



## **New Testament Exegesis: Revelation (Greek) (NTGK9450)**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division

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### **I. SEMINARY MISSION**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

### **II. COURSE PURPOSE**

This purpose for this course is to engage the student in assigned bibliography related to specialized areas of New Testament study.

### **III. CORE VALUES:**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. *The core value for NOBTS this year is Spiritual Vitality.*

### **IV. KEY COMPETENCIES:**

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. *The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.*

### **V. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The four Ph.D. supervised reading colloquiums in New Testament are comprised of structured discussions based upon assigned bibliography covering New Testament areas of backgrounds, methodology, linguistics, semantics, Johannine studies, New Testament theology, Synoptics, Jesus research, text and canon, critical introduction, and Pauline studies. Colloquiums meet once a month, or four times in the semester. Reading lists for each colloquium are available from the New Testament secretary's office. Assignments for each meeting are derived from the reading list for that particular colloquium.

## VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The following are the student learning outcomes of this course:

- The student will be able to understand thoroughly the book of Revelation in its original historical context and current interpretive issues.
- The student will be able to apply adequately the book of Revelation in its original historical context and current interpretive issues to contemporary needs in the church.
- The student will be able to communicate clearly the book of Revelation in its original historical context and current interpretive issues to a contemporary audience.

## VII. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

### *Knowledge*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know the history of interpretation and its impact upon major interpretive issues related to a study of the book of Revelation
- Know the theological and gospel foundation that properly and adequately integrates an interpretation of the book into the New Testament canon
- Know the historical and social first-century background and appropriate literary analysis that supports an adequate exegesis of each narrative unit of Revelation

### *Attitudes*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Show an expanded appreciation of the history of interpretation and its impact upon major interpretive issues related to a study of the book of Revelation
- Show an appreciation for, and an understanding of, the theological and gospel foundation that properly and adequately integrates an interpretation of the book
- Show more confidence in interpreting the book of Revelation within the context of the contemporary church

### *Skills*

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Dialogue intelligently over current issues in Revelation by way of using the history of interpretation as a backdrop for current discussion
- Discuss intelligently the theological and gospel foundation that properly and adequately integrates an interpretation of the book
- Demonstrate a competency for engaging current discussion and relevant issues in apocalyptic research and how these issues impact the shape of Revelation studies

## VIII. PROFESSOR'S WEBSITE:

Dr. Stevens's personal website is: <http://www.drkoine.com>. This site provides personal information about Dr. Stevens for his students to get to know their professor better, and supports his teaching with class files.

## IX. BOOK REVIEWS:

- **Blaising/Bock:** Craig A. Blaising and Darrel L. Bock, *Progressive Dispensationalism* (Wheaton, IL: BridgePoint, Victor Books, 1993)
- **Stevens:** Gerald L. Stevens, ed. *Essays on Revelation: Appropriating Yesterday's Apocalypse in Today's World* (Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick, 2010)

- **Hemer:** Colin J. Hemer, *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting* in the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series* 11, David Hill, Editor (Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1986)
- **Thompson:** Leonard L. Thompson, *The Book of Revelation: Apocalypse and Empire* (New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990)
- **Bauckham:** Richard J. Bauckham, *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation* (Edinburgh: T. &T. Clark, Ltd., 1993)
- **O’Leary:** Stephen D. O’Leary, *Arguing The Apocalypse: A Theory of Millennial Rhetoric* (New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994)
- **McGinn:** Bernard McGinn, *Antichrist: Two Thousand Years of the Human Fascination With Evil* (New York: HarperSan Francisco, HarperCollins, 1994)
- **Boyer:** Paul Boyer, *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture* (Cambridge, Mass./London: Harvard University Press, 1992)
- **Weber:** Timothy P. Weber, *On the Road to Armageddon: How Evangelicals Became Israel’s Best Friend* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004)

#### IX. COMMENTARIES:

- David Aune, *Revelation*, Word Biblical Commentary, Vols. 52A, 52B, 52C (Dallas: Word Books, 1997)
- G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*, The New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999)
- Gerald L. Stevens, *Revelation: The Past and Future of John’s Apocalypse* (Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick, 2014)

#### X. TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

- Class sessions will consist of discussion of assigned exegetical units and bibliography. Students will lead these discussions as assigned.
- Class preparation will consist of Greek translation according to the syllabus schedule, commentary and bibliography readings, book reports, group discussions, and exams.
- Class units are: two units on introduction and critical issues, ten units on exegesis of the text of Revelation, and two units on papers.

#### XI. COURSE EVALUATION:

- **Background study:** Each student will write and distribute a two-page, single-paced, background study from one of the background topics listed below and then lead the seminar in brief summaries of these topics.
- **Book reviews:** Read the assigned books and be prepared to discuss them on the designated days. Write a two-page review that focuses on critique, not summary. If the book has a thesis, be able to state that thesis in one, concise sentence. Include at least two journal reviews of each book.
- **Translation/commentary:** Translate the Book of Revelation according to the syllabus schedule. Read two critical commentaries for exegetical material. Everyone will read the Aune and Stevens commentaries. Beale’s commentary will be divided evenly among seminar participants to bring report of findings to the seminar.
- **Periodical research:** Prepare an annotated bibliography of two significant periodical articles in your research, (ideally, related to your paper topic). One article must be in the modern foreign language for which you qualified for the doctoral program.

