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Dallas Theological Seminary

ST5106A Eschatology
(3 hrs, 2 hrs MABC)
Fall 2020
Live portion: 10/15-17
Thurs, 5:30-9:30pm
Fri/Sat, 8:00am-5:00pm

ESCHATOLOGY SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of eschatology including various systems, history of chiliasm, major themes and problems in eschatology, the order of predicted events, and the rapture question. *Prerequisite:* ST101 Introduction to Theology.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. All students (course taken for 2 or 3 credits)
1. The student will **understand** essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Eschatology, assessed by final objective exam.
 2. The student will **articulate** the orthodox, protestant, evangelical doctrines of Eschatology accurately and succinctly, assessed by Section 1 (Brief Statement) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper.
 3. The student will **explain** his or her doctrinal convictions regarding Eschatology with biblical, theological, and historical support, assessed by Section 2 (Exposition) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper (including notes).
 4. The student will **relate** the doctrines of Eschatology to his or her life and ministry, assessed by Section 3 (Practical Reflection) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper.
- B. All non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)
1. The student will **demonstrate** his or her understanding of the ministerial implications of eschatology, assessed by the Relevance Paper.
 2. The student will **analyze** and **critique** the positions of the author/s of a book, assessed by the Critical Interaction Paper.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Students are expected to read the textbooks assigned in their entirety. A statement of the reading completed will be posted on Canvas by May 11.

All students (course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

Blaising, Craig A. and Darrel Bock. *Progressive Dispensationalism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993. (292 pp.)

Daniel – the book in the Bible by that name. This book must be read in its entirety in one sitting in order to receive credit. (25 pp.)

Revelation – the book in the Bible by that name. This book must be read in its entirety in one sitting in order to receive credit. (27 pp.)

Svigel, Michael J. “When He Returns: Resurrection, Judgment, and the Restoration.” In Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svigel, eds. *Exploring Christian Theology*. Vol. 3: *The Church, Spiritual Growth, and the End Times*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2014. **NOTE: For ST 106, only the second half of this volume must be read.** (103 pp)

Walvoord, John. *End Times*. Nashville: Nelson/Word, 1998. (pdf will be provided; 127 pp.)

All non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

Bock, Darrell, ed. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (302 pp.)

(Choose one of these two books)

Hultberg, Alan, ed. *Three Views on the Rapture: Pretribulation, Prewrath, or Posttribulation*. 2nd ed. Counterpoints. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2010. (282 pp.)

Kreider, Glenn R. *God with Us: Exploring God's Interactions with His People throughout the Bible*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2014. (240 pp.)

PLEASE NOTE: NONE OF THE BOOKS LISTED ABOVE IS ACCEPTABLE FOR THE CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNMENT.

B. Suggested

Adams, Samuel V. *The Reality of God and Historical Method: Apocalyptic Theology in Conversation with N. T. Wright*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Berry, R. J. *The Care of Creation: Focusing Concern and Action*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Bingham, D. Jeffrey and Glenn R. Kreider, ed. *Eschatology: Biblical, Historical, and Practical Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2016.

Bonzo, J. Matthew, and Michael R. Stevens. *Wendell Berry and the Cultivation of Life: A Reader's Guide*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2008.

Booker, Adriel. *Grace Like Scarlett: Grieving with Hope after Miscarriage and Loss*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

Chia, Roland. *Hope for the World: A Christian Vision of the Last Things*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Daley, Brian J., ed. *Apocalyptic Thought in Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2009.

Fudge, Edward William and Robert A. Peterson. *Two Views on Hell*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Gladd, Benjamin L., and Matthew S. Harmon. *Making All Things New: Inaugurated Eschatology for the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Kaiser, Walter, Jr. *Preaching and Teaching the Last Things: Old Testament Eschatology for the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.

Kapic, Kelly M. *Embodied Hope: A Theological Meditation on Pain and Suffering*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Kreider, Glenn R. *Jonathan Edwards's Interpretation of Revelation 4:1—8:1*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2004.

Majors, Katie Davis. *Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful*. New York: Multnomah, 2017.

McDermott, Gerald R. *Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently about the People and the Land*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2017.

McDermott, Gerald R., ed. *The New Christian Zionism: Fresh Perspectives on Israel and the Land*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

- Middleton, J. Richard. *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2014.
- Pate, Marvin, ed. *Four Views on Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things to Come*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1956.
- Phelan, John E. Jr. *Essential Eschatology: Our Present and Future Hope*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2013.
- Rhoads, David, ed. *From every People and Nation; The Book of Revelation in Intercultural Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Spilsbury, Paul. *The Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Sprinkle, Preston, ed. *Four Views on Hell*. 2d ed. Counterpoints. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
- Stone, Rachel Marie. *Birthing Hope: Giving Fear to the Light*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018.
- Wilcock, Michael. *The Message of Revelation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1984.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.
- Yancey, Philip. *Rumors of Another World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

C. Supplementary Bibliography

See bibliographies in textbooks and in course notes.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Written Assignments (papers, journals, study exercises, charts, etc.)

