The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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Phillips Theological Seminary

NT 523: Interpreting the Book of Revelation
October 11-15, 2010
8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Instructor: Nancy Claire Pittman
Contact: 918/270-6440
nancy.pittman@ptstulsa.edu

Location: Room 305

Course Description:
This seminar is a study of the historical, literary, and theological features of the Book of Revelation with attention to interpretive strategies and to the exegesis of selected texts.

Outcomes:
As a result of this course, participants should be able to:
- comprehend the content, structure, and important features of the Book of Revelation;
- understand the presuppositions, methods, and conclusions of strategies that have influenced the interpretation of this book;
- discern relevant aspects of the historical and literary contexts of the Book of Revelation and how these aspects affect interpretation of the book;
- produce an exegetical paper of a passage or theme within the Book of Revelation which includes the application of major exegetical methods used in biblical criticism and treatment of particular issues appropriate to the book.

Required Reading:

Books:


The NRSV translation of the entire Bible (not just Revelation)
Articles:


Please note: these articles have already been posted on the “Blackboard” site under “Content.”

All assigned books, portions of books and articles have also been placed on reserve in the library.

Requirements:

This course is structured as a graduate seminar with presentations and discussions. Therefore, student preparation for and participation in each class session is essential. Because the week-long class experience is very intense, each participant must read the required material before the class begins.

In addition, students are required to sign up for and present the following assignments:

1) a **discussion paper** (a finished product of 4-5 typed double-spaced pages in length) on one of the books listed in the "Interpretive Strategies" section of Monday and Tuesday. *This paper should include the following elements*:
   a) a brief summary of what you consider to be the central issue(s) of the book (brief because you should presuppose that every student has read the material!);
   b) an examination of presuppositions and methods for interpreting the Revelation;
   c) a discussion of the validity of the conclusions in the book according to your own well-reasoned viewpoint;
   d) reflective questions about the material that can be profitably discussed by your small group and the entire class (reflective questions should never have simple yes or no answers, should be directly relevant to the reading itself, and should provoke thoughtful and interesting discussion related to your particular interpretive strategy).

Your paper will be used in the discussion of each of the interpretive strategies and is due at the beginning of the session in which it is used. At that time copies of the papers should be given to the instructor and to members of an assigned study group (approximately 5-6 members). Students are responsible for making these copies at their own expense.

2) a **detailed outline of an exegesis paper** on one of the texts listed in the syllabus or a theme drawn directly from Revelation and discussed with me prior to class. This outline, 2-3 pages in length, will serve as the basis for an oral presentation in class on the text as well as the major exegetical paper. The student must submit a hard copy of the outline to me at the beginning of his or her oral presentation in class, but may use powerpoint for the presentation itself. See detailed instructions for this assignment in “information” on blackboard.

3) 3 **reflection papers** on the following topics:
a) the experience of listening to the entire Book of Revelation. All students must listen to an NRSV reading of the entire book, preferably in one sitting before class begins on October 11. The paper should respond to these questions: what was the flow of the book as you listened to it? What struck you in your listening that you had never noticed before? What were your own visceral/emotional/physical responses as you listened? Please rely only on short notes you may have jotted down as you listened. This paper should be 1.5 - 2 double-spaced pages and is due when you walk into class Monday morning;

b) an evaluation of which of the three articles, assigned in the “Historical Context” section of the course, best offers an explanation of the relationship between the social-historical context and Book of Revelation itself and the reasons you used to support your choice. This paper should be 2-3 double-space pages and is due on Tuesday afternoon;

c) summary paper on all the apocalypses assigned in the “Literary Context” section of the course (1 Enoch 85-90 [Reddish, 41-53], 4 Ezra [Reddish, 58-96], Mark 13; Matthew 24:1-44; and the Apocalypse of Peter [Reddish, 243-259] which includes a brief description of each one, a statement about what in your opinion seems to be the driving concern of each one, and similarities and differences of each one as compared to the Book of Revelation. This paper should be 3-4 double-space pages and is due on Wednesday afternoon.

Finally, students must prepare an exegetical paper (12-15 typed double-spaced pages in length) which is an expansion of the exegetical outline and introduction presented in class. This paper is due on Friday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m.

To avoid overlap, participants must sign up for the discussion papers and the exegesis paper in Staci Copenhaver’s office by September 13. If someone has already selected either your preferred topic for the discussion papers or the exegetical outline (beyond the number of blanks listed), you must choose another!!

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegetical Outline and Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Historical Context</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synopsis of Apocalypses</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegetical Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: The class participation grade will depend upon attendance and evidence of pre-class preparation by each student in the form of participation in class discussions. According to PTS policy, a student who misses 20% or more of the class time for any reason cannot pass the course. (In this class 20% is one full day of class or 7 hours.) Because the class is dependent upon the assigned papers, there will be an automatic 10-point penalty for late discussion and exegesis papers.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities:

Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs. For details, see “Disabilities Policies and Procedures” in the 2009-2010 Student Handbook, pp 17-18.
The Student Handbook is located on the PTS website (www.ptstulsa.edu): go to Worship & Community tab in far left column; select Student Handbook. Policy found on pdf pages 22-23.) Please contact Belva Brown Jordan, the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, for consultation.

2/14/2014

The professor retains the right to change elements of this syllabus if necessary to achieve the learning goals for this course.