- **Research paper:** Write a paper on a topic for which you have received approval from the professor. Turabian style. *Provide copies for all seminar participants.* All papers are due at the same time, as indicated on the seminar schedule.
- **Research presentation:** Prepare a 15-minute PowerPoint/Keynote presentation of your research paper. Summarize your research question, methodology, state of research, and results/conclusions.
- **Paper critique:** Lead a 15-minute discussion of a critique of an assigned seminar paper on the assigned date. Prepare a typed, single-spaced, *three-page critique* of the assigned seminar paper, with *copies for all seminar participants.*
- **Evaluation conference:** You will schedule a 15-minute conference with the professor at the mid-semester point to evaluate your seminar participation and performance to date. You will be expected to address any deficiencies noted in this evaluation during the second half of the seminar. Your response to this evaluation conference will figure into your final grade.
- **Seminar grade:** Final grade is a composite of participation, leadership and initiative, along with evaluation of verbal and writing skills, academic performance, timely submission of assignments, demonstration of research skills, and the final exam.

## XII. PREVIEW MEETING:

- **Seminar Dinner:** seminar participants are invited to dinner at the professor's home on a designated evening of the week prior to the beginning of the semester.
- **Movies:** the purpose for the preview meeting is to view and discuss two videos that introduce the history of interpretation and interpretive issues for the book of Revelation. One video is "Apocalypse!" a PBS Frontline production at the turn of the millennium. The other is "Doomsday," a National Geographic production.
- **Reading/Discussion:** To enhance the discussion, participants will read Stevens, *Revelation*, 3–142. Discussion will summarize the principle lessons from the history of interpretation, as well as trace the main lines of interpretive options.

## XIII. ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK      Tuesdays, 3:00–5:30 PM

<b>Week 1:</b> Jan. 20	<b>Interpretive and Theological Decisions, Book Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive: Genre, Prophecy, Judgments, Millennium (Stevens: 145–71)</li> <li>• Theological: Christology, Ecclesiology, Soteriology (Stevens: 173–200)</li> <li>• Book Review—<b>Blaising and Bock</b>, <i>Progressive Dispensationalism</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 2:</b> Jan. 27	<b>Contextual Decisions and Exegesis: Prologue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contextual: Historical and Literary Settings (Stevens: 201–46)</li> <li>• Commentary: Introductory Sections</li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 1:1–8</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 3:</b> Feb. 3	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Inaugural Vision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>Stevens</b>, <i>Essays on Revelation</i></li> <li>• Translation—Inaugural Vision: <b>Rev. 1:9–20</b></li> </ul>

<b>Week 4:</b> Feb. 10	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Seven Letters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>Hemer</b>, <i>The Letters to the Seven Churches</i></li> <li>• Translation—Seven Letters: <b>Rev. 2:1–3:22</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 5:</b> Feb. 17 Mardi Gras	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Vision of Heaven</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>Thompson</b>, <i>The Book of Revelation</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 4:1–5:14</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> Feb. 24	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Christ Cycle (Seals/Trumpets)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate Time: Wed., Feb. 18, 9:00–11:30</li> <li>• Book Review—<b>Bauckham</b>, <i>The Climax of Prophecy</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 6:1–9:21</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> Mar. 3	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Christ Cycle (Trumpet Interlude)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>O’Leary</b>, <i>Arguing The Apocalypse</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 10:1–11:19</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> Mar. 10	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Dragon Cycle (Dragon/Beasts)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>McGinn</b>, <i>Antichrist</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 12:1–13:18</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> Mar. 17	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Dragon Cycle (Bowls, Part 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>Boyer</b>, <i>When Time Shall Be No More</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 14:1–16:21</b> (Bowl Prelude, Bowl Judgments)</li> </ul>
<b>Holiday</b> Mar. 24	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Mar. 31	<b>Book Review and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Dragon Cycle (Bowls, Part 2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review—<b>Weber</b>, <i>On the Road to Armageddon</i></li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 17:1–20:6</b> (Bowl Perspectives)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b> Apr. 7	<b>Journal Articles and Exegesis: Judg. Cycle, Dragon Cycle (Climax)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal Articles—reviews</li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 20:7–15</b> (Gog/Magog; Great White Throne)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b> Apr. 14	<b>Research Papers and Exegesis: Vision of Heaven, Epilogue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Papers due</li> <li>• Translation—<b>Rev. 21:1–22:21</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b> Apr. 21	<b>Papers and Critiques</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper #1: _____ Critique: _____</li> <li>• Paper #2: _____ Critique: _____</li> <li>• Paper #3: _____ Critique: _____</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14</b> Apr. 28	<b>Papers and Critiques</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper #4: _____ Critique: _____</li> <li>• Paper #5: _____ Critique: _____</li> <li>• Paper #6: _____ Critique: _____</li> </ul>
<b>Week 15</b> May 5	<b>Final Exam</b>

### XIII. Bibliography

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