



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SYLLABUS

5270 Book of Revelation

Harding School of Theology

Spring Semester 2021 - Jan. 14th-May 6th

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr. • roster@hst.edu •

901-335-4296 (cell) & 901-432-7718 (office)

Class Time: Thursdays, 6:00-8:45 PM

My GA: Sean Cavender, scavender@harding.edu, 501-519-0638 (cell)

Zoom HST LIVE ID 9014327718

Accessibility

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

Email: roster@hst.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.

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 took that 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. 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.

The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof. Carlus Gupton:

Course Etiquette for HST Live

HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.

All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor’s call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.

“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving

early.

Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.

[While I have pacifist tendencies, some of the examples of bad classroom etiquette provided by Dr. Gupton in this last paragraph ignite images of punishment by "firing squad" in my mind; Prof. Richard E. Oster].

Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.

Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free [as possible REO] (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.).

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 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.**

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 4 at 6:00-7:30 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).

Course Outcomes

- 1 **Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.** Effective ministers need to be well versed in the scripture as the source of our knowledge of God and his will for humanity.
- 2 **Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.**

Ministers need to refine their own understanding of the Christian faith, to be able to respond to contemporary proposals in Christian theology (both academic and popular), and to be able to teach others the central elements of the faith.

3 **Be able to communicate effectively in written and oral media.**

Such public communication serves as a primary way a minister contributes to the spiritual formation of the congregation and to the cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel.

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, 29-143 (=114); 209-859 (=650) + = 764 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

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 Test for Book of Revelation = 5%

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 Old Testament, every chapter of Revelation is replete with allusions to 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 will be given a content test over designated parts of the Old Testament. Passing requires a score of 70%. **This is not busy work!** Furthermore, I will not be trying to make it so hard for you that you cannot do well; just be familiar with the facts (where appropriate), themes (where appropriate) and identification of people (where appropriate) associated with these verses. This content test does not assume any academic information about the various Old Testament books. The test will be objective, e.g., T/F; Fill in the Blank; Matching, etc.

The content test will count 5% toward your grade. 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 during the week of Jan. 18-22. A portion of it will be administered through the HU testing lab using Canvas, while another portion will be administered by your regular Proctor. If you do not make at least 70% on the first effort, a 2nd penalty-free opportunity will be given later.

To put your mind at ease, on this Content Test I will NOT be asking you where any of this Old Testament material appears in the book of Revelation.

Old Testament Sections to be Tested Over

Exodus 7-11	Hilkiah); 49:22-23; 60; 63:1-10; 65:17-25;
Numbers 22-25	66.
2 Sam. 7:1-17	Jeremiah 17:9-10; 18:1-12; 25:15-29; 50-
1 Kings 17:1-7	51
2 Kings 1:1-18	Ezekiel 1-3; 9; 37-39; 43:1-9; 47:1-12
<u>Psalms</u> 2; 11; 28; 62:11-12; 69; 75;	Daniel 1; 7; 10:4-12; 12:1-13
78:40-55; 89; 110; 115:1-8; 141.	Zechariah 1:8-11; 4:1-14; 6:1-8
Isaiah 13:1-16; 21:6-10; 22 (especially oracle about Shebna and Eliakim, son of	

Two major examinations

Midterm exam March 18th = 35% 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 "Course Handouts" sent to you via Canvas.

Final exam May 06th = 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 "Course Handouts" sent to you via Canvas.

Research Paper = 25%

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 (Jan. 28th) 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 an one page "*Prospectus*" indicating the title, subject matter, and how you plan to proceed with your research.

Your research paper is to be submitted electronically in an e-mail attachment, preferably MS Word or Apple Pages (pls use recent versions of the software) no later than **April 08th, 2021**. Late papers receive penalties. The format of this paper must follow the Turabian Style Manual, with footnotes, not endnotes. I do **NOT** accept research papers using pdf format.

Nota Bene — If you have not yet taken 5990 *Advanced Theological Research* you need to inform our librarians of this so that they can get you "up to speed" on the available resources. The former Head Librarian, Mr. Robert Turner, produced a Zoom video giving the kind of information that is helpful to students finding themselves in this circumstance. If you are in this circumstance, I urge you to contact the HST library ASAP after Jan. 11 in order to view the video and ask any follow-up questions you might have.

Scripture Memorization = 5%

Memorization of God's Word is mentioned in Scripture and has a rich place in Jewish and Christian history (as well as in other world religions). In any case, you probably have memorized words to secular as well as Christian songs, sports facts, historical information, etc., so I know you can master the verses of Scripture required in this course. You need to notify my GA via Canvas email by **Jan. 21st** (2nd class meeting) which section of Scripture you intend to memorize for this course. Your selection must be approximately 12-15 continuous verses of Scripture which I approve. They can be from any section of the New Testament, except genealogies. Once you have made your choice it cannot be changed, nor can you combine verses from different sections of the NT. This requirement will be satisfied by reciting the verses at one setting, to me, privately. **April 22nd** is the deadline for reciting the verses for me. Students will do this via Zoom any day of the week that can be mutually scheduled. Your grade will be based upon the accuracy of your reciting of the verses. I expect you to recite them with a normal voice and intonation. You need to memorize the verses based upon one of the following English translations: NKJV; NASB; NRSV; ESV; NIV (either 1984 or 2011).

Précis of Important Dates

January 18th-22nd	1st Content Test Over Book of Revelation
January 21st	Deadline for Scripture Memorization Verses
January 28th	Deadline for Research Paper Prospectus
March 4th	Intensive Course Week – No Class Meeting
March 11th	Spring Break – No Class Meeting
March 18th	Midterm Exam
April 4th	Easter Sunday
April 8th	Deadline for Research Paper
April 22nd	Deadline for Reciting Memory Verses
May 6th	Final Exam

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Content Covered
1/14	Introduction to course/historical issues/themes
1/21	Seven Congregations (1-3)
1/28	Continuation of Seven Congregations (1-3)
2/04	Thrones/Enthronement (4-5)
2/11	Seven Seals (6-7)
2/18	Seven Angels (8-9)
2/25	Two Prophets/Two Scrolls/Climax of Seven Scrolls and Seven Angels (10-11)
3/04	INTENSIVE COURSE WEEK
3/11	SPRING BREAK
3/18	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
3/25	The Cosmic Dragon and the Two Beasts (12-13)
4/01	The Redeemed and the Damned (14-15)
4/08	Seven Angels with Bowls of Wrath (16-17) AND research paper due
4/15	God's Judgment of Babylon and the Great Supper of God (18-19)
4/22	Millennium and Gog & Magog and Eschatological Judgment (20)
4/29	New Heaven and New Earth (21-22)
5/06	FINAL EXAMINATION