Seattle University
School of Theology and Ministry
Spring 2011: M / 1:30 - 4:20 PM
Hunt # 150

Instructor: Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz Office Hours by appointment Hunt 211; ext. 6436

STMA 593-01: REVELATION

DESCRIPTION:

Are we living in the last times?

Nurtured by the images of destruction, desolation and chaos emerging from war scenes and the seemingly increasing natural disasters, the world has experienced in the past decades an epidemic of apocalyptic films, television shows and novels which reveal a burgeoning cultural phenomenon. This phenomenon tends to explain reality through the fascinating and mysterious book of Revelation, showing from there that indeed we are living the beginning of the end.

In this class we will study the book of Revelation contextually, understanding its genre and theology within the culture of the Roman Empire, in order to understand its messages for today as we try to appreciate its relevance and influence within the imperial culture of the US.

This course operates under a policy of inclusiveness and diversity. All interpretations of Revelation are partial, non-universal interpretations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course students will develop:

- 1. Knowledge of the content and themes of Revelation
- 2. Understanding of the main interpretive currents of Revelation and its hermeneutical and theological implications
- 3. Skills to interpret Revelation using different critical lenses
- 4. Ability to interpret Revelation both in its own context and in our contemporary contexts.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. One final paper, on a topic of your choice, related to Revelation. The paper should be between 3700-4000 words long. Select the type of paper you want to write from the three options presented on page 5. Due date: June 6: 40% of final grade.
- B. One critical outline of Revelation 15% of final grade. After reading Revelation in one sitting appropriate its content by organizing it in a particular way that make sense to you, you can follow literary, geographical, theological, liturgical, chronological, symbolic, or personal patterns. Include a brief explanation of the rational behind your outline. Due date April 11.
- C. A written meditation, based on a text from Revelation, to be shared in class. Samples can be found on the web page of the Upper Room. Due dates will be selected in class. (10%)
- D. This course will be conducted as a seminar. Regular attendance, good preparation, presentations, and active participation are expected of each student for every class. 35%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Reading

- 1. Revelation (NRSV). (Read/listen to it at least once, preferably twice)
- 2. Koester, Craig R. Revelation and the End of All Things. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. (EAT)
- 3. Newport, Kenneth G. C. *Apocalypse and Millennium: Studies in Biblical Eisegesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. (**A&M**)
- 4. Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *Revelation: Vision of a Just World*. Proclamation Commentaries. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991. (**VJW**)

Articles for Class Presentation

- Every time the world ends: John 21:1-25, Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-5 By: Poling, Travis Edward Turner. Source: Brethren Life and Thought, 51 no 4 Fall 2006, p 239-243.
- The influence of Daniel upon the structure and theology of John's Apocalypse. By: Beale, Gregory K.. Source: Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 27 no 4 D 1984, p 413-423.
- The biblical concept of Armageddon. (Rev 16) By: Larondelle, Hans K.. Source: Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 28 no 1 Mr 1985, p 21-31.
- Shouting in the apocalypse: the influence of first-century acclamations on the praise utterances in Revelation 4:8 and 11 By: Seal, David. Source: Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 51 no 2 Je 2008, p 339-352.
- Glory to God and to the Lamb: John's use of Jewish and Hellenistic/Roman themes in formating his theology in Revelation 4-5 By: Morton, Russell. Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, no 83 S 2001, p 89-109.
- 'Things having lives': ecology, allusion, and performance in Revelation 8:9 By: Perry, Peter S.. Source: Currents in Theology and Mission, 37 no 2 Ap 2010, p 105-113.
- The tripartite structure of the sixth seal, the sixth trumpet, and the sixth bowl of John's Apocalypse (Rev 6:12-7:17, 9:13-11:14, 16:12-16) By: Steinmann, Andrew E.. Source: Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 35 no 1 Mr 1992, p 69-79.
- The monetary crisis in Revelation 13:17 and the provenance of the book of Revelation By: Taylor, Deborah Furlan. Source: Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 71 no 3 Jl 2009, p 580-596.
- Jews or not? reconstructing the "other" in Rev 2:9 and 3:9 By: Frankfurter, David. Source: Harvard Theological Review, 94 no 4 O 2001, p 403-425.
- Roman slave trade and the critique of Babylon in Revelation 18 By: Koester, Craig R.. Source: Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 70 no 4 O 2008, p 766-786.

