



Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian  
Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry

## **NT5311 Revelation: New Testament Apocalyptic**

3 credit hours. Prerequisites: None.

👤 On Campus 'A' Live-Stream 📺 Video on Demand

May 30 – June 3, 2022  
Module G  
Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm

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*“And though St. John the Evangelist saw many strange monsters in his vision,  
he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators.” – G. K. Chesterton*

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### **Course Goals**

#### **Course Description**

This course provides a close reading of the book of Revelation with sensitivity to its early Jewish context and literary genre in order to gain an understanding of how the text aims to shape the identity and worldview of the early followers of Jesus. Throughout the course, students will gain the skill necessary to read biblical apocalyptic texts and will be challenged to discern how the message of Revelation still speaks to the contemporary church.

#### **Relationship to Horizon's Mission**

Revelation is a book for our times. It shows us how to live as Jesus lived in the most challenging of times and in the most comfortable of times. And it reminds us that to be a faithful follower of Jesus and a competent Christian leader who advances God's kingdom, we must first learn to live as an “overcomer.” As a “letter” sent to seven actual churches in the first century by Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the book of Revelation also provides us with a model for how to shepherd the people of God when the evil one is seeking to deceive them, entice them, or destroy them.

## Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency in **Biblical and Theological Literacy** students will

1. Describe the key interpretive issues that are critical for understanding the book of Revelation.
  - *Assessment: Four Views* Response Essay
  - *Assessment: Interpreting Revelation* Essay
2. Identify and explain key emphases and their significance within the book of Revelation.
  - *Assessment: The Relevance of Revelation for Today* Discussion
3. Become familiar with key biblical-theological themes in Revelation.
  - *Assessment: All Things New* Essay
4. Interpret the book of Revelation in light of its literary and socio-historical contexts, and distinct theological perspective with the assistance of relevant secondary literature.
  - *Assessment: Commentary Insights* Presentation
  - *Assessment: Interpreting Revelation* Essay
  - *Assessment: Research Project*
5. Explain how the theological witness of the book of Revelation speaks to the way we think, live, and minister today.
  - *Assessment: Keener Commentary Reading and Application List*
  - *Assessment: Research Project*

## Course Work

### Required Readings

Culy, Martin M. *The Book of Revelation: The Rest of the Story*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2017. ISBN: 978-1532617188.

Keener, Craig S. *Revelation*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. ISBN: 978-0310231929.

Pate, C. Marvin, ed. *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. ISBN: 978-0310210801.

Tabb, Brian J. *All Things New: Revelation as Canonical Capstone*. Vol. 48 of *New Studies in Biblical Theology*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2019. ISBN: 978-1783599158.

**NOTE:** Students may choose to purchase a copy of *The Book of Revelation: The Rest of the Story* from the instructor on the first day of class for \$32 (cash or e-transfer).

\*\*While students have the benefit of accessing their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks.

## Course Assignments and Activities

### BEFORE THE MODULE

1. *Four Views on the Book of Revelation Response Essay*. Read the book of Revelation carefully at least twice before class. Watch for key features and themes that are particularly prominent. Then read *Four Views on the Book of Revelation* to write a response essay in which you (1) argue for one of the four views; (2) identify that view's key strengths; (3) identify that view's key weaknesses and explain why it remains a plausible view; (4) highlight some weaknesses of the other views that make them untenable. Be careful to focus on the most important issues in addressing (2), (3), and (4). What are the most compelling strengths of this view and weaknesses of the other views? If you were trying to convince someone to adopt this view, what would be the best arguments for doing so? If you do not find any of the four views convincing, choose the *most* compelling one, identify it as such, and then follow the same steps as above but also explain why this view ultimately is unsatisfying even though it is the best option of the four. This assignment provides a foundation for understanding the dominant approaches that have been used to interpret Revelation, thus helping to situate our study of Revelation within its history of interpretation. *Please note the relationship of this assignment to Assignment #7 and plan to take notes as you read that will help you complete Assignment #7.*
  - **Related learning outcome:** #1.
  - **Assignment Length:** 1000 words maximum.
  - **Due date:** May 30, 2022.
  
