



McMaster Divinity College

The Book of Revelation: In View of All This, How Then Should We Live?

MS/NT 5XR5
Modified Hybrid

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Winter 2022 (Term 2)
Wednesdays 11 a.m.–12:50 p.m.
On Campus: Jan 12, 19, Feb 2, 16, March 9, 23, April 6
Online: Jan 26, Feb 9, 23, March 16, 30



Biography

Dr. Cindy Westfall is the Associate Professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College. Her research interests are wide-ranging including Greek, linguistics and discourse analysis, the book of Hebrews, Revelation and the Catholic Epistles, Bible Translation, Gender and Ministry, and Biblical Social Justice. She is the author of *A Discourse Analysis of Hebrews: The Relationship between Form and Meaning* and *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ* and co-edited *The Bible and Social Justice: Old Testament and New Testament Foundations for the Church's Urgent Call*. She has been committed to crossing the boundaries in church planting and participation in the growth of urban church ministry. She is married to Glenn and lives in Dundas, ON.

Course Description

Revelation can offer the DPT student a biblical basis for contemporary practices in ways that may be surprising and unexpected. Revelation is considered to be one of the most difficult and controversial books in the Bible. The sometime bizarre and often repetitive imagery and narrative has generated a wide variety of interpretations of the various characters and events. The interpretations have sometimes had a dramatic impact on the Christian community, though the outcome has not necessarily been godliness.

This course particularly focuses on the overall impact and message of Revelation within its socio-historical and apocalyptic context, with responsible and effective contextualization in the 21st century. We will discover a book that leads us into a direct encounter with God and which transforms our lives in the present.

This class is an exegetical and interpretative study of the Book of Revelation in English translation. It involves an acquaintance with structure, content, message, context and other interpretive issues of Revelation as well as its meaning for today in discipleship, community and ministry.

Course Objectives

Specific Objectives – Through reading, lectures, discussion and assignments the student will:

Knowing:

- Grasp the message and structure of Revelation as a whole and discern its relationship to the individual, the church, society and global contexts.
- Apply exegetical principles that bring the diverse horizons together of the Old Testament contexts, the New Testament contexts and our contemporary contexts.

Doing:

- Practice serving as a resource for the church as others as you share your expertise, sources and research with the class
- Through reading, research and writing, engage in practice-led research on the Book of Revelation that addresses your research question, and informs your practice of ministry

Being:

- Be interpreted as an individual by the Book of Revelation in order to deepen your integration who you are and where you are with your practice and your research
- Allow the text to motivate, form and transform righteousness, hope and worship

Course Requirements

***Class Participation* (10%)**

Student participation will be in a hybrid format involving both in-class and online participation based on the readings for the week and any online videos. Following the introduction of the first day, students will come to class prepared to discuss their impressions of the portion of the Book of Revelation studied for that day

- Key theological insights
- Items of particular exegetical interest or controversy
- Possible applications to contemporary Christian living

***Reading* (10%)**

The required reading for the course is 4,000 pages. The student will read the core texts and select appropriate reading on Revelation (particularly as it relates to their research question) and submit on A2L a list of books and number of pages read on **April 8**.

Core Texts

Blackwell, Ben C. et al. *Reading Revelation in Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

DeSilva, David. *Discovering Revelation: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. DBT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021.

Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore.

Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Written Assignments

Preliminary Annotated Bibliography & Presentation (10%)

The student will develop an annotated bibliography of approximately 5–10 resources (at least 1,500 pages) that are the most informative related to the area of your research interest, and write a 100-150 word annotation for each resource. **Follow the MDC Style Guide for your bibliography entries.** Relevant resources previously read for other courses may be submitted (mark with *). This is your summary of the best sources available in your area of interest. **Submit this assignment to A2L in PDF form on Friday, February 4. The bibliography will be presented in class on February 9.**

Summary of Biblical and Theological Foundations (25%)

Utilizing material from the class sessions, online materials and reading the student will describe the biblical and theological basis for *your specific practice-led research* in Revelation. **The paper will be approximately 3,000 words (12 pages), and submitted to A2L in PDF form by 11:59 p.m. Friday February 25.**

Include footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuide.pdf>

Major Paper on Practice-Led Research in Revelation (40%)

The student will demonstrate practice-led research through a particular focus/interest in Revelation and be prepared to discuss their research with the class. Their paper will include an introduction, five sections and a conclusion (subheadings are advised):

- Clearly explain how the paper is rooted based in your identity, experiences and practice
- Explore the challenges and problems that provoke this study (i.e. Why does this ministry practice need to be addressed?)
- Identify and develop a procedure for a methodology suitable for researching this topic.
- Integrate the biblical and theological foundations for practice from your previous paper with appropriate revisions
- A consideration of new approaches to address and improve ministry practice (local and beyond) and reflection on the application to your own ministry.

The paper will be approximately 8,000 words. Submit to A2L in PDF form April 6 by 11:00 a.m. Include footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuide.pdf>

Class Presentation of Research

Present/summarize where you are in your research in the final class on **April 6.**

Course Assessment Summary

Online Participation	10%
Reading	15%
Preliminary Annotated Bibliography & Presentation	10%
Summary of Biblical and Theological Foundations	25%
Paper on Revelation	40%

Classroom Behaviour

Attendance

- Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.
- Online attendance and watching any course videos is similarly expected
- Absence from more than 2 classes (or the equivalent) will result in grade penalties

Participation

- Please respect the opinions of others without disrespect or ridicule, even if you do not agree with them. However, feel free to respond logically and critically in an orderly manner.
- Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.
- Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
- Students are not to access e-mail, send or receive text messages, surf the net, etc., while class is in session
- Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines may lose participation points and/or be dismissed from the class.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <http://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Appointments

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via E-mail (most effective): westfal@mcmaster.ca

Friend me on Facebook and send me a message!

