



AMBROSE SEMINARY

NT 609 THE BOOK OF REVELATION (3) Winter 2014

General Information

Dates:	8 th January – 9 th April 2014
Times:	Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9:15 pm
Location:	L2100
Instructor:	Dr Paul Spilsbury
Moodle:	http://moodle.ambrose.edu/

Contact Information

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Course Description

Over the centuries since it was written the Book of Revelation has suffered much at the hands of many experts. And yet the work remains an enigma to most modern readers, usually marginalised in our discussion of theology, 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 language, 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.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class other than a modern translation of the Bible. Students are required to bring a Bible to each class session, and those who have studied NT Greek should bring their Greek Testaments to class too.

Reading List

The following is only a sample of the extensive *Revelation* holdings in the Ambrose library. The items marked with an asterisk (*) are on reserve. For further information on the reading assignment for this class see below.

- *Aune, D.E. *Revelation*. 3 vols; Dallas: Word, 1997-1998.
- Barr, David L. *Tales of the End: A Narrative Commentary*. Polebridge, 1998.
- *Bauckham, R. *Theology of the Book of Revelation*, Cambridge, 1993.
- Bauckham, R. *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.
- Boring, M.E. *Revelation*. (Interpretation) John Knox, 1989.
- Caird, G.B. *A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine*. Harper & Row, 1966.
- Campbell, W. Gordon. *Reading Revelation: a Thematic Approach*. James Clarke and Co., 2012.
- Carter, Warren. *What does Revelation Reveal?* Abingdon, 2011.
- Chilton, D. *The Days of Vengeance*. Dominion, 1987.
- Collins, Adela Yarbro. *Crisis & Catharsis: The power of the Apocalypse*. Westminster, 1984.
- *Collins, J.J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination*. 2nd ed. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Gregg, Steve. *Revelation: Four Views*. Thomas Nelson, 2013.
- Hamilton, James . *Revelation: the Spirit Speaks to the Churches*. Crossway, 2012.
- Hays, Richard B. *Revelation and the Politics of Apocalyptic Interpretation*. Baylor, 2012.
- *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.
- Kraybill, J. Nelson. *Apocalypse and Allegiance*. Brazos, 2010.
- Labahn, Michael. *Imagery in the Book of Revelation*. Peeters, 2011.
- Ladd, A *Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Eerdmans, 1972.
- Malina, B.J. *Social-Science Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Fortress, 2000.
- Mangina, Joseph L. *Revelation: Brazos Theological Commentary*. Brazos, 2010.
- 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.
- Pagels, Elaine. *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*. Viking, 2012.
- Peterson, E.H. *Reversed Thunder*. Harper & Row, 1988.
- Rotz, Carol. *Revelation: a Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Beacon Hill Press, 2012.
- Rowland, Christopher. *Revelation* (Epworth). Epworth, 1993.
- Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth *Revelation: Vision of a Just World* (Proclamation). Fortress, 1991.
- Smalley, Stephen S. *The Revelation to John: A commentary on the Greek text*. IVP, 2005
- *Spilsbury, P. *Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon*, IVP, 2002.

Stevenson, Gregory. *A Slaughtered Lamb*. ACU Press, 2013
 Sweet, J.P.M. *Revelation* (WPC). Westminster, 1979.
 Talbert, C.H. *The Apocalypse: A Reading of the Revelation of John*. John Knox, 19994.
 Thompson, Leonard L. *Revelation* (ANTC). Abingdon, 1998.
 Wall, R.W. *Revelation* (NIBC). Hendrickson, 1991.
 *Witherington, Ben, III. *Revelation and the End Times*. Abington, 2010.
 Wright, N.T. *Revelation for Everyone*. Westminster John Knox, 2011.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

	Date	Subject	Assignments
1	January 8 th	Reading Revelation (1)	Reading and Reflection
2	15 th	Reading Revelation (2)	Reading and Reflection
3	22 nd	Reading Revelation (3)	Reading and Reflection
	29 th	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Seminary Retreat</i>
4	February 5 th	Chapter 1; the Seven Churches	Reading and Reflection
5	12 th	Chapters 4 & 5	Reading and Reflection
	19 th	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Reading Week</i>
6	26 th	Judgments	Reading and Reflection
7	March 5 th	Followers of the Lamb	Reading and Reflection
8	12 th	Followers of the Lamb	Reading and Reflection
9	19 th	Enemies of the Lamb	Research Assignment Due
10	26 th	Enemies of the Lamb	Reading and Reflection
11	April 2 nd	The Bride and the Rider; The Millennium	Reading and Reflection
12	9 th	A New Heaven and a New Earth; Conclusion	Reflective Synthesis Due

Course Requirements

There are three assignments in this course. Students must complete all three assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

1. Reading and Reflection Assignment

Read an average of 50 pages each week for ten weeks (500 pages total) from different items on the reading list, and:

- a. Post online a 300-word comment on each week's reading. Each posting must include the author and title of the reading, and the pages read.
- b. Post at least one 150-word interaction with another student's submission each week.

Due: Each week before class (see Course Schedule)

2. Research Assignment

Complete one of the following three 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 research paper on 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 research 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.

c. Exegetical Option

One of the biggest challenges for students of Revelation is the meaning of particular images, symbols, or passages. For this option write a 15 page research paper interpreting a particular detail of the book. You may focus on any image, symbol, or short passage of your choice. You should use at least twenty sources, including journal articles, books, and commentaries.

Research papers must conform to the format laid out in the *Style Guide* provided in the Moodle online classroom.

Submit your paper by uploading it to Moodle. All term papers are automatically subjected to an originality analysis by Turnitin. For more information, see <http://turnitin.com>.

Due: Before class on 19th March

2. Reflective Synthesis

Write a 5 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 readings.

Students who are willing will be asked to read their reflections to the class on the final day of the semester.

Due: Before class 9th April

Course Grade

- 1. Reading Assignment: 40%
- 2. Research Assignment: 50%
- 3. Reflection Assignment: 10%

Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>A+</i>	<i>90 and higher</i>	
<i>A</i>	<i>85-89</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
<i>A-</i>	<i>80-84</i>	
<i>B+</i>	<i>77-79</i>	
<i>B</i>	<i>73-76</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>B-</i>	<i>70-72</i>	
<i>C+</i>	<i>67-69</i>	
<i>C</i>	<i>63-66</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>
<i>C-</i>	<i>60-62</i>	
<i>D+</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>50-54</i>	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>49 and lower</i>	<i>Failure</i>

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose Seminary as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.
- The last day to enter this course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw without financial penalty is 19th January.
- Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the drop date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.
- The last day to voluntarily withdraw from this course without academic penalty is 21st March. A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.
- Students intending to withdraw from this course should consult the Academic Calendar for the appropriate procedures.
- The research paper must be submitted as a Word document to the Moodle website for this course.
- Assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date specified.
- Extensions for individual assignments 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 in advance of the due date. Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.
- Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by 31st March. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.
- Students are strongly encouraged to have their term paper read by a second reader before submitting it to the instructor. This person’s name should be included on the title-page.
- Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.
- An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.
- Students are strongly discouraged from inappropriate use of technology during class periods. Such uses include texting, social networking, and surfing the internet. The instructor reserves the right to ask students to power down their devices or to leave the classroom if necessary.
- Personal information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual may be collected as a requirement 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.
- Students are advised to consult this syllabus regularly throughout the semester and to retain it for their records.