- Revelation 4:1-11 By: Carroll, John T.. Source: Interpretation, 63 no 1 Ja 2009, p 56-58.
- Revelation 17:1-14 By: Anderson, Paul N.: Source: Interpretation, 63 no 1 Ja 2009, p 60-61.
- The sea that is no more: Rev 21:1 and the function of sea imagery in the Apocalypse of John By: Moo, Jonathan. Source: Novum testamentum, 51 no 2 2009, p 148-167.
- The lion who is a lamb: an exposition of Revelation 5:1-7 By: MacLeod, David J.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 164 no 655 JI-S 2007, p 323-340.
- Revelation 1:4-9 By: Siker, Jeffrey S.. Source: Interpretation, 61 no 2 Ap 2007, p 210-213.
- A critique of the preterist view of the temple in Revelation 11:1-2 By: Hitchcock, Mark L.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 164 no 654 Ap-Je 2007, p 219-236.
- The seventh "last thing": the new heaven and the new earth (Rev 21:1-8) By: MacLeod, David J.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 157 no 628 O-D 2000, p 439-451.
- Progression versus recapitulation in Revelation 20:1-6 By: Powell, Charles E.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 163 no 649 Ja-Mr 2006, p 94-109.
- Eden, the Temple, and the church's mission in the new creation (Rev 21) By: Beale, Gregory K.. Source: Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 48 no 1 Mr 2005, p 5-31.
- New Exodus as a background for "the sea was no more" in Revelation 21:1C By: Mathewson, David. Source: Trinity Journal, ns 24 no 2 Fall 2003, p 243-258.
- The destiny of the nations in Revelation 21:1-22:5: a reconsideration By: Mathewson, David. Source: Tyndale Bulletin, 53 no 1 2002, p 121-142.
- The hook interlocking structure of Revelation: the most important verses in the book and how they may unify its structure (Rev 10) By: Hall, Mark Seaborn. Source: Novum testamentum, 44 no 3 2002, p 278-296.
- Lamentation for Christ as a hero: Revelation 1:7 By: Thompson, Leonard L.. Source: Journal of Biblical Literature, 119 no 4 Wint 2000, p 683-703.
- John's self-presentation in Revelation 1:9-10 By: Bovon, François. Source: Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 62 no 4 O
 2000, p 693-700.
- The Third "Last Thing": The Binding of Satan (Rev 20:1-3) By: MacLeod, David J.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 156 no 624 O-D 1999, p 469-486.
- Revelation 5:1-14. By: O'Brien, Kevin John. Source: Interpretation, 53 no 2 Ap 1999, p 177-181.
- Heaven's Hallelujah Chorus: An Introduction to the Seven "Last Things" (Rev 19:1-10) By: MacLeod, David J..
 Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 156 no 621 Ja-Mr 1999, p 72-84.
- Out of our minds?: appeals to reason (logos) in the seven oracles of Revelation 2-3 By: DeSilva, David Arthur.
 Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, 31 no 2 D 2008, p 123-155.
- A critique of the preterist view of the temple in Revelation 11:1-2 By: Hitchcock, Mark L.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 164 no 654 Ap-Je 2007, p 219-236.
- Adapt or resist? a socio-political reading of Revelation 2.18-29 By: Friedrich, Nestor Paulo; Milton, Leslie
 (Translator). Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, 25 no 2 D 2002, p 185-211.

- The First Horseman of Revelation 6. By: Wong, Daniel K K.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 153 no 610 Ap-Je 1996, p 212-226.
- Apollo, Greco-Roman prophecy, and the rider on the white horse in Rev 6:2. By: Kerkeslager, Allen. Source: Journal of Biblical Literature, 112 no 1 Spr 1993, p 116-121.
- Etched or sketched? inscriptions and erasures in the messages to Sardis and Philadelphia (Rev. 3.1-13) By: Royalty, Robert M.. Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, 27 no 4 Je 2005, p 447-463...
- The Wound of the Beast in the Tribulation. (Rev 13) By: Harris, Gregory H.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 156 no 624 O-D 1999, p 459-468.
- Christ as Archē in Revelation 3:14 By: Svigel, Michael J.. Source: Bibliotheca sacra, 161 no 642 Ap-Je 2004, p 215-231.
- Eros and the End: Reading for Gender in the Apocalypse of John. (Rev-17)By: Pippin, Tina. Source: Semeia, no 59 1992, p 193-210.
- "Those Who Have Not Defiled Themselves with Women": Revelation 14:4 and the Book of Enoch. By: Olson, Daniel C.. Source: Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 59 no 3 Jl 1997, p 492-510.
- Verbal aspect in the apocalypse of John: an analysis of Revelation 5 By: Mathewson, David. Source: Novum testamentum, 50 no 1 2008, p 58-77.
- Revelation 21:22-22:5. By: Ricciuti, Gail A.. Source: Interpretation, 53 no 2 Ap 1999, p 182-185.
- The Nuptial Eschatology of Revelation 19-22. By: Miller, Kevin E.. Source: Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 60 no 2 Ap 1998, p 301-318.
- The list of the tribes in Revelation 7 again. By: Bauckham, Richard. Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, no 42 Je 1991, p 99-115.
- The portrayal of the church as the new Israel in the names and order of the tribes in Revelation 7:5-8. By: Smith, Christopher R.. Source: Journal for the Study of the New Testament, no 39 Je 1990, p 111-118.
- The "marriage supper of the lamb" in Rev 19:6-10: implications for the judgment seat of Christ By: Tanner, J Paul. Source: Trinity Journal, ns 26 no 1 Spr 2005, p 47-68.
- The purpose of symbolism in the book of Revelation By: Beale, Gregory K.. Source: Calvin Theological Journal, 41 no **1** Ap 2006, p 53-66.

