



SYLLABUS

5270 Book of Revelation

Harding School of Theology • Spring Semester 2018

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Class Time: Mondays, 6:00-9:00 PM

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and HST LIVE students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: roster@harding.edu

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7718

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab

<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.

Course Outcome

Through learning vocabulary and grammar and through experience in reading various portions of the Greek New Testament, the course develops the student's ability to read any part of the New Testament. This forms a base for a lifetime of solid exegesis, personal spiritual formation, and the ability to minister to others from the original text of the scriptures.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning

management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

If you wish to contact me via email and it is unrelated to a course, it is best to email me directly at roster@harding.edu.

HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>.

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session scheduled for January 9 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.

- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

This course is supported with the video platform [www.Zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>) to facilitate class participation. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g. dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

TEXTBOOKS

Koester, Craig. Revelation: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary. Yale Anchor Bible Commentaries. Yale Univ. Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0300144888. Required pages, 29-150 (=121); 209-859 (=650) + = 771 pages

Oster, Richard. Seven Congregations in a Roman Crucible: A Commentary on Revelation 1-3. Wipf & Stock Pub, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1620321058. 250 pages

Wilson, Mark. Charts on the Book of Revelation: Literary, Historical, and Theological Perspectives. Kregel Charts of the Bible. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0825439391. 130 pages =65 pages

SELECTED REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to the three textbooks, there are a few articles that shed particular light upon some important aspects of the book of Revelation.

- Feb. 12th** Kyle, Donald G. Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome. New York: Routledge, 1998, chapter 3, "The victims: differentiation, status and supply," pp. 76-127.
- Feb. 19th** Aune, D., Revelation. Excursus 16A, "Rome and Parthia" (Vol. 2, pp. 891-94);
- Mar. 26th** Aune, D., Revelation. Excursus 13A, "The Nero Redux or Redivivus Legend" (Vol. 2, pp. 737-40)
- Mar. 26th** Bohak, Gideon. "Greek-Hebrew Gematrias in 3 Baruch and in Revelation." Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha 7 (1990) 119-121.
- Mar. 26th** Friesen, Steven. Imperial Cults and The Apocalypse of John. Reading Revelation in the Ruins. Oxford, 2001. Chapter 8, pp. 135-51.
- Apr. 16th** Aune, D., Revelation. Excursus 21B, "Ancient Utopias and the Paradise Myth" (Vol. 3, pp. 1191-94).

DESCRIPTION: The Book of Revelation has been subjected to numerous theories of interpretation, from the reasonable to the ridiculous. In order to work through the text of Revelation with an appropriate methodology, students will begin with numerous historical and archaeological resources that shed light on this book in its setting in the early Roman Empire. To better appreciate the literary and theological dimensions of this book, it will be investigated in its Canonical context as Biblical prophecy. In light of the perennial popularity and misuse of the message and imagery of Revelation, the student will be exposed to various hermeneutical approaches that have been introduced in the history of the interpretation of Revelation. Questions about its contemporary relevance will also be addressed.

Grade for Course

Content Quiz for Book of Revelation = 10%

A knowledge of important sections of the Old Testament is vital for understanding and sharing in John's vision of God's message for the churches. Although there are virtually no direct quotations in Revelation from the OT, every chapter is replete with allusions from various parts of the Jewish Scriptures. In order to insure that you are prepared for a fruitful study of the last book of the Bible, you must pass a content quiz over designated parts of the OT. **This is not busy work!** This content quiz does not assume any academic information. You should just be familiar with the info in these texts. The quiz will be objective, e.g., T/F; Fill in the Blank; Matching, etc.

Exodus 7-11

Isaiah 13:1-16

Leviticus 26

Jeremiah 18:1-11; 50-51

Numbers 22-25

Ezekiel 1-3; 9; 37-39; 47

1 Kings 17-21

Daniel 7-12

2 Kings 1

Zechariah 1-6

Psalms 2; 11; 22; 28; 75; 110; 141.

The content quiz will count 10% toward the average of your grade; however, **you must** make at least 70% on it. You will be given two opportunities [without penalty] to pass it with the grade of 70% or higher. The first content exam will be given at **Jan 22nd** class meeting. If you do not make at least 70% on the first effort, a 2nd penalty-free opportunity will be given at **Feb 5th** class meeting.

NB. Every student that makes 80% or better on the first take will get a ½ letter grade curve on the midterm exam.

Two major examinations

Midterm exam March 19th = 30% of course grade.

The midterm will include everything related to Revelation 1:1-11:19. This includes all of the lecture materials and the introductory issues, etc. covered in the first part of the semester. Koester, *Revelation*, pp. 29-150, 209-522; all of Oster, *Seven Congregations*, and appropriate charts from Wilson, *Charts* and appropriate "Selected Readings."

Final exam May 7th = 30% of course grade

The final exam will include everything related to Revelation 12:1-22:21. This includes all of the lecture materials, etc. covered in the second half of the semester. Koester, *Revelation*, pp. 523-859, and appropriate charts from Wilson, *Charts*, and appropriate "Selected Readings."

Research Paper = 30%

Each student must write a 10-12 page research paper on an **approved** topic. The research paper is a crucial part of the learning experience in this course. Your topic for this paper must be submitted to me no later than the 3rd meeting of the class. This is for your protection; it would be a shame if you did a topic that was inappropriate for this course! All I need by the 3rd class period is a 200 word "*Prospectus*" indicating the title, subject matter and how you plan to proceed with your research.

Your research paper should be submitted electronically in an e-mail attachment, preferably MS Word [recent version] no later than **April 09th, 2018**. Late papers receive penalties. The format of this paper must follow the Turabian Style Manual, with footnotes, **not** endnotes.

If you have not yet taken 5990 *Advanced Theological Research* [=Introduction to Graduate Study] you need to inform our librarians of this so that they can get you "up to speed" on the available resources.

Week	Tentative Class Room Presentations
1/22	Introduction to course/historical issues/themes
1/29	Seven Congregations (1-3)
2/5	Thrones/Enthronement (4-5)
2/12	Seven Seals (6-7)
2/19	Seven Angels (8-9)
2/26	Two Prophets/Two Scrolls/Climax of Seven Scrolls and Seven Angels (10-11)
3/5	INTENSIVE COURSE WEEK
3/12	SPRING BREAK
3/19	MIDTERM EXAM
3/26	The Cosmic Dragon and the Two Beasts (12-13)
4/2	The Redeemed and the Damned (14-15)
4/9	Seven Angels with Bowls of Wrath (16-17) AND research paper due
4/16	God's Judgment of Babylon and the Great Supper of God (18-19)

4/23	Millennium and Gog & Magog and Eschatological Judgment (20)
4/30	New Heaven and New Earth (21-22)
5/7	FINAL EXAMINATION