

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
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B1531 The Book of Revelation (Intensive)

Time: January 21, 22 & 28, 29, 2011: 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Credit: 2 credit hours

Instructor: Daniel Dapaah, Ph.D. Email: ddapaah@leland.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introductory study of the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation, also known as the *Apocalypse* (Gk meaning “disclosure,” “unveiling,” or “revelation,” a name given to a literary genre), concludes the NT canon with its vivid visions and images of the consummation of God’s plan of judgment and salvation. The book is notoriously complex, abounding in unfamiliar and extravagant symbolism of numbers and colors, animals, angelic and demonic beings, as well as echoes and images drawn from the literature of the ancient Near East, the Hebrew Bible, Greece, and Rome. It uses the dualistic language characteristic of the apocalyptic genre to paint vivid portraits of the opposing sides in the eschatological conflict that will culminate in the victory of God and the final defeat of all evil.

This course is designed to achieve the following goals: (i) To understand the nature and purpose of ancient apocalyptic literature; (ii) To study the book of Revelation in its social, historical, literary, and religious contexts; and (iii) To investigate how the Book of Revelation has been interpreted (or misinterpreted?) in contemporary thought.

Course Requirements

1. Punctuality and participation in class discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions, suggest answers, and challenge assumptions.
2. A careful reading and study of the Book of Revelation and all assigned texts.
3. Class Presentation: The class will be divided into groups of 3-4 students. Each group will make a 20-minute oral presentation on one of the following: (i) a character, event, or a chapter in the Book of Revelation, or (ii) some modern apocalyptic literature, film, or movement. The presentation will be followed by a time of discussion.
4. A written paper (8-10 pages, double-spaced) on a relevant topic of your choice (different from the group presentation). Due on or before February 28, 2011.
5. No Final Exam.

Required Texts

1. Bauckham, Richard. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge, 1993.
2. Boxall, I. *Revelation: Vision and Insight*. SPCK, 2000 (has helpful suggestions for further reading).