



NT 609 *The Book of Revelation* (3 credits)
Instructor: Dr Paul Spilsbury
Fall 2006

Contacting the Instructor

Office Phone: (403) 410-2000 ext. 6905
Email Address: pspilsbury@auc-nuc.ca

Course Description

Like the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment in the Gospels, the book of Revelation has suffered much at the hands of many experts. And yet the book remains an enigma to most Christians, usually marginalised in our discussion of the Gospel, or of what it means to be a Christian. This course is an attempt to reclaim the powerful message of the Book of Revelation for today. Special attention will be paid to Revelation as a work of early Christian literature deeply influenced by the prophetic witness of the Old Testament, by events and attitudes of the first century world, and by the early Christians' experience of Jesus himself. Students who take the course will be introduced to the insights offered by current scholarly engagement with Revelation, and be given the opportunity to reflect together on the enduring significance of this book for society today.

Course Objectives

The course aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- To introduce students to the literary and cultural context in which the book of Revelation was written.
- To help students understand and interpret the symbols and images of the book of Revelation.
- To outline the major themes and theology of the book of Revelation.
- To give a sense of the importance of the book of Revelation for Christian thought and practice today.

Required Texts

Hemer, C.J. *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in their Local Setting*. Eerdmans, 2001.

Keener, C.S. *Revelation*. The NIV Application Commentary; Zondervan, 2000.

Spilsbury, P. *The Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon*. InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Recommended Texts

Aune, D. E. *Revelation*. 3 vols; Dallas: Word Books, 1997–1998.

Barr, D.L. *Tales of the End. A Narrative Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Santa Rosa: Polbridge Press, 1998.

Bauckham, R. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Beale, G.K. *The Book of Revelation. A Commentary in the Greek Text*. Eerdmans, 1999.

Collins, J.J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination*. 2nd ed. Eerdmans, 1998.

Peterson, E.H. *Reversed Thunder. The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*. Harper and Row, 1988.

Course Schedule

To be provided in class.

Course Requirements

1. Write an in-depth analysis of the message to any two of the seven churches in Rev 2–3. Your analysis should include historical, cultural and religious background, as well as exegesis of the passage itself. What was the significance of the message in its original context, and how does the message relate to the message of the book as a whole? What is the relevance of the message to the church today? This assignment should draw on the texts by Hemer and Keener.
2. Write a research paper on one of the following topics:
 - a. Why was the Book of Revelation written? What was the occasion of the book's writing, and what was it intended to accomplish?
 - b. Write an essay on the genre of the book of Revelation. What are the characteristics of this genre, and what form do they take in Revelation?
 - c. Identify and develop three of the book's most important theological themes. Show how these themes relate to each other and to the book's overall message.
 - d. Write an essay on the use of the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation.
 - e. What is the meaning and significance of the "millennium" in the Book of Revelation?
 - f. Write an essay on meaning of the "New Jerusalem" in the Book of Revelation.

Your paper should show evidence of careful reading of the book of Revelation as well as a significant number of secondary sources (commentaries, monographs, articles, etc.). When I read your paper I will be looking for in-depth knowledge of the subject you have chosen, careful interaction with the critical issues involved, and clarity of expression. It is imperative that you always acknowledge the sources of your information and insights in the form of footnotes or in-text notes. You should also provide a full bibliography of works consulted at the end of your paper. Do not exceed the word limit.

3. Write a reflection paper on the message of the Book of Revelation. What are its most important and enduring points for the Church today. This assignment should draw on the resources of the whole course, including the texts by Keener and Spilsbury.

Course Grade

1. Church Analyses: 30%
2. Research Paper: 40 %
3. Reflection Paper: 30%

Important Notes

Assignment Due Dates: The due date for submission of all assignments and exams is **June 14th, 2004.**

Extensions: Extensions for the completion of course work are not available from either the instructor or the Extension Education office. Only those students who encounter a serious and unforeseen emergency that prevents the completion of course work may submit a request, in writing, to the Office of the Academic Dean at least two weeks prior to the due date.

Assignments – Submission and Return:

- All assignments must be mailed to the Extension Education office in hard copy form and not to the instructor (CBC/CTS Extension Education, #630, 833 – 4th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 3T5).
- Students must submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope (*of sufficient size and postage*) to enable us to return the graded assignments. It is recommended that the student enclose this with their completed assignments when they are mailed to us.
- Papers which are unclaimed and/or undeliverable will be held in the Extension Education office for one year from the due date, and then destroyed.

