



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

## NT 609 The Book of Revelation

**Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup> September–9<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
**Times:** Tuesdays 6:30–9:15 pm  
**Location:** A2141  
**Instructor:** Dr Paul Spilsbury

### Contact Information

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**Network:** S:\Revelation NT 609

### 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 follower of Jesus. This course reclaims 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 the Apocalypse, and will be given the opportunity to reflect together on the enduring significance of this book for society today.

### Course 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 highlight the importance of the Book of Revelation for Christian thought and practice.

### Recommended Texts

- Aune, D.E. *Revelation*. 3 Vols; Dallas: Word Books
- Bauckham, R. *Theology of the Book of Revelation*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1993.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Climax of Prophecy*. T&T Clark, 1993
- Beale, G.K. *The Book of Revelation: A commentary in the Greek Text*. Eerdmans, 1999
- Beasley-Murray, G.R. *The Book of Revelation* (NCBC), Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1974
- Caird, G.B. *A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine*. Harper & Row, 1966
- Collins, Adela Yarbro. *Crisis & Catharsis: The power of the Apocalypse*. Westminster, 1984
- Collins, J.J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Eerdmans, 1998.
- 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.
- Koester, C.R. *Revelation and the End of all Things*. Eerdmans, 2001
- Ladd, A. *Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Eerdmans, 1972
- Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Rev*. Abingdon, 1993
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*, rev. ed. Eerdmans, 1998
- Moyise, Steve. *The Old Testament in the Book of Revelation*. Sheffield, 1995
- Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation* (BECNT). Baker, 2002
- Peterson, E.H. *Reversed Thunder*. Harper & Row, 1988
- Rowland, Christopher. *Revelation* (Epworth). Epworth, 1993
- Smalley, Stephen S. *The Revelation to John: A commentary on the Greek text of the Apocalypse*. IVP, 2005
- \*Spilsbury, P. *Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon*, IVP, 2002 [Students will find this text particularly useful as companion to the lectures in this course.]
- Sweet, J.P.M. *Revelation* (WPC). Westminster, 1979
- Thompson, Leonard L. *Revelation* (ANTC). Abingdon, 1998

### Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

#	Date	Subject	Assignments
1a	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Reading Revelation	
b		—continued	
2a	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Reading Revelation	
b		—continued	
3a	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Reading Revelation	Reading Assignment Due
b		—continued	
4a	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	The Seven Churches	
b		—continued	
5a	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Chapter 4	
b		Chapter 5	
6a	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Judgments	
b		—continued	
7a	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Followers of the Lamb	
b		—continued	
	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Class Cancelled	

Commented [PS1]: Joe Hassey evaluating class.

Commented [PS2]: Peter Ralph evaluating class.

	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<i>Class Cancelled</i>	
8a	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Enemies of the Lamb	Research Assignment Due
b		—continued	
9a	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Enemies of the Lamb	
b		—continued	
10a	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	The Bride and the Rider	
b		The Millennium	
11a	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	A New Heaven and Earth	Reflective Synthesis Due
b		Final Reflections	

### Course Requirements

Complete all three assignments in this course:

#### 1. Reading Assignment

Read the Book of Revelation in its entirety in three different translations. Submit a statement by email indicating that you have completed this reading.

Due: 30<sup>th</sup> September

#### 2. Research Assignment

Complete one of the following two options:

##### a. Historical Option

The historical situation in which the Book of Revelation was written is a key aspect of an adequate understanding of the book. For this option, write a 15 page description of the political, social and religious situation at the time Revelation was written. You should use at least twenty sources, including journal articles, books, and commentaries.

##### b. Literary Option

The literary genre of Revelation is another very important factor for understanding its message. For this option write a 15 page paper comparing and contrasting Revelation to other ancient apocalyptic texts. In what ways is Revelation the same as, and in what ways different from other examples of ancient apocalyptic literature? You should use at least twenty resources including journal articles, books, and commentaries.

