



## McMaster Divinity College

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

MS/NT 6XR6  
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



#### **Course Description**

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:**

- Acquire a generalist understanding of the text
- Learn the first century contexts in which Revelation is read
- Understand critical issues surrounding the Book of Revelation including the genre of apocalypse, authorship, structure, message and eschatological views.

**Doing:**

- Analyze and research a text in Revelation and write an academic paper & present the research to the class
- Identify and apply a methodology to the analysis of the text
- Teach a unit on Revelation to the class

**Being:**

- Be an academic and teacher who is transformed by your work with the text of Revelation
- Allow the text to motivate and form 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%)**

Students will read 5,000 pages from works on biblical interpretation & hermeneutics. Submit the reading list to A2L by **11:59 p.m. on April 8** with a full bibliography and a total page count.

**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](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

**Written Assignments****Methodology paper (30%)**

Each student will write and present a paper on a text in Revelation (c. 4,000 words excluding notes and bibliography) **due Friday February 25 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Final Paper which combines the Methodology Paper with the Analysis of Scripture (30%)**

Each student will write and present a paper that applies their methodology to an appropriate passage (c. 4,000 + 6,000 words excluding notes and bibliography) **due by 11:00 on April 6.**

A brief presentation of the students research will be presented at the final class on **April 6.**

The professor assumes that students already know the basics about how to research, write and orally present papers. However, we will work at further developing skills that are utilized in scholarly discourse and publication. Both content (research, analysis, organization of material) and presentation (mechanics and style) are important. Each student must utilize the MacDiv style guide. The general guidelines are that the paper should be 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1" margins and utilize footnotes (not endnotes). The paper should include a title page, numbering and a staple cover (not fancy). Each paper should include a formal introduction and conclusion as well as implications for contemporary hermeneutics and any applications for contemporary ministry.

### ***Teaching Unit (15%)***

The student will prepare and teach 1 hour of the course in a video that will be viewed by the other students in the course, covering a passage/topic determined by the professor and student.

### ***Grading Summary***

➤ Participation	15%
➤ Reading	10%
➤ Methodology Paper	30%
➤ Analysis of a passage	30%
➤ Teaching unit	15%

### ***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](mailto: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/NT 6XR6 Weekly Schedule

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Passage</b></i>	<i><b>Reading</b></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	DeSilva: 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 9 Online	Seals Revelation 5–8:1	DeSilva 106–24 RRC: 59–79
Feb 16 On campus	Trumpets Revelation 8:2–11:19	DeSilva, same as 2/9 RRC: 80–108
Feb 23 Online	Cast of Characters Revelation 12–14	DeSilva 125–45 RRC: 109–30
Feb 25	<b>Methodology Paper at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
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	<b>Final Paper due 11 a.m.</b> <b>Presentation of Research during class</b>	
April 8	<b>Reading reports due 11:59 p.m.</b>	

*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.
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- 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.
- DeSilva, David. *Discovering Revelation: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. DBT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *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.
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- 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.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Revelation: A Handbook on the Greek Text*. BHGNT. Waco, TX: Baylor, 2016.
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Paul, Ian. *Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary*. TNTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018.

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Quispel, Gilles. *The Secret Book of Revelation*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979.

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