2. *Commentary Insights*. (1) As you read the book of Revelation for Assignment #1, make a list of places where the biblical text is unclear to you or where there appears to be some ambiguity or theological tension. For pastors or Bible teachers, focus on passages where you know you need additional insight before preaching or teaching the passage. (2) Choose two passages from your list and send an email to the professor no later than *May 23, 2022* identifying the passages and the interpretive issues you are going to explore. (3) Consult at least three commentaries from the Bibliography below and briefly summarize how those commentaries shed light on the meaning of the text. Watch particularly for information related to Revelation's historical, cultural, and literary context and its interconnected themes. (4) Come to class prepared to share your findings when we come to those passages of Revelation in our class discussion. You are not required to submit anything in written form for this assignment, but see Assignment #5 below.
  - **Related learning outcome:** #4.
  - **Assignment Length:** See Assignment #5.
  - **Due date:** May 30, 2022.

3. *All Things New Summary and Response Essay*. Read any five chapters from *All Things New*. Choose the three chapters that you find most helpful. Then write an essay in which you concisely summarize the argument of those three chapters and briefly highlight what makes them important for rightly understanding the book of Revelation.
  - **Related learning outcome:** #3.
  - **Assignment Length:** 1000 words maximum.
  - **Due date:** May 30, 2022.

#### **DURING THE MODULE** (May 30 - June 3, 2022)

4. *Keener Commentary Reading and Application List*. In preparation for class on Tuesday - Thursday, read the relevant passages in Revelation and the corresponding Contemporary Significance sections of Keener's commentary according to the class schedule below. Each day (Tuesday - Thursday), write one paragraph describing an additional application related to one of the passages for that day. You must show clearly how your application flows naturally out of the biblical text. At the end of the week submit your three paragraphs. *In a footnote at the end of your final paragraph, please confirm that you completed all of the assigned reading in Keener*. Choose one application to share with the class when we come to that passage, again being sure to demonstrate how your application flows naturally out of the biblical text.
  - **Related learning outcome:** #5.
  - **Assignment Length:** Three paragraphs, one oral presentation (5 minutes maximum).
  - **Due date:** June 3, 2022.
5. *Commentary Insights Presentations*. During the week of class, each student will present their findings from their two exegetical studies when we come to their passages, sharing how commentaries have shed light on the passages.
  - **Related learning outcome:** #4.
  - **Assignment Length:** Two five-minute presentations.
  - **Due date:** June 2 or June 3, 2022.
6. *The Relevance of Revelation for Today Discussion*. Meet with the instructor on the final afternoon of class and orally respond to this question: Why is the message of Revelation critical for Christians today? Be sure to incorporate into your answer to this question: (1) a brief summary of the overall message of Revelation; and (2) a discussion of how modern readers can be confident in the message of Revelation given all the competing interpretations. Each afternoon/evening after class, you should develop notes based on class lectures and discussions to help complete this assignment, but no notes will be allowed during the meeting with the instructor.
  - **Related learning outcome:** #2.
  - **Assignment Length:** Approximately 10 minutes.
  - **Due date:** June 3, 2022.

**AFTER THE MODULE** (June 4 - July 29)

7. *Interpreting Revelation Essay.* Read *The Book of Revelation: The Rest of the Story*. Feel free to skim material that we covered in class. Write an essay that (1) summarizes the overall thesis of this book; (2) compares and contrasts the approach that is presented to other major approaches (preterist, idealist, futurist, and historicist); (3) assesses the plausibility of the approach in this book in comparison to the other approaches, noting its strengths and weaknesses in comparison to the other approaches; and (4) discusses how recognizing Revelation's interconnected themes sheds light on its meaning using specific examples.

- **Related learning outcome:** #1, 4.
- **Assignment Length:** 1000-1250 words.
- **Due date:** July 29, 2022.

8. *Research Project.* Choose one of the following options: (a) a research paper on one of the topics below; (b) a Bible study outline for any three chapters of Revelation; (c) a carefully constructed and annotated sermon; or (d) an alternative approved project. See further details below. Each option must make use of a minimum of *eight credible scholarly sources*, including at least two journal articles.

