

Canadian Nazarene College
BL 378 - New Testament Literature and Themes (UoC Sr RELS)
Professor David Neale - 571-2550 ex. 32
Winter Term - 1998

I. Course Objectives

The purpose of our term together will be to explore apocalyptic themes from a variety of biblical perspectives. In this process, an intentionally heuristic one, we will attempt to build toward a biblical theology of the themes of apocalyptic literature. The student will be aware of the basic outlines of apocalyptic material in the Bible and be able to identify the main issues for interpretation and doctrine.

II. Course Requirements:

1. Read a book from the list below and write a four page review. Present a 20 minute verbal report to the class and lead a discussion (20%). Your mark here will be based on the degree to which you absorb and process the book as well as the degree of liveliness and interest you are able to generate in the report and discussion in class.

2. Produce a research document of at least three pages on each of the topical discussion subjects. The written work should include reference to:

- Relevant Biblical or Extra Biblical Texts
- Two Commentaries
- Bible Dictionary
- One Journal Article
- One Monograph

These written reports are due on the day of the discussion topic but will be handed in altogether on April 14. They will be graded on evidence of the above research requirements (50%). A "B" grade will fulfill the basic requirements above.

3. Participate actively in the class discussions (30%). Non-participation - 0%; occasional comments, marginally appropriate - 10%; regular participant - appropriate comments - 20%; regular participant - comments which probe and advance the class discussion - 30%.

III. Course Schedule:

January

- 13 - T What is Apocalyptic?
- 15 - Th The Themes of Apocalyptic
- 20 - T What are the Texts?
- 22 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 27 - T Topical Discussion - *Eternal Life: Heaven*
- 29 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method

February

- 3 - T Topical Discussion - *Eternal Life: Hell*
- 5 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 10 - T Topical Discussion - *The End of History*
- 12 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 17 - T Topical Discussion - *The Future of the Earth*
- 19 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 24 - T Topical Discussion - *Millennium?*
- 26 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method

March

- 2-6, No Class, Mid-Term Break
- 10 - T Topical Discussion - *Principalities and Powers: The Devil*
- 12 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 17 - T Topical Discussion - *Principalities and Powers: The Anti-Christ*
- 19 - Th Lecture/Discussion/Method
- 24 - T Topical Discussion - To Be Determined
- 26 - Th Book Presentations
- 31 - T Book Presentations

April

- 2 - Th Book Presentations
- 7 - T Book Presentations
- 9 - Th Book Presentation
- 14 - T Summary Session

Teams:

Synoptics

John

Paul

General Epistles

Old Testament

Pseudepigrapha

World Religions

IV. Books for Book Report

Alan E. Bernstein, *The Formation of Hell: Death and Retribution in the Ancient and Early Christian Worlds*. Cornell University Press, 1993.

Robert Clouse, *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*. InterVarsity Press, 1977.

Norman Cohn, *Cosmos, Chaos and the World to Come: The Ancient Roots of Apocalyptic Faith*. Yale University Press, 1993.

William Crockett, *Four Views on Hell* Zondervan, 1992.

Andrew Delbanco, *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995.

Stanely J. Grenz, *The Millennial Maze*. Intervarsity Press, 1992.

Colleen McDannel and Bernhard Lang, *Heaven: A History*. Yale University Press, 1988.

Bernard McGinn, *Anti-Chirst: Two Thousand Years of the Human Fascination with Evil*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.

Hans Kung, *Eternal Life? Life After Death as a Medical, Philosophical, and Theological Problem*. Image Books, 1985.

Elaine Pagels, *The Origin of Satan*. Random House, 1995

Robert Pinsky, *The Inferno of Dante*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1994.

Turner, Alice K. *The History of Hell*. Harcourt Brace & Co. 1993.

Arthur W. Wainwright, *Mysterious Apocalypse: Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Abingdon Press, 1993.

Other books may be considered with the Professor's approval.