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NT 750 Exegesis of Revelation

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Catalog Description

Inasmuch as this course is taught as a tutorial or seminar, the catalog description of NT 666, while serving to describe the content of this course as well, does not describe its form.

Introduction

The Johannine Literature makes up approximately one third of the New Testament. It includes four different genre of literature-- a Gospel, epistles, a homily, and a book of apocalyptic prophecy. This course explores only the last of these works.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS—1; NT 520.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

1. be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of Revelation;
2. be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of this NT document;
3. grasp the importance of the structure of this work and its importance for understanding Johannine Christology;
4. understand the role of the this work in the New Testament canon;
5. be able to propose fruitful ways in which apocalyptic literature may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;

Course Requirements and Reading
On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11th ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following works. (15%)

Witherington, Ben, Jesus the Seer, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999), hb.

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade. Excused absences are on the basis of real personal emergencies.

(2) A Critical Review: A review of Jesus the Seer, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of the first class in March. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author’s central theses; demonstrate the author’s approach to the subject matter; and critique the author’s analysis (e.g., with regard to the author’s method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (35%)
(3) A Research Assignment: An exegesis paper of approximately 20 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within Revelation. This paper should evidence both a close reading of the text and critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the commentaries, as well as New Testament Abstracts in the Library.)
Due by 4:00 p.m. April 1. (50%).

Reading Schedule
The student should plan to work through Jesus the seer and Koester first, followed by my commentary, followed by Peterson.

Course Schedule
Approximately one week will be spent on introductory matters, followed by a careful working through Revelation, pericope by pericope.