- **Related learning outcomes:** #4, 5.
- **Assignment Length:** 3000-3600 words.
- **Due date:** July 29, 2022.

a. Research Paper. *Keep in mind the following:*

- i. Whatever topic you choose, you should attempt to demonstrate how Revelation's historical, cultural, and literary context relate to the topic.
- ii. Be sure to demonstrate engagement with what was learned in class and each of your secondary sources.
- iii. Include a section that clearly identifies why a better understanding of this topic is important for Christians today (application).

iv. Potential Topics

- Approaches to the Millennium: A Critical Assessment
- Revelation and the Rapture: Why It Matters for the Church Today
- The Relationship between the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
- Symbolism and Numerology in Revelation
- Revelation's "Use" of the Old Testament
- The Theology of Suffering in Revelation
- The Ethics of "Violence" in Revelation
- The Nature of the New Heaven and New Earth in Revelation
- The Doctrine of Hell and the book of Revelation
- The Identity of the Two Witnesses in Revelation 11
- The Identity of the 144,000 in Revelation
- The Theme of Overcoming in Revelation
- Worship in the Book of Revelation
- Christology in Revelation
- The Holy Spirit in Revelation

- Who is Ultimately Saved according to Revelation?
  - An Exegetical Analysis of a Passage in Revelation
- b. Bible Study Outline. *Keep in mind the following:*
- i. Your outlines do not need to cover contiguous chapters. You can choose any three chapters.
  - ii. Each outline, unless you are dealing with the first part of Revelation 1, should begin with a brief summary of the Preceding Context.
  - iii. The outline should include (a) brief explanations of the meaning of each part of the passage; (b) discussion questions that you will use to stimulate interaction; (c) any small group discussions you will incorporate; (d) some reflection questions that students will consider after the Bible study; and (e) extensive footnotes to show how you are making use of what you learned in class and eight credible scholarly sources, including at least two journal articles.
- c. Annotated Sermon. *Keep in mind the following:*
- i. This must be a new sermon, rather than one that you have prepared before. It should have enough content to take about 30 minutes to preach.
  - ii. Your sermon must cover a discreet unit of Revelation. This means that it must have a clear beginning and end, rather than being based on a single verse. In some cases, this might include an entire chapter.
  - iii. Your sermon must clearly demonstrate through the use of footnotes that you are making use of what you have learned in class.
  - iv. Your sermon must show through the use of footnotes how you are making use of eight credible scholarly sources, including at least two journal articles.
  - v. Your sermon must include extensive application that will show your congregation how this portion of Revelation relates to their lives today.

### **Video-on-Demand (VOD) Student Requirements**

As indicated on the course schedule, this class is being offered by VOD. Students who intend to take the course primarily through VOD are required to indicate this during their course registration. While VOD recordings are available for any student who may miss a class, non-VOD students are expected to attend class live following the class attendance policy.

- For this course, VOD students have the *same* due dates as in-class students for the assignments **before and after the module**, but *different* due dates for the assignments **during the module**.
- For assignments #4 and #5, VOD students will prepare videos of their presentations and email a video link to the instructor no later than the evening before we come to the relevant passages in class (see Class Schedule below). The written portion of assignment #4 is due **July 4, 2022**.
- For assignment #6, VOD students will complete the assignment through a scheduled Zoom meeting with the instructor no later than **July 11, 2022**.
- By Monday at 11:59pm each week, VOD students will submit written confirmation that 1) affirms they have watched the required recordings, and 2) summarizes two-three items from each day that help them to reach the course learning outcomes (300-500 words per report).
  - *Day 1 Lecture Report* due **June 6 at 11:59pm**

- *Day 2 Lecture Report* due **June 13 at 11:59pm**
- *Day 3 Lecture Report* due **June 20 at 11:59pm**
- *Day 4 Lecture Report* due **June 27 at 11:59pm**
- *Day 5 Lecture Report* due **July 4 at 11:59pm**
- In order to pass the course, VOD students must submit all of their VOD daily submissions. These submissions are marked as pass/fail based on whether they demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the lecture content and in-class activities.

