1. **Course Description.**

This course will emphasize an exegetical reading of the Book of Revelation. What this means is that the focus of this particular course will be on the study of the book of Revelation in manner that prioritizes its first century historical, literary, and theological contexts. Such a reading is fundamental to understanding the book on its own terms and lays the foundation for the application of a variety of interpretive approaches to the book. Through a series of readings, assignments, and a final exegesis paper students will have an opportunity to develop exegetical skills, use interpretive tools, and engage in the hermeneutical task of moving from the situation(s) and worldview(s) of the author to that of the 21st century reader.

2. **Course Objectives.**

There are two types of objectives for this course: skill and content.

a. **Skill objectives:**

i. Learn how to use the standard biblical studies tools (e.g. a concordance, encyclopedias, dictionaries, commentaries, and journals.) in the task of exegesis.

ii. Learn how to use various exegetical methods for interpreting the book of Revelation.

iii. Learn how to develop and present one’s own interpretation of the book of Revelation.

iv. Learn how to read critically and evaluate the interpretations of other biblical scholars.
b. Content objectives:

   i. Understand the apocalyptic, epistolary, and prophetic dimensions of the book of Revelation within its first-century historical and socio-cultural contexts.
   
   ii. Understand the development and function of Revelation’s redemptive and eschatological themes both within the book and across the Old and New Testaments.
   
   iii. Understand the development and function of Revelation’s redemptive eschatological themes against the backdrop of non-canonical apocalyptic literature.

3. Course Procedure and Student Responsibility.

   Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Because this is an intensive course, missing just one day can adversely affect the student’s grasp of the material (a lot is covered over 4 hours!). Participation is also expected of every student through the discussion of the readings, class assignments, and quizzes. If for whatever reason a student is absent, he or she will be responsible for acquiring their own copies of the notes and/or handouts from other students. Poor class attendance will hamper a student’s ability to perform up to the best of their capabilities on tests, quizzes, and class assignments.

   Reading Assignments: All reading assignments should be completed by the date assigned and are considered “fair game” for quizzes form that date onward.

   Quizzes: During the term, there will be 5 quizzes. The quizzes must be taken at the time scheduled, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Prior lecture material and all assigned reading material are considered “fair game” for the quizzes.

   Writing Assignments: There will be five writing assignments (including the final paper) during the term. Assignments must be submitted by the due date in order to receive full credit. Late work will be reduced by ½ a letter grade per period late.

   a. First Assignment: Steps 1-3.

      i. Step 1: Survey the historical context in general (Fee, pp. 8-9; resources, p. 158).
      
      ii. Step 2: Confirm the limits of the passage (Fee, pp. 9-10; resources, p. 158).
      
      iii. Step 3.3-3.3.4: Become thoroughly acquainted with your paragraph/pericope (Fee, pp. 11-12; resources, pp. 158-159).

   b. Second Assignment: Research the historical-cultural background (Fee, pp. 16, 96-111; resources, pp. 164-165).
c. **Third Assignment: Steps 9-10:**

   i. *Step 9:* Understand the formal character of the Revelation (Fee, pp. 29-30; resources, p. 170).

   ii. *Step 10:* Determine the historical context (Fee, pp. 30-31).

d. **Fourth Assignment: Step 11:** Determine the literary context (Fee, pp. 30-31; resources, p. 169).

e. **Final Assignment [EXEGESIS PAPER]:** A 10-12 page exegetical paper on a selected biblical text. This exegetical paper is due on Monday, July 13th, two weeks after the semester has ended.

Note: Writing assignments will be evaluated not only with respect to what is said, but also how well it is said. While the content is of primary importance, the clarity of expression and quality of organization are of substantial importance as well. The appropriate format for this paper should include: all pages numbered, one in margins, 12 point font, double-spaced, and footnoted in accordance with Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers* or *The Chicago Manual of Style.* (All forms of inter-textual citation, except for scripture references are unacceptable). Your final bibliography should include at least eight academic sources. In addition to the previous requirements, it must include at least two articles from a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia and two peer-reviewed articles.

*Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly this course. This includes, among other things, the failure to use quotation marks when another writer’s words are used and/or the failure to properly document another writer’s words or ideas (i.e. plagiarism). Such plagiarism will result in achieving a “zero” for a written assignment, with no opportunity for re-doing it.

4. **Course Requirements and Grading.**

There will be five quizzes; four writing assignments, and a final 10-12 page exegesis paper. Also, students are expected to complete the reading assignments by the date assigned (as listed in the Course and Assignment Schedule below), in order to participate in class discussions. In addition, the assigned reading is considered “fair game” for any quizzes.
Grades will be determined as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class participation consists of regular attendance (you can’t participate if you aren’t here), voluntarily reading aloud biblical passages (so bring your Bible to class), intelligent participation in class discussion, and a general look of consciousness upon one’s face.

The following percentage system will be in effect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Accessibility Procedures.**

Students who wish to request disability-related accommodations for a course should talk with the instructor as soon as possible at the beginning of the course.

6. **Complaint Procedures.**

Any concerns that you may have either about the course, your grades, or the instructor should be handled in the following manner. (1) Communicate your concern clearly to the instructor as a first step. (2) If you are not satisfied with the instructor’s resolution of your concern, talk to the director of the program, Dr. Alvin Padilla: apadilla@gordonconwell.edu. If this procedure is not followed, the right and freedom of both the instructor and student are potentially violated.

7. **Texts.**

Required:


Recommended:


8. Changes.

The instructor reserves the right to emend this syllabus and the course schedule in any way deemed necessary or beneficial.

9. Course Assignment Schedule.

The following schedule is a tentative approximation of the dates and topics to be covered in the course. Minor changes may be made from time to time.

6/22 Introduction: Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature; Authorship; Date; Circulation and Reception in the Early Church; Approaches to Interpretation; The Language of Revelation; Structure; Analysis.

Mounce, 1-35.
Resseguie, 11-59.

***First Assignment Due***

6/23 Prologue (1:1-20); Letter to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22).

Mounce, 39-115.
Resseguie, 71-103.

Quiz #1

6/24 Adoration in the Court of Heaven (4:1-5:14); The Seven Seals (6:1-8:1).

Mounce, 116-171.
Resseguie, 105-142.

***Second Assignment Due***

Quiz #2
6/25  The Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19); Conflict Between the Church and the Powers (12:1-14:20).
      Mounce, 172-281.
      Resseguie, 143-202.
      Quiz #3

6/26  The Seven Last Plagues (15:1-16:21); The Fall of Babylon (17:1-19:5).
      Mounce, 282-344.
      Resseguie, 203-233
      ***Third Assignment Due***
      Quiz #4

      Mounce, 345-411.
      Resseguie, 233-260.
      Quiz #5

6/30  NO CLASS
      ***Fourth Assignment Due***

7/13  NO CLASS
      ***Final Exegesis Paper Due***