationalists* (Zondervan, 1987).

Richard Gaffin, "A Sabbath Rest Still Awaits the People of God," in *Pressing Toward the Mark: Essays Commemorating Fifty Years of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*. C.G. Dennison & R.C. Gamble eds. (OPC, 1986), pp. 33-51.

_____. "Theonomy and Eschatology: Reflections on Postmillennialism," in *Theonomy: A Reformed Critique* (Zondervan, 1990), pp. 197-224.

ON 1 PETER:

John H. Elliott, "1 Peter, its Situation and Strategy: A Discussion with David Balch," in *Perspectives on First Peter*, C.H. Talbert, ed. (Mercer University Press, 1986), pp. 61-78.

David Balch, "Hellenization/Acculturation in 1 Peter," in *Perspectives on 1 Peter*, pp. 79-101.

ON 2 PETER & JUDE:

E. M. B. Green, *2 Peter: Reconsidered* (Tyndale, 1960).

Ernst Käsemann, "An Apologia for Primitive Christian Eschatology," from his *Essays on NT Themes*, pp. 169-195.

J.A.T. Robinson, *Redating the NT* (Westminster Press, 1976), pp. 169-199.

ON REVELATION:

George Ladd, "The Messianic Triumph," Chap. 20 of his *Commentary on the Revelation of John* (Eerdmans, 1972), pp. 259-274.

R. Fowler White, "Reexamining the Evidence for Recapitulation in Rev 20:1-10," *Westminster Theological Journal* 51 (1989): 319-344.

Norman Shepherd, "The Resurrections of Revelation 20," *WTJ* 37 (Fall 1974): 34-43.

Meredith Kline, "The First Resurrection," *WTJ* 37 (Spring 1975): 366-375.

J. Ramsey Michaels, "The First Resurrection: A Response," *WTJ* 39 (Fall 1976): 100-109.

Meredith Kline, "The First Resurrection: A Reaffirmation," *WTJ* 39 (Fall 1976): 110-119.

Philip E. Hughes, "The First Resurrection: Another Interpretation," *WTJ* 39 (Spring 1977): 315-318.

THE PLAN (including readings from *Dict. Later NT & Devel.* = *DLNTD*)

Day One (Tues., Jan. 17) — Course Introduction, "Early Catholicism," James

DLNTD: 'Hermeneutics' (13); 'Early Catholicism' (3)

Day Two (Wed., Jan. 18) — Hebrews

DLNTD: 'Hebrews' (15); 'Jesus Tradition' (2)

Day Three (Thurs., Jan. 19) — 1 Peter; 2 Peter & Jude

DLNTD: '1 Peter' (9); 'Jesus Tradition' (1); 'Persecution' (8); 'Suffering' (6)
DLNTD: '2 Peter' (5); 'Jesus Tradition' (1); 'Jude' (8); 'Noncanonical Writings ...' (6);

Day Four (Fri., Jan. 20) — 1, 2 & 3 John; Revelation

DLNTD: 'John, Letters of' (12); 'Docetism' (3); 'Preaching from Acts, Heb, Gen Ep & Rev' (8)
DLNTD: 'Revelation' (13); 'Emperor, Emperor Cult' (5); 'Old Testament in Revelation' (4);
'Apocalyptic, Apocalypticism' (11); 'Scrolls, Seals' (2); 'Beasts, Dragon, Sea, Conflict Motif' (3);
Babylon (2)

Day Five (Sat., Jan. 21) — Revelation; Didache & Canon

DLNTD: Canon (10); Pseudepigraphy (8); Didache (3)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2NT522/01
 Professor: Reggie Kidd
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: January 17-21, 2012

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv 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 MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	This portion of the NT is critical to a Reformed theological education.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	In the text as much as possible — challenging those w/ Greek to us it.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	This portion of the NT has largely shaped Reformed thinking — frequent class reflections on interplay between Heb-Rev and the tradition.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Lectures and readings often point in this direction.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Big theme in these documents.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Wide range of topics and ways of interfacing with "the world" in these documents.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Good fodder for preaching in these texts.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	As much as possible —Jesus as Worship Leader in Heb; Christology in Johannine letters; theme of heaven's worship in Revelation.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Important material in these texts.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Important material in these texts.