### Course Outline / Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings/Quizzes</b>
<b>Day 1</b> Monday, May 30	Background Issues Approaches to Revelation Revelation 1	Revelation 1
<b>Day 2</b> Tuesday, May 31	Revelation 2-3	Revelation 2-5 Keener, 109-113, 120-121, 129-131, 138-141, 146-148, 155-156, 163-167, 179-182, 193-198 <b>(Total: 34 pages)</b>
<b>Day 3</b> Wednesday, June 1	Revelation 4-12	Revelation 6-12 Keener, 208-216, 225-228, 238-241, 247-251, 261-264, 276-278, 284-285, 299-303, 307-310, 330-333 <b>(Total: 38 pages)</b>
<b>Day 4</b> Thursday, June 2	Revelation 13-19	Revelation 13-19 344-349, 360-366, 381-382, 389-390, 400-402, 415-419, 436-446, 459-461 <b>(Total: 39 pages)</b>
<b>Day 5</b> Friday, June 3	Revelation 20-22 Millennial Views	Revelation 20-22
June 4 - July 29	Working on Post-Module assignments	Post-course assignments due July 29, 2022

- Assignments will not be accepted after July 29, 2022.

### Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

Classroom time			Weighting
1. <i>Four Views</i> Reading and Essay	30 hrs	N/A	15%
2. Commentary Insights	17 hrs	May 30	5%
3. <i>All Things New</i> Essay	2 hrs	May 30	15%
4. Keener Reading and Application List	13 hrs	May 30	15%
5. Commentary Insights Presentations	8 hrs	June 3	10%
6. Relevance of Revelation Discussion	0 hrs	May 30 - June 3	See #2
7. Interpreting Revelation Essay	2 hrs	June 3	5%
8. Research Project	30 hrs	July 29	25%
	20 hrs	July 29	25%
Total =	122 hrs		

## **Academic Policies**

### **General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work**

#### *Formatting Papers*

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow the [Horizon Format Guide](#) consistently.
- The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.

Failure to follow these guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

#### *Submitting Your Assignments*

Assignments should be submitted via [Populi](#). The resource at this link

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223792507-How-to-submit-work-for-assignments> explains how to submit assignments on Populi (the link to the video is also available on the info tab of the Populi course page).

### **Late Assignments and Extensions**

All assignments are due when stated by the professor or, if not specified, within 8 weeks after the first day of class. Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

### **Grading**

Grade	Percentage	GPA	Descriptor
A+	97-100%	4	Exceptional
A	93-96%	4	Excellent
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good
B	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Good
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70-72%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	67-79%	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	63-66%	1.0	Minimal Pass
D-	60-62%	0.7	Minimal Pass
F	<60%	0	Failure

### **Academic Honesty**

Horizon uses the University of Saskatchewan definition of plagiarism described as “the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter. Adequate attribution is required. What is essential is that another person have no doubt which words or research results are the student’s and which are drawn from other sources” (Office of the University Secretary, 2012). Students are expected to



give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the Seminary [Student Handbook](#).

### **Disability Services Information**

If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to pre-existing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, contact the Academic or Student Life departments at the beginning of the course. Horizon will work to meet your learning and/or physical needs where possible. If any conditions arise during the course that you wish to disclose, please contact us as soon as possible. In all cases you will need to provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Bob Williamson, Dean of Students, at [bwilliamson@horizon.edu](mailto:bwilliamson@horizon.edu); Heather Wood, Associate Dean of Students, at [hwood@horizon.edu](mailto:hwood@horizon.edu); or Leanne Bellamy, Academic Coach, at [lbellamy@horizon.edu](mailto:lbellamy@horizon.edu).

### **Class Attendance**

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. Students are expected to be present through the delivery method that they registered for, either on campus or through live-streaming. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss one day of a module course or three days of class in a term or semester course without academic penalty. Students who are absent for more than the number of classes stated above will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

### **Campus Health Policy**

Do not come on campus if you are experiencing symptoms (even if they are mild) of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, runny nose, or a loss of your sense of taste or smell. If you have any of these symptoms, do not return to campus until advised by Public Health. You should self-isolate and contact HealthLine 811 for advice on whether you should be tested for COVID-19. This will help keep others safe and possibly spare them from self-isolation and testing. While you are in self-isolation, you may attend class online. The link to access your class is posted on the course page on Populi, under the Syllabus tab, under Links on the right side of the page.

### **Live-Streaming Etiquette**

If attending class online via live-stream, keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session, extending the gift of full engagement. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

**Use of Technology**

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

## Bibliography

### Commentaries

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