IMPORTANT: All the articles for class can be found in a Google Document account. Go to Google Documents and when prompted for email type:

Revelation.stm - there is no need to add "@gmail.com" Password: eschatology (lower case)

Instructions for FINAL PAPER (40%): Choose ONE of the following options to write your paper.

Discovery Paper:

This type of paper presupposes the pursue of a new idea, theory, or distinct angle that you want to use to re-read a passage or a theme from Revelation in order to advance a new (as new as possible!) interpretation in apocalypticist scholarship. When writing this type of paper first you formulate your thesis, then you outline the steps you want to follow to prove your thesis, then you develop your idea using the research work you have been doing. If you want, you can discuss with me your thesis and your outline before you start researching and writing the paper. To write this paper you will need to use at least 8 scholarly sources, plus any other pertinent sources you would like to use.

Synthesis Paper:

This type of paper seeks to explore an apocalyptic topic or text from Revelation in depth* by mapping out the development of such topic, or the different interpretations that a particular text has had during the last 20 years or 20 centuries. After surveying the field of Revelation scholarship on the text or topic of your choice you should be able to synthesize your findings and be ready to present them in an organized way, showing you have intellectually grasped and digested the material. To write this paper you will need to use at least 10 sources, out of which 7 need to be scholarly and 3 could be ecclesial/pastoral sources.

Application Paper:

This type of paper requires your skills as translator (bridge) to bring together your academic training and your ministerial call by means of producing the exegetical work needed to write a sermon, a Sunday school lesson, a Bible study on a passage from John or a theological/doctrinal theme. You should submit the exegetical work where you wrestle with the text to apply it to today's context, and a brief sermon, lesson or study as the vehicle for the application you are advancing in your reading of Revelation. To write this paper you will need to use at least 8 sources, out of which 5 need to be scholarly material and 3 could be ecclesial/pastoral material.

NOTE: All of these papers require your creativity—to find new ways of understanding Scriptures for our present reality; your passion—to engage the text in meaningful ways that can help transform the world; and your priestly skills (as pontifices/pontifex) to keep in tension your academic formation with your ministerial vocation as you build bridges to bring together both communities honoring the complexity of the text as well as the message of the Scripture through inclusive interpretations.

* I know it is only a 12-page paper, but still you can go very deep if you have a clear focus of what you are looking for in your survey.

Instructions for presentation of a critical response/review: Organize your response in three basic categories:

- 1. **Summary** of the main features of the article (60-100 words)
 - What is the author's key idea or "**thesis**" (i.e., what the author wants you to believe and/or understand as a result of reading this article)?
 - What key terms are used, and what do they mean?
- 2. **Supporting arguments** of the article. You can highlight 1 or 2 "**key quotes**" to help other people remember the author's central points. (100-150 words)
 - o What does the author say to convince you that the thesis should be accepted?
 - What kind of evidence is presented in favor of the thesis? E.g.,
 - What previous studies does the author cite?
 - o How is this evidence interpreted—both in terms of content and method? E.g.,
 - How are the Scripture passages, etc., used by the author?
 - How are the earlier studies worked into the author's argument?
- 3. **Evaluate** what you see as the positive contribution of this study for understanding the method or topic under discussion, and point out what you see as its limitations. (150-250 words)
 - 1. Content:
 - 1. What is the most relevant argument of this article?
 - 2. In which way is advancing the field?
 - 3. Which remain unclear to you?
 - 2. Method:
 - 1. How reliable are the earlier studies on which the author bases the argument? Do you find the author's use of them compelling?
 - 2. When you compare the Scripture passages cited in the article with the way they are interpreted by the author, what differences do you see between your reading and the author's interpretation? Are these differences of method, content or both?
 - 3. Global:
 - 1. What do you see as the three most important contributions of this article to understanding the topic?
 - 2. What do you see as its limitations—or even errors of fact or of method?
 - 3. What are 2–3 questions that you would find helpful for class discussion of this investigation?

You will be allotted 7-10 minutes to present the article to allow 10-13 minutes for discussion.

For COURSE CALENDAR contact instructor: guardiol@seattleu.edu