I. Purpose of the Course

The primary purpose of this course is to enable the student to develop further the reading skills acquired in Interpreting the New Testament (NT 502) by focusing on exegetical method as applied to an epistle. This prior course is a prerequisite. The secondary purpose of this course is to gain a basic understanding of the argument and themes of the canonical letter of 1 Peter. The focus of the course is therefore on method, with 1 Peter providing the laboratory in which we will work. A third goal of the course is to begin to develop a biblical-theological framework from which we can build a basic understanding of the relationship of the particular themes of these letters to the rest of the Bible.

II. The Structure of the Course

As you know, Chairman Mao told the story about the wise man who, when confronted with a hungry beggar, gave him a fishing pole instead of a meal. When asked why, he replied with the basic insight: "If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish you feed him for a life-time." The structure of this course is built upon this insight. This course is not designed primarily to transfer a body of information from my notebooks into yours, though of course there will be plenty of "raw material" that will need to be mined before you can make your own chalice of silver. The role of the teacher, however, is not to dispense information like a pop (= soda) machine, but to help the student gain tools and skills. This means, therefore, that the structure of the course is designed to provide as many opportunities (= assignments!) as possible for practicing the exegetical tools you have learned and to learn some new ones. Practically this means that the "typical" class session will be devoted to analyzing your work for that day and providing you with the necessary background to go on to the work ahead. Most often the work assigned will revolve around an analysis of the structure, syntax, and logic of an assigned text. You will be responsible for reading the text according to the method I will assign, as well as reading the assigned pages from the required textbooks.

III. Textbooks

1. It is assumed that all students will have access to the following:


2. In addition, the following textbooks are required:

a. Paul J. Achtemeier, 1 Peter (Hermeneia), 1996

IV. Course Requirements

1. Each student will be responsible for reading the assigned passages from 1 Peter and corresponding pages from Achtemeier and Jobes. In addition, each student will be responsible for turning in diagrams/flows and a discourse analysis of the passage assigned for that day. The discourse analysis includes a propositional translation of the passage and brackets (this will be introduced on the first day of class).

2. Each student will be responsible to complete the study guides and one quiz that correspond to the reading and exegesis.

3. Each student will be responsible to read the assigned pages in Wallace's grammar (in context!) that correspond to 1 Peter.

4. Each student will be responsible for turning in a 15 page exegesis paper on a passage from 1 Peter of his or her own choice (10 pages of text plus appendices of sentence diagrams, discourse analysis, and textual criticism of your passage). The paper is due March 30th!

Late work will only be accepted with penalty. The success of this course depends on your preparation before class, since I will not lecture in the traditional sense but will approach the text with you in an attempt to understand the argument of the passage together. I will presuppose that you are coming to class not merely to listen to me, but to wrestle with the text together with others who have invested time and energy in the hard work of understanding an author's original intention. Be prepared to speak and think and discuss!

The emphasis of this course thus falls on your daily preparation for and participation in our class time together and on your independent exegetical work as reflected in your daily work. One does not learn how to read best simply by listening to others expound the text, though good role models play an important part in the process. Rather, the more you try to read texts yourself, the more you will learn if guided by sound principles and monitored along the way. The purpose, structure, and grading of this course are all designed to enable you to do just that.

V. Grading

Your grade will be determined on the basis of your textual work (diagrams/flows and D.A.) [=30%], four study guides [= 40%], and final paper [= 30%]. I reserve the right to introduce quizzes on the Greek text and Wallace if need be.
VI. Proposed Daily Schedule and Assignments

1. Jan. 26th: Introduction to the Course: Reading 1 Peter 1:1-2

2. Jan 28th: Reading 1 Peter 1:3-5

   Competency Exam
   Diagrams and D.A. of 1:3-5

3. Feb 2nd: Reading of 1 Peter 1:6-9

   Diagrams and D.A. of 1:6-9; **QUIZ on Logical Relationships.**
   Selected reading of commentaries

4. Feb 4th: Reading of 1 Peter 1:10-12

   Diagrams and D.A. of 1:10-12
   **Study Guide 1** due on Acht 1-75 and 1:1-12

5. Feb 9th: Reading of 1 Peter 1:13-16

   Diagrams and D.A. due on 1:13-16
   Selected reading of commentaries

6. Feb 11th: Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

   Diagrams and D.A. of 1:17-21
   Selected reading of commentaries

7. Feb 23rd: Reading 1 Peter 1:22-25

   Diagrams and D.A. of 1:22-25
   **Study Guide 2** due on 1:13-25

8. Feb 25th: Reading of 1 Peter 2:1-3

   Diagrams and D.A. of 2:1-3
   Selected reading of commentaries

9. March 2nd: Reading of 1 Peter 2:4-6

   Diagrams and D.A. of 2:4-6
   Selected reading of commentaries

10. March 4th: Reading of 1 Peter 2:7-10

   Diagrams and D.A. of 2:7-10
Study Guide 3 due on 1 Peter 2:1-10

11. March 9th:  
   Reading of 1 Peter 2:11-17  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 2:11-17  
   Selected reading of commentaries.

12. March 11th:  
   Reading of 1 Peter 2:18-25  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 2:18-25  
   Study Isa 53 as Backdrop!

13. March 16th:  
   Hafemann presents 3:1-6  
   Work on Paper!

14. March 18th:  
   Hafemann presents 3:7-12  
   Work on Paper!

15. March 30th:  
   PAPER DUE!  
   Discussion of Your Exegetical Insights

16. April 1st:  
   Reading of 1 Peter 3:13-17  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 3:13-17  
   Selected Reading of Commentaries

17. April 6th:  
   Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 3:18-22  
   Selected Reading of Commentaries  
   Study Guide 4 due on 1 Peter 3:13-22

18. April 8th:  
   Reading 1 Peter 4:1-6  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 4:1-6  
   Selected Reading of Commentaries

19. April 13th:  
   Reading 1 Peter 4:7-11 and 12-19  
   Read the Greek on 4:7-11  
   Diagrams and D.A. of 4:12-19  
   Selected Reading of Commentaries

20. April 15th:  
   Reading 1 Peter 5:1-14  
   Read the Greek of 5:1-14
VII. The Course and the Master of Divinity Goals

NT 640 is designed to meet the goals of the M.Div. degree in the following ways:

1. To gain competency with the biblical languages in order to develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills using the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Greek text of the New Testament (1): Every assignment is intended to meet this goal as its primary objective.

2. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings, (1) as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith (2): A serious study of 1 Peter will further a student's understanding of the basic themes of the OT and NT in their original context, especially in view of the thorough use of the OT in the NT throughout 1 Peter.

3. To expound and proclaim effectively the biblical message of redemption (3): An understanding of 1 Peter will provide much need material for this proclamation.

4. To develop skills appropriate for church leadership as a pastor, teacher, counselor, evangelist, chaplain, church planter, missionary or other role as a leader (3): The centrality of the Bible for ministry is underscored and strengthened by this course.

5. To foster love for God and his word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian’s ethical responsibility in church and society (4, 5): The theme of submission to Christ as this works out in the various social and political contexts of life, which is central to 1 Peter, serves to meet this goal by forcing students to confront the realities of faith in a fallen world.

6. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church (5): Class lectures will repeatedly raise the implications of 1 Peter for contemporary culture.

7. To develop a global vision for the Christian faith so as to foster an appreciation and commitment to the worldwide proclamation of the gospel (6): 1 Peter's mandate for witness will be stressed.

8. To cultivate an appreciation for and a commitment to the personal and community sharing of the gospel (6): 1 Peter's emphasis on the life of faith within the body of Christ and especially the role of elders in the church will be stressed.