Office hours (Rm 242):

Tuesday 2–4

Wednesday 1–3

Available by appointment in person or on Zoom calls

MS 5XR5 Weekly Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Passage</i>	<i>Reading</i> Passage from Revelation DeSilva on the passage/material Revelation in Context on the passage
Jan 12 On campus	Syllabus & Introduction	DeSilva: 1–54 RRC: 19–36
Jan 19 On campus	Opening vision Revelation 1	Rev 1; DeSilvs: 55–68 RRC: 37–44
Jan 26 Online	Letters to churches Revelation 2–3	DeSilva 69–88 RRC: 45–51
Feb 2 On campus	Scene in Heaven Revelation 4	DeSilva 89–105 RRC: 52–58
Feb 4	Annotated Bibliography due 11:59 p.m.	
Feb 9 Online	Presentation of Annotated Bibliography Seals, Revelation 5–8:1	DeSilva 106–24 RRC: 59–79
Feb 16 On campus	Trumpets Revelation 8:1–11:19	DeSilva, same as 2/9 RRC: 80–108
Feb 23 On line	Cast of Characters Revelation 12–14	DeSilva 125–45 RRC: 109–30
Feb 25	Summary of Biblical and Theological Foundations at 11:59 p.m.	
Feb 28– March 4	READING WEEK & INTENSIVE HYBRID WEEK	
March 9 On campus	Bowls Revelation 15–16	DeSilva same as 2/9 RRC: 131–37
March 16 Online	Babylon Revelation 17–18	DeSilva 146–66 RRC: 138–52
March 23 On campus	Armageddon & Millennium Revelation 19–20	DeSilva 167–82 RRC: 153–67
March 30 Online	New Heaven, New Earth Revelation 21–22	DeSilva 182–97 RRC: 168–80
April 6 On campus	Practice-led Research Paper due 11 a.m. Presentation of Research during class	
April 8	Reading reports due 11:59 p.m.	

Select Bibliography on Revelation Commentaries

- Aune, David. *Revelation*, 3 vols. WBC. Vol. 1--Dallas: Word, 1997. Vols. 2-3--Nashville: Nelson, 1998. CDetailed commentary on the Greek text
- Beale, G. K. *The Book of Revelation*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Beale, G. K. and David Campbell. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015.
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *The Book of Revelation*. NCB. London: Oliphants, 1974.
- Beasley-Murray, George R., Herschel H. Hobbs and Ray F. Robbins. *Revelation: Three Viewpoints*. Nashville: Broadman, 1977.
- Beckwith, I. T. *The Apocalypse of John*. New York: Macmillan, 1922.
- Blackwell, Ben C. et al. *Reading Revelation in Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
- Boring, M. Eugene. *Revelation*. [Int] Louisville: John Knox, 1989.
- Boxall, Ian. *The Revelation of St. John*. BNTC. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006.
- Burr, David D. *The Book of Revelation*. The Bible in Medieval Tradition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019.
- Caird, G. B. *A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine*. HNTC. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.
- Charles, R. H. *The Revelation of St John*, 2 vols. ICC. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1920.
- Collins, Adela Yarbro. *The Apocalypse*. NTM. Wilmington: Glazier, 1979.
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- _____. *Seeing Things God's Way: The Rhetoric of the Book of Revelation*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- Fanning, Buist M. *Revelation*. ZECNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.
- Fiorenza, Elizabeth Schüssler. *Invitation to the Book of Revelation*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1981.
- Ford, J. Massyngberde. *Revelation*. AB. Garden City: Doubleday, 1975.
- Foulkes, Ricardo. *El Apocalypsis de San Juan*. Buenos Aires: Nueva Creación; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- González, Catherine G. and Justo L. González, *Revelation*. [WestBibComp]

- Gregg, Steve. *Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary*. Nashville: Nelson, 1997.
- Hendriksen, William. *More Than Conquerors*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1944.
- Hughes, Philip E. *The Book of the Revelation*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Johnson, Alan. "Revelation." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein. Vol. 12. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. Pp. 399-603.
- Johnson, Dennis E. *Triumph of the Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2001.
- Keener, Craig S. *Revelation*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Kistemaker, Simon J. *Revelation*. NTC. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Koester, Craig R. *Revelation: A New Translation with Commentary*. AB. London: Yale University Press, 2015.
- _____. *Revelation and the End of All Things*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.
- Ladd, George E. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Lupieri, Edmondo. *A Commentary on the Apocalypse of St. John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Malina, Bruce J. and J. J. Pilch, *Social-Science Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.
- Matthewson, David L. *A Companion to the Book of Revelation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020.
- _____. *Revelation: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. BHGNT. Waco, TX: Baylor, 2016.
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- Morris, Leon. *The Revelation of St. John*. TNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, rev. 1987.
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- Mounce, Robert H. *What Are We Waiting For?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
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Paul, Ian. *Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary*. TNTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*.

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Richard, Pablo. *Apocalypse: A People's Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1985.

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Smalley, Steven S. *The Revelation to John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005.

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