

Course syllabus

The Lamb and the Beast: Reading and Interpreting the Book of Revelation, 10 credits

Lammet och odjuret: Att läsa och tolka Uppenbarelseboken, 10 högskolepoäng

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| Course code | BV413 | Valid from | Fall 2019 |
| Discipline | Biblical Studies | Issued | 2018-03-01 |
| Level | Second cycle, seminar course (A1N) | Revised | 2018-11-26 |

Entrance qualifications

Courses in Theology/Religious Studies equivalent to 120 ECTS including at least 15 ECTS New Testament Greek exegesis, or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- demonstrate increased insight of the literary genre, the socio-political context, the contemporary religious world, and the structure and theology of the Book of Revelation, and
- demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation of the Book of Revelation.

Competence and skills

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- demonstrate advanced skills in translating and interpreting the Book of Revelation and other Jewish and early Christian apocalyptic literature for an international audience, and
- demonstrate advanced skills in evaluating the history of interpretation of the Book of Revelation.

Judgement and approach

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- demonstrate competence in evaluating interpretations of the Book of Revelation from different traditions, and
- demonstrate a hermeneutical awareness of the challenges involved in the task of reading and interpreting the Book of Revelation for today's church and society.

Course content

The Book of Revelation has a long and complex history of interpretation. How has this book been read and interpreted in the history of the church? How does this effect our reading today? Apart from these questions, the course will treat the socio-political setting of John the prophet and provide an introduction to the world of Jewish and early Christian apocalyptic literature. Further, the course will focus on the theology of the Book of Revelation and on the task of reading, interpreting and explaining the Book of Revelation in the 21st century.

Course work

Lectures, literature seminar, and a written paper.

Assessments

Theological essay on a central theme in the Book of Revelation (5 credits)

Hermeneutical essay on the relevance of the Book of Revelation for today or a pedagogical essay on teaching the Book of Revelation in a church context (2 credits)

Translations from the Greek text of Revelation and other Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature (2 credits)

Short review of a commentary (1 credit)

Grading Scale

Passed with distinction (VG), Passed (G) or Failed (U).

Comments

Required reading

Bauckham, Richard. 1993. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge University Press.

Gorman, Michael J. 2011. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness – Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Eugene: Cascade Books.

Kraybill, Nelson J. 2010. *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press.

Articles (ca 70 pp.)

Blount, B.K. 2000. Reading Revelation Today: Witness as Active Resistance. *Interpretation* 54: 398–412.

Craddock, Fredrick B. 1986. Preaching the Book of Revelation. *Interpretation* 40: 270–282.

Hanson, P.D. et al. 1992. Apocalypses and Apocalypticism. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol 1: 279–291. New York: Doubleday.

Yarbro Collins, Adela. 1986. Reading the Book of Revelation in the Twentieth Society, *Interpretation* 40: 229–242.

Commentary reading (300 pp.):

Aune, David E. 1997–98. *Revelation*. 3 vols. WBC 52A-C. Dallas: Word Books Publications.

Beale, Gregory K. 1998. *The Book of Revelation*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Beale, Gregory K. with D.H. Campbell. 2015. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Beasley-Murray, George R. 1981. *Revelation*. NCB. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Caird, G.B. 1987. *The Revelation of St John the divine*. BNTC. London: A & C Black.

Ford, Josephine M. 1975. *Revelation*. AB. New York: Doubleday

Keener, Craig S. 1999. *Revelation*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Ladd, George E. 1978. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Mounce, Robert H. 1998. *The Book of Revelation*. Revised edition. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Resseguie, James L. 2009. *The Revelation of John: A Narrative Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Smalley, Stephen. 2005. *The Revelation of John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. InterVarsity Press.

Thomas, J.C. och Frank D. Matera. 2016. *Revelation*. Two Horizons New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Reference literature

Barnett, Paul. 1989. *Apocalypse Now and Then. Reading Revelation Today*. Anglican Information Office.

Barr, D.L., red. 2003. *Reading the Book of Revelation. A Resource for Students*. Society of Biblical Literature.

Bauckham, Richard. 1993. *The Climax of Prophecy. Studies in the Book of Revelation*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark.

Carey, G. 2005. *Ultimate Things: An Introduction to Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic Literature*. Atlanta: Chalice Press.

- Chilton, Bruce. 2013. *Visions of the Apocalypse: Receptions of John's Revelation in Western Imagination*. Waco: Baylor University Press.
- Friesen, Steve J. 2001. *Imperial Cults and the Apocalypse of John: Reading Revelation in the Ruins*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Goldsworthy, Graham. 1984. *The Gospel in Revelation*. Paternoster Press.
- Gregg, S. 1997. *Revelation – Four Views. A Parallel Commentary*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- Guthrie, Donald. 1987. *The Relevance of John's Apocalypse*. Paternoster Press.
- Hemer, Colin J. 1986. *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in their Local Setting*. Sheffield: JSOT Press.
- Jeske, R.L. 1983. *Revelation for Today. Images of Hope*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Kraybill, J. Nelson. 1996. *Imperial Cult and Commerce in John's Apocalypse*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.
- Ladd, George E. 1978. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Malina, B.J. och J.J. Pilch. 2000. *Social-Science Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Moe, Olav. 1968. *Uppenbarelseboken*. TNT. Stockholm: Verbum.
- Ramsay, William M. 1994. *The Letters to the Seven Churches*. Updated edition. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers.
- Ramsey Michaels, J. 1992. *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.
- Reddish, M.G. 1995. *Apocalyptic Literature. A Reader*. Peabody: Hendrickson.
- Rowland, Christopher C. 1982. *The Open Heaven. A Study of Apocalyptic in Judaism and Early Christianity*. London: SPCK.
- Russell, D.S. 1964. *The Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic*. London: SCM Press.
- _____. 1992. *Divine Disclosure. An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic*. London: SCM Press.
- Smalley, Stephen. 2005. *The Revelation of John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press.
- Stenström, Hanna. 1999. *The Book of Revelation: A Vision of the Ultimate Liberation or the Ultimate Backlash? A Study in 20th Century Interpretations of Rev 14:1-5, with Special Emphasis on Feminist Exegesis*. Uppsala: Teologiska institutionen.
- Sweet, J. 1979. *Revelation*. London: SCM Press.
- Thompson, Leonard L. 1990. *The Book of Revelation. Apocalypse and Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ulfgard, Håkan. 1989. *Feast and Future. Revelation and the Feast of Tabernacles*. Coniectanea Biblica. New Testament Series 22. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell.
- Wainwright, A. Wayne. 2011. *Mysterious Apocalypse: Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock.
- Yamauchi, Edwin M. 2003. *New Testament Cities in Western Asia Minor: Light from Archaeology on Cities of Paul and the Seven Churches of Revelation*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock.
- Yarbro Collins, Adela, red. 1986. *Early Christian Apocalypticism*. Semeia 36. Scholars Press.