Instructor: Dr. Joel White  
Course Dates: July 21—25, July 28—August 1, 2014  
Course Times: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Course Description:**

Competency in New Testament Greek and exegesis skills will be honed by means of a close look at the Revelation of John. The course will begin with a thorough introduction to the book that will examine the usual topics of general introduction as well as offer a closer look at various hermeneutical approaches to the book. This will be followed by a detailed examination of the structure of the book and careful exegesis of selected chapters. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the historical context of Revelation as well as on its continuing relevance for the church today.

**Course Prerequisites and Relation to the Curriculum:**

One year of New Testament Greek plus the course *Interpreting the New Testament* (or its equivalent at another seminary) are required. NT 649 satisfies the requirement for all degrees that stipulate successful completion of an exegesis course in the epistles.

Each student is required to pass a Greek Competency Quiz to take the course. This quiz will be administered on the first day of class. Failure to pass this quiz will result in the student being ineligible from taking the course.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course students will:

- understand the book of Revelation in its historical context
- have a working knowledge of the various hermeneutical approaches to and proposals regarding the structure of the book
- be able work competently with the Greek text of Revelation
- have a better understanding of the continuing relevance of Revelation

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Attendance:**

   Attendance is expected at all course sessions. At most, a total of 3 hours of class may be excused for a legitimate reason. Missed class time over 3 hours must be made up through additional reading or assignments at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be called upon in class to translate the Greek text directly from the Greek NT without the use of notes.
2. Preparation of a personal study guide:

The study guide will consist of three parts:

a. a brief overview of the main hermeneutical approaches to Revelation including reflection on their particular strengths and weaknesses.

b. a description, preferably in the form of a graph, of the student’s view of the basic structure of the book of Revelation.

c. an independent translation from Greek into English of at least ten chapters of the book of Revelation. These must include the follows: Rev. 1, 7, 11, 14, 20. The translation should be completed without the aid of an English Bible or translation software (electronic dictionaries may be used, but reference should not be made to any translation while translating). Important lexical and syntactical information should be noted below the translated text. Group work on translations is encouraged, as long as this consists of work together on individual texts rather than dividing up texts and exchanging results. Students should then correct their own translation with reference to at least one scholarly commentary. Greg Beale’s NIGNT commentary on Revelation is recommended (see below), though other commentaries can and sometimes should be consulted. Translations should be further corrected in class. Corrections should be transparent. In other words, changes to be made should be stricken through (rather than deleted), either electronically (in soft copy) or with a pencil or pen (in hard copy), using different colors of ink for corrections from commentaries and those made during class.

Please note: The Bible Division of GCTS requires that all language components of an exegesis course must be passed for the student to pass the course.

Due Date: August 1, 2014
Percentage of final grade: 40%

3. Preparation of an Exegesis Paper:

This paper will consist of 3,500 word (+ or – 10%) exegetical essay on one of the “letters to the seven churches” (Rev 2-3). In preparing the paper students should consult Gordon Fee’s New Testament Exegesis. The paper should conform to general academic standards for exegesis papers and follow the SBL Handbook of Style with regard to form. Plagiarism in any form, as defined in the Concise Handbook, will result in a grade of ‘F’ for the course. Papers emailed to the instructor as a PDF File by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on the due date in order to avoid penalties for late work.

Due Date: August 15, 2014
Percentage of final grade: 60%

4. Reading:

The required reading must be completed in order to pass the course. A brief signed statement that the student has completed the reading should be included with the personal study guide. Readings are taken from the following works and should in preparation for lectures as noted in the course schedule (see below):

**Course Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 23</td>
<td>Rev 1-3</td>
<td>Bauckham, <em>Climax</em>, ch. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 24</td>
<td>Rev 4-6</td>
<td>Bauckham, <em>Climax</em>, ch. 5</td>
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<td>Friday, July 25</td>
<td>Rev 7-10</td>
<td>White, “144,000”, <em>passim</em></td>
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<td>Monday, July 28</td>
<td>Rev 11-13</td>
<td>Bauckham, <em>Climax</em>, ch. 6-7</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 29</td>
<td>Rev 14-16</td>
<td>Bauckham, <em>Climax</em>, ch. 9</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 30</td>
<td>Rev 17-18</td>
<td>Bauckham, <em>Climax</em>, ch. 10-11</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 31</td>
<td>Rev 19-20</td>
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<td>Friday, August 1</td>
<td>Rev 21-22</td>
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**Recording, Copying, and Exchanging of Computer Files:**

Students may record course lectures and discussion for the purpose of individual study only. No course materials, Powerpoints, or recordings may be given to third parties without the express consent of the instructor.

**Contact Information:**

Email: jwhite@gordonconwell.edu  
Appointments: I am available for appointments on request on class days, preferably over lunch!