Format of Written Work:

All written work must adhere to the format detailed in the *Style Guide* which is attached.

Style Guide

This *Style Guide* is designed as a quick reference tool to help students with some of the technical details involved in citing sources in bibliographies and footnotes in written assignments. Only the most common types of sources are covered here. Students who need more detailed or complex guidance are directed to the *SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (Hendrickson, 1999), which is available in our library.

In the following examples the first entry shows how the work should be cited in the first footnote referring to that work. The second entry shows how the work should be referred to in all subsequent footnotes. The third entry shows how the work should appear in the bibliography.

Note that details of punctuation, indentation and italicization are part of the proper citation of sources. The standard font for all written work is Times New Roman, 12 point.

1. A Book by a Single Author

¹² Paul Spilsbury, *The Throne, the Lamb, and the Dragon: A Reader's Guide to the Book of Revelation* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 101.

¹⁵ Spilsbury, *The Throne*, 99.

Spilsbury, Paul. *The Throne, the Lamb, and the Dragon: A Reader's Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

2. A Book by Two or Three Authors

² Gerald F. Hall and Eric P. de Bruyn, *Messing About in Boats: What to Do after You Turn Fifty* (Calgary: Alliance Press, 2004), 237.

¹⁷ Hall and de Bruyn, *Messing About*, 23.

Hall, Gerald F., and Eric P. de Bruyn. *Messing About in Boats: What to Do after You Turn Fifty*. Calgary: Alliance Press, 2004.

3. A Book in a Series

⁴ Andy Reimer, *Miracle and Magic: A Study in the Acts of the Apostles and Philostratus' Life of Apollonius* (JSNTSup 235; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2002), 136.

¹⁸ Reimer, *Miracle and Magic*, 136.

Reimer, Andy. *Miracle and Magic: A Study in the Acts of the Apostles and Philostratus' Life of Apollonius*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 235; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2002.

4. A Journal Article

²¹ Kyle Jantzen, "Propaganda, Perseverance and Protest: Strategies for clerical survival amid the German Church Struggle," *CH* 70 (2001): 295-327.

³⁷ Jantzen, "Propaganda," 321.

Jantzen, Kyle. "Propaganda, Perseverance and Protest: Strategies for clerical survival amid the German Church Struggle," *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 70 (2001): 295-327.

5. An Article in an Edited Volume

⁶ Kenneth L. Draper, "Redemptive Homes—Redeeming Choices: Saving the Social in Late-Victorian London, Ontario," in *Households of Faith: Family, Gender, and Community in Canada, 1760–1969* (ed. N. Christie; Montreal and Kingston: McGill/Queen's University Press, 2002), 177.

¹⁷ Draper, "Redemptive Homes," 203.

Draper, Kenneth L. "Redemptive Homes—Redeeming Choices: Saving the Social in Late-Victorian London, Ontario." Pages 201–221 in *Households of Faith: Family, Gender, and Community in Canada, 1760–1969*. Edited by N. Christie. Montreal and Kingston: McGill/Queen's University Press, 2002.

6. An Article in an Encyclopaedia or a Dictionary

²¹ P. Spilsbury, "Messiah," *JHTC* 2:528.

³⁷ Spilsbury, "Messiah," 2:530.

Spilsbury, P. "Messiah." Pages 615-616 in vol. 2 of *Jesus in History, Thought and Culture: An Encyclopaedia*. Edited by L. Houlden. 2 vols. Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

7. A Book Review

² Bernie A. Van De Walle, review of H.A. Harris, *Fundamentalism and Evangelicals*, *JETS* 44 (2001): 357.

⁷ Van De Walle, review of Harris, 358.

Van De Walle, Bernie A. Review of H.A. Harris, *Fundamentalism and Evangelicals*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44 (2001): 357-59.

8. An Internet Publication

³² Andy Reimer, "Healing: Biblical Basis and Procedure," n.p. [cited 5 January 2004]. Online: http://online.cbccs.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/_healing.html.

³⁵ Reimer, "Healing."

Reimer, Andy. "Healing: Biblical Basis and Procedure." No pages. Cited 5 January 2004. Online: http://online.cbccs.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/_healing.html.