Due 18<sup>th</sup> November

#### 3. Reflective Synthesis

Write a 10 page (double-spaced) personal reflection on the message of the Book of Revelation. What are its most important and enduring points for today? In what ways is

the book still important for Christian discipleship and theology? In what ways does it speak to you personally?

This assignment should draw on the resources of the whole course, including the lectures and at least ten other sources.

Due: 9<sup>th</sup> December

### Course Grade

1. Reading Assignment: 5%
2. Research Assignment: 60%
3. Reflection Assignment: 35%

### Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>
A+	90 and higher		4.00
A	85-89	Excellent	4.00
A-	80-84		3.70
B+	77-79		3.30
B	73-76	Good	3.00
B-	70-72		2.70
C+	67-69		2.30
C	63-66	Satisfactory	2.00
C-	60-62		1.70
D+	55-59	Poor	1.30
D	50-54	Minimal Pass	1.00
F	49 and lower	Failure	0.00

### Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to all academic policies as they are stated in the Academic Calendar.
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: **26<sup>th</sup> September.**
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: **21<sup>st</sup> November.**
- All written assignments for this class are to be submitted as Word attachments to the instructor's e-mail address.
- Assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date specified.
- Extensions beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.
- If you feel you qualify for an extension, you must make a request to the instructor via e-mail.
- Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.

- Students are encouraged to have their written work read by a second reader before submitting it to the instructor. This person's name should be included on the title-page.
- Ambrose Seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.
- Personal information, that is, information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

## 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, or online at [http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/SBLHS\\_SS92804\\_Revised\\_ed.pdf](http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/SBLHS_SS92804_Revised_ed.pdf)

In the following examples:

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

### 1. A Book by a Single Author

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

<sup>15</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Christopher T. Begg and Paul Spilsbury, *Flavius Josephus, Judean Antiquities 8–10* (Leiden: Brill, 2005), 237.

<sup>17</sup> Begg and Spilsbury, *Judean Antiquities 8–10*, 23.

Begg, Christopher T., and Paul Spilsbury. *Flavius Josephus, Judean Antiquities 8–10*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.

### 3. A Book in a Series

<sup>4</sup> Paul Spilsbury, *The Image of the Jew in Flavius Josephus' Paraphrase of the Bible* (TSAJ 69; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998), 136.

<sup>18</sup> Spilsbury, *Image*, 136.

Spilsbury, Paul. *The Image of the Jew in Flavius Josephus' Paraphrase of the Bible*. Texte und Studien zum Antiken Judentum 69; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998.

#### 4. A Journal Article

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

<sup>37</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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

<sup>21</sup> P. Spilsbury, "Messiah," *JHTC* 2:528.

<sup>37</sup> 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

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

<sup>7</sup> 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

<sup>32</sup> Andy Reimer, "Healing: Biblical Basis and Procedure," n.p. [cited 5 January 2004]. Online: [http://online.cbcccts.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/\\_healing.html](http://online.cbcccts.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/_healing.html).

<sup>35</sup> Reimer, "Healing."

Reimer, Andy. "Healing: Biblical Basis and Procedure." No pages. Cited 5 January 2004. Online: [http://online.cbcccts.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/\\_healing.html](http://online.cbcccts.ca/alliancestudies/reimer/r/_healing.html).

### Further Information

- Note that details of punctuation, indentation and italicization are part of the proper citation of sources. They should be exactly as indicated above.
- The standard font for all written work is Times New Roman, 12 point. This includes the title page.
- All written work should be double-spaced.
- Page margins should be: top and bottom: 1", left and right 1.25".
- Your paper should have a title page which looks like this:

<p>"Assignment Title" <b>Course Name (Number)</b> Instructor's Name Date Submitted</p> <p>Your name Your Box number</p>
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- Page numbering should start on the first page of text (not the title page), and should be in the top right hand corner.
- Use footnotes rather than endnotes.