

General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

**Thursdays, 1-3 PM, Apr. 3-May 29, 2014*

**Required Text: Encountering the New Testament,
Walter Elwell & Robert Yarbrough- \$400 pesos*

Introduction
April 3, 2014

Ross Arnold, Spring 2014
Lakeside institute of Theology

Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without making arrangements with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

Policies and Requirements for making up classes, or taking classes online (as of April 3, 2014):

- I. All make-up classes must be completed before the beginning of the following term, unless you make special arrangements with the professor.
- II. All classes made up online must be reported via email to rda@rossarnold.net, as follows:
 - A. Each class must be reported in a separate email as soon after watching as possible.
 - B. Each email must contain the following information:
 1. Course title and/or code (NT4, OT3, TH2, etc.).
 2. The date of the original lecture you missed.
 3. The title of the lecture.
 4. A clear statement that you watched all of the lecture video, reviewed the materials and completed the required readings.
- III. Courses taken entirely online require prior approval, and apply only to audit or Certificate (not degree) requirements.

General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

Apr 3 – Intro to NT General Epistles

Apr 10 – Book of Hebrews

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – Book of James

May 1 – Books of 1 & 2 Peter

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – Books of 1,2,3 John; Jude

May 22 – Book of Revelation

May 29 – Conclusion; Final Exam

The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ The New Testament epistles (“letters” intended to be publically read) that were not written by Paul:
 - Hebrews James
 - 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John
 - Jude
- ▶ Also known as “Catholic” (meaning “universal”) Epistles; or the “non-Pauline” epistles.
- ▶ They differ from Pauline Epistles in that, while Paul’s letters are named for their recipients, the General Epistles are named for their authors (with the exception of Hebrews, which is sometimes not considered a General Epistle).

The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ Most of the General Epistles are short books written to address certain concerns, controversies and heresies within the Church.
 - Encouraging continued faithfulness to Jesus
 - Promoting love within the Christian community
 - Promoting hospitality to strangers
 - Encouraging godly behavior
 - Against false teaching – especially Gnosticism (one of the most common themes)
- ▶ The General Epistles also tend to focus on the practical side of our faith – the power of prayer, how to hold your tongue, dealing with false teachers, being patient, being persistent, overcoming fear...

The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ The Eight General Epistles, written by five different authors, covering a variety of topics, form a unity more because of their distinctiveness from the Pauline Epistles than because of any internal cohesion.
 - ▶ Traditionally, all the General Epistles were written before the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD 70, except for 1, 2 & 3 John, written between AD 85 and 90.
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The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ **Hebrews** (c.65 AD) – Presents Christ as High Priest, to encourage Jewish Christians believers to stay true to the faith and not return to Judaism.
- ▶ **James** (c.45 AD) – Practical instruction on living the Christian life.
- ▶ **1 Peter** (c.65 AD) – Encouragement and comfort from the Apostle Peter to persecuted and suffering Christians.
- ▶ **2 Peter** (c.67 AD) – Peter's warning against false teachers.

The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ **1 John** (c.85 AD) – John’s reminder of our fellowship with God and each other in and through Jesus.
 - ▶ **2 John** (c.85-90 AD) – John’s letter of encouragement to “the elect Lady” and her children.
 - ▶ **3 John** (c.90 AD) – John’s personal note of praise and appreciation to Gaius.
 - ▶ **Jude** (c.67-73 AD) – Strong warning against false teachers.
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The New Testament General Epistles

- ▶ **Revelation** (c.96 AD) – An encouraging prophesy about the final days, the Second Coming of Christ, the end of time, God's ultimate triumph, and the beginning of our eternity with him in heaven.