Online Course

Approach to Revelation:

More interpretive approaches exist for Revelation than any other book in the Bible. Since it would be impossible and unhelpful to attempt to apply all of them to the text of Revelation in a single course, it is important at the outset to describe the approach that will be followed in this course.

Unfortunately, many interpretations place too much weight on a single passage in Revelation: the millennium at the opening of Chapter 20. One of the most idiosyncratic of these approaches is labeled Dispensational Premillennialism. Based on a highly literal reading of Old Testament prophecy, it concludes that many of God’s promises to Israel have yet to be fulfilled, so they will be fulfilled when Christ returns to reign on the earth for 1000 years. This return will be preceded by the removal (rapture) of the church. Despite the popularity of this approach, it did not originate until the 19th century and contains a number of problematic issues, not least of which is the projection of most of Revelation’s relevance forward to the time of Jesus’ return.

The approach followed in this course acknowledges the figurative nature of much of the poetic language of the prophets and the apocalyptic style of Revelation. It will focus on the relevance of the book to its initial audience, as well as the abiding relevance of the book. We will focus on the way the message of Revelation speaks to a Christian vision of reality that enables one to practice discernment and live as a faithful witness. Such an approach seeks to do justice to the formative and missional nature of Revelation.

Learning Outcomes for the Course

Students completing this course will be able to:

1) Apply the appropriate contextual and hermeneutical insights for understanding the message of Revelation in its original context

2) Recognize the relationship of Revelation to the larger canon

3) Apply the message of Revelation to the formation of the Christian and the church in the contemporary context
Required Texts

G.K Beale, with David H.Campbell, Revelation: A Shorter Commentary (not the volume in the New International Greek Testament Commentary series by Beale, although you may use this larger volume if you wish)

Eugene Peterson, Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination

Michael Gorman, Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation

C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle: The Chronicles of Narnia

Terry Briley, Revelation: Jesus the Conquering Lamb

Course Requirements:

1)Timely completion of readings and online responses - 30%
2)Final exam – 30%
3)Final project - 40%

The final project will consist of the development of a 13-week course on Revelation that reflects both a good “academic” understanding of the book and a spiritual/missional focus.

Grading Scale:

A - 90-100
B – 80-89
C - 70-79
F - Below 70

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY
Because Lipscomb's primary mission is to integrate Christian faith and practice with academic excellence, integrity is important in this course. As your instructor, I will deal with each student fairly and honestly. As students, you are expected to do your own work on all tests, labs, and assignments unless I indicate that collaboration is allowed on a specific assignment. Penalties for integrity violations will range from failure on the assignment involved to failure in the course. The instructor also reserves the right to report violations to members of the administration. For clarification, refer to the university's Code of Conduct (http://campuslife.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?SID=41&CID=306) and the Academic Integrity Policy (http://academics.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?CID=5329&SID=12).

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS
If you require classroom accommodations for a documented disability, please discuss your circumstances with me immediately. If you are entitled to accommodations but have not yet registered with the Counseling Center, contact that office at 966-1781 immediately.
DROPPING THE COURSE
A decision to stop attending class does NOT constitute dropping the course. A drop/add form (available in the Registrar's Office) must be signed by the teacher and processed in the Registrar's Office before the drop is official. If your name appears on the roster at grading time and you have not officially dropped the course, a grade will be assigned based upon the policies outlined in this syllabus.

INCOMPLETES
Requests for an “Incomplete” should not be made except in cases of unforeseen emergency for the student or his/her immediate family.

CLASS SCHEDULE DISRUPTION POLICY
Except in the rarest of instances, Lipscomb University does not cancel classes or close offices. However, should an event (weather-related or otherwise) occur that requires disruption of the entire Lipscomb University class schedule, students will be notified via multiple venues including the Lipscomb homepage (www.lipscomb.edu), a text message sent through LU ALERT (http://lualert.lipscomb.edu), and the Lipscomb Weather Information Line (966-1836). For information on possible snow-related closures or “late starts,” students should consult local television stations (2-WKRN, 4-WSMV, 5-WTVF and 6-WZTV, and Channel 9 on campus). Students should look for information regarding “Lipscomb University,” not “Lipscomb Academy.”