NT 649: Exegesis of Revelation  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte  
Fall Semester 2010

Instructor: Dr. Joel White  
Course Dates: Oct. 1-2, 29-30; Dec. 3-4  
Course Times: Fridays, 7:00 – 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 8:30 am – 12:15 and 1:30 – 4:30 pm  
Chapel: Fridays, 6:30 – 6:55 pm

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. Students not using their Greek in the Fall Semester of 2010 need to sit for a Greek Competency Quiz by the time of the Integrative Seminar at the end of January. Contact the Registrar’s Office if this is the case.

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:

   Weekend module courses assume full attendance at all classes. All weekend sessions should be attended. If a student misses a weekend, the course should be
dropped. 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. (A consolation: the Greek of Revelation is fairly easy.)

2. Preparation of a personal study guide:

This 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 the following passages: Rev. 1, 11-14, 17-22. This 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. The student should then correct his own translation with reference to at least one scholarly commentary (see list below). Greg Beale’s NIGNT commentary on Revelation is recommended, 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: December 4, 2010
Percentage of final grade: 40%

3. Preparation of an Exegesis Paper:

This paper will consist of 3,500 (+ or − 10%) word 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 and Rollin Grams, A Concise Handbook for Research and Writing in Seminary, available on CAMS. 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 should be submitted in hard copy and emailed to the instructor as a PDF File. BibleWorks
fonts should be used for Greek and Hebrew characters. Papers that are not handed in directly to the appropriate office at GCTS must be received by the instructor as email attachments by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Jan. 3, 2011 (and mailed as hard copy directly to the instructor forthwith) in order to avoid penalties for late work.

Due Date: Jan 3, 2011
Percentage of final grade: 60%

4. Reading:

The required reading, which has been intentionally held to a reasonable amount, 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.

The following should be read in full before the first course weekend:

Tavo, Felise. „The Structure of the Apocalypse: Re-examining a Perennial Problem“, *NT* 47 (2005), 47-68.

The following chapters of Richard Bauckham, *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation*, London: T & T Clark, 1993, should be read according to the schedule below:

- 1, 2, and 4 before the first course weekend
- 5, 6, and 7 before the second course weekend
- 9, 10, and 11 before the third course weekend

Additionally, at least one commentary (preferably two) from the following list should be purchased and consulted while preparing one’s personal study guide (see above):

Course Schedule:

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<th>Oct. 1-2</th>
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|           | • Course Introduction  
|           | • Book Introduction  
|           | • Rev 1-5  
| Oct. 29-30 | • Rev 7-16  
| Dec. 3-4  | • Rev 17-22  

Taping, Copying, and Exchanging of Computer Files:

Students may tape course lectures and discussion for the purpose of individual study only. All course materials, including handouts and Powerpoints in addition to tapes, may not be given to third parties without the express consent of the instructor.

Contact Information:

Address: 25 Leverett St., Gloucester, MA 01930  
Tel. Nr.: 978-283-6878 (for urgent matters)  
Email: jwhite@gcts.edu (for general questions)  
Appointments: Since I don’t live in the Charlotte area, I have only limited time for personal appointments before and after course weekends. Skype appointments can be set up with me via email.  
Saturday meals: I will generally be available for both lunch and supper on the Saturdays of course weekends. Anyone wishing to join me for these meals is welcome to do so.