

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary**

*“Therefore we must attend all the more to what we have heard.” (Hebrews 2:1)*

*SS 612 The Catholic Epistles (Reading Course)*

Winter, 2012

Two credits

Rev. Leonard Obloy S.S.L. S.S.D. (cand.) (248) 683-0315 lobloy@sscms.edu

### **I. Course Description**

“Composition and theology of the Petrine letters, the Letter of James and the Letter of Jude. Exegesis of selected passages will be given. This course will also include an overview of the composition and theology of Hebrews. Exegesis of selected passages will be provided. Prerequisite: SS 523” (*Catalog*)

### **II. Course Objectives - Rationale**

It is the objective of the Sacred Scripture department to give the student an overview and introduction to each book of the Bible over the course of the program. Of course not every book can be examined in depth, nor even can each book be treated equally. However, at the end of each course the student should have a familiarity with the books covered. He/She should also be able to see how the books considered in a particular course relate to the Bible as a whole.

### **III. Required Texts**

The required texts are the Bible itself (any modern English language translation) and Vanhoye, Albert, *Old Testament Priests and the New Priest According to the New Testament*. Petersham, MA: St. Bede’s Publications. 1986.

### **IV. Church Documents**

It is presumed that the student is familiar with the following Church documents:

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. *Providentissimus Deus*
3. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
4. *Dei Verbum*
5. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

### **V. Assignments**

A pastoral project related to the course material will also be assigned. Details will be given in the meeting. The project may be in outline form. Assignments are to be submitted electronically (see above for email address).

## VI. Attendance

A mutually agreed upon schedule of meetings between student and professor will be established at the beginning of the semester.

## VII. Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated by the quality of the discussions and the pastoral project.

## VIII. Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Violations in this area are considered a serious offense and may result in failing grade and/or dismissal from the program.” (*Catalog*)

## IX. Availability

Office hours by appointment. I am available every day of the week and throughout most of the day. Please email, call or simply see me in class to arrange a mutually convenient time. My office is on the first floor, north side of the east wing of the SAC.

## X. Course of Study

### A. A general introduction to epistolary form

1. I and II Peter
2. James
3. Jude
4. Hebrews
  - a. stylistic elements
  - b. the priesthood of Jesus Christ

## XI. Select Bibliography

Students are encouraged to use the many on-line resources available through the campus library or any other modern library.

The following works are especially recommended:

*Anchor Bible*

*Anchor Bible Dictionary.*

Brown, R. E. *An Introduction to the New Testament.* New York: Doubleday, 1997.

*Elenchus of Biblica.* Rome: Pontifical Biblical Press.

*Hermaneia*

*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

*New Testament Message Series*

*Sacra Pagina*

*The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*

Vanhoye, Albert. *Old Testament Priests and the New Priest According to the New Testament*. Petersham, MA: St. Bede's Publications. 1986. (Required Text)