

Course syllabus

Seminar: The Lamb and the Beast – Reading and interpreting the Book of Revelation then and now, 7,5 ECTS-credits

Fördjupningsseminarium: Lammet och Odjuret – Att läsa och tolka Up-penbarelsboken då och nu, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course code	BV250	Valid from	Fall 2012
Discipline	Biblical Studies	Issued	2012-02-21
Level	First cycle 2, seminar course	Revised	2021-02-01

Entrance qualifications

60 ECTS in Theology/Religious Studies including BV101 Old Testament Exegesis, BV102 New Testament Exegesis, BV103 Biblical Theology 1 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 reading and interpreting the Book of Revelation, including Jewish and early Christian apocalyptic literature, and
- demonstrate competence in evaluating interpretations of the Book of Revelation from different traditions.

Judgement and approach

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- 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 affect 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. In particular, 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.

Assessment

Theological essay on a central theme in the Book of Revelation (3 000 – 4 000 words). (4,5hp)
Hermeneutical essay on the relevance of the Book of Revelation for today (1 000 – 1 500 words) or a pedagogical essay on teaching the Book of Revelation in a church context (1 000 – 1 500 words). (2,5hp)
Short review of a commentary (500 – 800 words). (0,5hp)

Grading Scale

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

Course development

At the end of the course, the students are asked to complete a course evaluation. The results are compiled and commented on by the responsible teacher in a report which is available to the student union.

Since the last time the course was given, no changes have been made.

Required reading

Bauckham, R. 1993. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 05-2135-691-1
Kraybill, N.J. 2010. *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press. ISBN: 978-1-58743-261-3

Articles (ca 70 pp.)

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

Craddock, F.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. New York: Doubleday, 279–291.

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

One of the following commentaries (200 pp)

Aune, D.E. 1997–98. *Revelation*. 3 vols. WBC 52A-C. Dallas: Word Books Publications. ISBN: 0-8499-0251-7 / 0-8499-0786-1 / 0-8499-1545-7

Beale, G.K. 1998. *The Book of Revelation*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7107-7

Beale, G.K. with D.H. Campbell. 2015. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6621-9

Beasley-Murray, G.R. 1981. *Revelation*. NCB. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 0-8028-1885-4

Caird, G.B. 1987. *The Revelation of St John the Divine*. BNTC. London: A & C Black. ISBN: 0-7136-2621-6

Ford, J.M. 1975. *Revelation*. AB. New York: Doubleday. ISBN: 978-0-3850-0895-2

Keener, C.S. 1999. *Revelation*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0-3102-3192-9

Ladd, G.E. 1978. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 0-8028-3405-1

Mounce, R.H. 1998. *The Book of Revelation*. Revised edition. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 0-8028-2537-0

Resseguie, J.L. 2009. *The Revelation of John: A Narrative Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3213-4

Smalley, S. 2005. *The Revelation of John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. InterVarsity Press. ISBN: 0-8308-2800-1

Suggested reading

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

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

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

- Friesen, S.J. 2001. *Imperial Cults and the Apocalypse of John: Reading Revelation in the Ruins*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Goldsworthy, G. 1984. *The Gospel in Revelation*. Paternoster Press.
- Gorman, M.J. 2011. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness – Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Eugene: Cascade Books.
- Gregg, S. 1997. *Revelation – Four Views. A Parallel Commentary*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- Guthrie, D. 1987. *The Relevance of John's Apocalypse*. Paternoster Press.
- Hemer, C.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.
- Koester, C., ed. (2020). *Oxford Handbook of the Book of Revelation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kraybill, J.N. 1996. *Imperial Cult and Commerce in John's Apocalypse*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.
- Ladd, G.E. 1978. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Lindholm, H. 2004. *Den som segrar*. Skellefteå: Artos.
- Malina, B.J. & J.J. Pilch. 2000. *Social-Science Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Moe, O. 1968. *Uppenbarelseboken*. TNT. Stockholm: Verbum.
- Prévost, J-P. 1991. *Fear Not: The Message of the Apocalypse*. Novalis.
- Ramsay, W.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, C.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, S. 2005. *The Revelation of John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press.
- Sweet, J. 1979. *Revelation*. London: SCM Press.
- Tellbe, M. 1997. *Lammet och odjuret: en guide till Uppenbarelseboken*. Örebro: Libris.
- Thompson, L.T. 1990. *The Book of Revelation: Apocalypse and Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ulfsgård, H. 1989. *Feast and Future: Revelation and the Feast of Tabernacles*. Coniectanea Biblica. New Testament Series 22. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell.
- Wainwright, A.W. 1993. *Mysterious Apocalypse: Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Abingdon Press.
- Walvoord, J.F. 1980. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Moody Press.
- Wilcock, M. 1979. *Jag såg himlen öppen*. Uppsala: EFS-förlaget.
- Yamauchi, E.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 Publishers.
- Yarbro Collins, A., ed. 1986. *Early Christian Apocalypticism*. Semeia 36. Scholars Press.