SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This seminar is an introduction to the primary literature, language, theology, and message of the apocalyptic genre, with specific emphasis placed on the book of Revelation.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To become familiar with the apocalyptic genre, particularly definitions, purposes, themes, motifs, and characteristics of apocalypses.
2. To become familiar with the significant literature of the apocalyptic genre, particularly Jewish and Christian apocalypses.
3. To become familiar with the theology, message, and content of the book of Revelation.
4. To become familiar with the different methods available for interpreting the book of Revelation, along with their strengths and weaknesses.
5. To sharpen skills, including critical reading, research, writing, and presentation skills.
6. To deepen our need for humility and openness when debating controversial issues such as eschatology.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

*Students take notice: this seminar assumes major reading and some writing to be completed prior to seminar week. The rest of the semester, then, is centered on some reading, some writing, but principally on a research paper and presentation.*

1. Summary Reports

Each student will write three 10-12 page summary reports, one each for Collins, Sandy, and Bauckham. These will serve as personal guides for class discussion as well as future resources. Emphasis should be placed on summarizing, and understanding key themes and arguments.

2. Research Paper

Each student will complete a 25-30 page research paper on one of the topic areas listed below. The paper will follow Turabian (8th ed.) on form. It is due one week prior to presentation to both the professor and to fellow students. Send your email attachment (PDF) to everyone in the seminar. *The topic and schedule presentation will be confirmed by the conclusion of seminar week, January 27, 2017.*
Recommended Helps

Three resources are highly recommended. First, Part I of Turabian offers help in research and writing. Second, William B. Badke, *Research Strategies*, 5th ed. (New York: iUniverse, 2014), especially chapter two, does the same. Third, Richard Paul and Linda Elder, *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts & Tools*, 7th ed. (Dillon Beach, CA: Critical Thinking Foundation, 2014), is an excellent resource on how to think critically about the resources you access. Together, these three resources will help narrow down a topic, ask the correct questions, find the best resources, and effectively evaluate resources. Approach your research paper from this angle:

- Well-chosen problem, clearly stated in introduction
- Reasonable purpose of study and significance of topic
- Demonstration of knowledge of related literature
- Sufficient knowledge of needed tools (e.g., languages, computer, etc.)
- Organization of paper; logical sequence; unity of each section
- Appropriate bridges between sections
- Concise summary of findings
- Clear conclusions, reflecting problem and purpose, and any synthesis
- Judicious use of sources, including variety (e.g., dictionaries, books, journals, commentaries, academic web)
- Control of bias

Since the apocalyptic genre overlaps Old Testament, intertestamental, and other New Testament books besides Revelation, the professor is open to shaping the research project with the student’s major field in mind.

Potential Research Paper Topic Areas

See the resources for more topic ideas. Here are areas to consider:

- Defining the genre called Apocalypse
- Apocalypticism in the Ancient Near East
- Old Testament Apocalyptic Literature—e.g., Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah
- Jewish Apocalyptic Literature—e.g., 4 Ezra, Enoch literature, 2 Baruch, Jubilees, Qumran literature, Diaspora apocalypses, etc.
- Christian Apocalypses—e.g., Ascension of Isaiah, Sibylline literature, Shepherd of Hermas, Apocalypse of Peter, etc.
- Non-Jewish and Non-Christian Apocalypses—e.g., Persian literature, wisdom motif, etc.
- New Testament Apocalyptic Literature—e.g., Mark 13 (and/or its parallels in the synoptics), Pauline portions (1 Thessalonians 4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2)
- Book of Revelation—genre, theology, methodology, history of interpretation, millenarianism, structure, an approved exegetical portion, textual issues, use of symbolism, use of Old Testament, etc.
3. Presentation of Research Paper

Each member of the seminar will have half an hour to present his/her research paper to the rest of the class. Since a close reading of each paper is assumed beforehand, students must not use their presentation time to reread the paper. Instead, summarize your research in such a way that parallel fruit, synthesis, and further research ideas are included. (Turabian includes a nice guide at the end of Part I).

4. Response Paper

Each student will prepare a one-page typewritten response to each research paper. One half hour will be devoted to responding to the paper and the presentation. Help your fellow students out by praising and critiquing the paper. *Make two copies*—one for the professor with your name on it, and one for the presenter which may be anonymous. Divide your response into these three categories:

- Form—does it follow Turabian form?
- Style—is it free from grammar and punctuation errors? Does it exhibit a good structure, organization, and flow? Is the writing style effective (strong vocabulary, topic sentences, short sentences and paragraphs, sentence variety, etc.)
- Content—does it demonstrate the depth and breadth of research on this topic? Are the resources strong? Is critical thinking, synthesis, and significance evident?

TEXTS


Class Notes. I will send these to enrolled students prior to seminar week.


GRADING

- Class attendance and participation 10%
- Three summary reports 20%
- Research paper 50%
- Research paper presentation 10%
- Response to other papers 10%
SEMINAR SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE/TIMES</th>
<th>DISCUSSION TOPICS</th>
<th>READING/ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before January 26</strong></td>
<td>Pre-seminar preparation</td>
<td>Students will have read Collins, Sandy, and Bauckham in preparation for class discussion during seminar week. In addition, the first 400 pages of Osborne should be at least skimmed, if not read.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seminar Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Session One</td>
<td>Discuss Collins</td>
<td>Summary on Collins is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Discuss Sandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8:30-11 am)</td>
<td>Discuss the Apocalyptic Genre</td>
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<td>Session Two</td>
<td>Discuss Bauckham</td>
<td>Osborne 1-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Discuss Theology, Methodology, History of Interpretation, and Millennial Views</td>
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<td>(2-5 pm)</td>
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<td>Session Three</td>
<td>Revelation 1-3</td>
<td>Osborne 50-217</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
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<td>Session Four</td>
<td>Revelation 4-7</td>
<td>Osborne 218-338</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
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<td>Paper topics and presentation times confirmed</td>
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<td><strong>Seminar Weekends</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Session One</td>
<td>Revelation 8-10</td>
<td>Summary on Sandy is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Paper presentations and discussion</td>
<td>Osborne 339-407</td>
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<td>Session Two</td>
<td>Revelation 11-13</td>
<td>Osborne 408-522</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
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<td>Session One</td>
<td>Revelation 14-16</td>
<td>Summary on Bauckham is due</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Paper presentations and discussion</td>
<td>Osborne 523-604</td>
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<td>Session Two</td>
<td>Revelation 17-18</td>
<td>Osborne 605-661</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Paper presentations and discussion</td>
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<td>Session One</td>
<td>Revelation 19-20</td>
<td>Osborne 662-725</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Paper presentations and discussion</td>
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<td>Session Two</td>
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<td>Osborne 726-799</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Paper presentations and discussion</td>
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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(A fuller, annotated bibliography will be delivered with the class notes)

On the Apocalyptic Genre


**On the History of Millennialism**


**Major Commentaries on the Book of Revelation**