All students (Course taken for 2 or 3 hours)

1) Doctrinal Synthesis Paper

Drawing on his or her doctrinal synthesis papers prepared for ST101–ST105 and incorporating reflection and writing for ST106, the student will prepare a 12–15-page personal doctrinal statement covering all of the loci of systematic theology: ST101 (Bibliology), ST102 (Trinitarianism, including Theology Proper, Paterology, Christology, Pneumatology), ST103 (Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology), ST104 (Soteriology), ST105 (Sanctification and Ecclesiology), and ST106 (Eschatology). This capstone doctrinal synthesis project will consist of three distinct parts:

- a) Basic Doctrinal Statement
- b) Theological Narrative
- c) Explanatory Articulation and Defense

- a) **Basic Doctrinal Statement.** The basic statement will be one (1) page, single spaced (about 500 words). This first section, drawing from the “Brief Statement” sections in previous ST101–105 doctrinal synthesis papers, will summarize the student’s personal doctrinal convictions in non-technical (but biblically and theologically accurate) language similar to a church’s or ministry’s doctrinal statement. It will include parenthetical key Scripture references and will seek to reflect the orthodox, protestant, evangelical faith.

- b) Theological Narrative. This detailed statement will be six (6) pages, single spaced, (about 3,500 words). This second section, drawing from the “Detailed Exposition” sections in previous ST101–105 doctrinal synthesis papers, will provide a comprehensive account of the student’s theological system covering all areas of systematic theology, including new material covered in ST106 Eschatology. This exposition should read like a paper one would submit as part of an ordination or interviewing process for a ministry position.
- c) Explanatory Articulation and Defense. Substantiating his or her detailed theological narrative, the student will include five to eight (5–8) single spaced pages of endnotes (not footnotes) that provide biblical-exegetical, historical-theological, and scientific-philosophical evidences, arguments, and explanations of the doctrinal assertions in the narrative. These endnotes may be incorporated from previous doctrinal synthesis assignments in ST101–105, but they should be well-edited, revised, enhanced, and supplemented to conform to this summative capstone doctrinal synthesis paper. These endnotes will include not only key biblical references but also interpretive notes that incorporate commentaries, theological works, or historical citations. Biblical citations should be without quotation, except when an exegetical point is not obvious. Justify interpretations of ambiguous passages with clarifying notes. Exegetical, theological, and historical sources, references, and observations should explain the student’s reasons for the affirmations in the theological narrative. In these notes, the student should incorporate insights gained from other courses in the curriculum, especially from other courses in the Biblical Studies and Theological Studies divisions. Bibliographic references should use Turabian formatting. E.g., 10 Glenn R. Kreider, “Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace,” in Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Savigel, eds., *Exploring Christian Theology*, vol. 2, *Creation, Fall, and Salvation* (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2015), 127. The student must incorporate sources beyond the required reading for this course.

The doctrinal synthesis is due on **18 December**.

2) Final Exam

There will be one online, multiple choice, comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester. It will be closed book, closed notes, and closed Bible, with no helps. The goal of this exam is to prompt a thorough review of the course materials to firm up essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Eschatology. Studying the major biblical texts, central issues, and key definitions will best prepare the student for the exam. It is recommended that students utilize *Exploring Christian Theology* as a study guide.

The final exam must be completed by **18 December**.

All non-MABC Students (course taken for 3 hours)

- 1) Each student will also write an 8-10 page (recommended) paper answering this question: What relevance does eschatology have for your life and ministry in a postmodern world? Please note: “postmodern” is not being used here in a technical sense but as a description of the contemporary world. This is not a research paper or an exercise in academic theorizing. It is to be a personal application of the course material to your life and ministry.

This assignment is due by **18 December**.

- 2) Each student will choose one of the books in the suggested list or another book approved by the professor and write a critical interaction papers of 10-12 pages. In the first page, summarize the author’s thesis, explaining key arguments used to communicate that thesis. The second part of the paper should critique the thesis and the means by which it was presented. Then, several pages should apply the book’s thesis to your life and ministry. This assignment is not a book review but a paper demonstrating the ability to interact critically with the author’s work.

Please note: Not all of these books reflect the perspective of the professor.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BOOKS ON THE REQUIRED LIST ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE OPTIONS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

The critical interaction paper will constitute 20% of the course grade. This assignment is due by **18 December.**

B. Quizzes and/or Exams

It is unlikely that there will be quizzes or exams in this course.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Summary of Time Estimates for This Course

The *Student Handbook* states, “Graduate-level work is expected to be more rigorous than at the undergraduate level. However, in order to help ensure that the amount of work required of students in their classes at the Seminary is appropriate, the faculty follow the guideline that for every hour students spend in class each week, they may expect to spend on average two to three hours outside of class on reading and other assignments. The amount of work required for classes will vary based on the material and content of each course” (*Student Handbook 2016–2018*, p. 7, “Academic Workload”).

The Academic Dean has advised professors to estimate 2 hours of homework for every “class hour” (50 minute period). For a three-hour class, that is a total of 84 hours of work outside of class (3 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2). For MABC students taking this course for two credit hours while participating in the 3-hour class period, the total hours of work outside of class should total approximately 42 hours (2 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2 = 56, minus 14 hours spent in the extra third hour of class participation).

Please note that any time estimates are based on reasonably established averages; therefore, they are approximations only. Actual time spent on assignments will necessarily vary based on content of reading, the nature of assignments, and student’s own reading speeds and workload capacities. Students are encouraged to plan according to their own strengths. The inevitable variables between students and between assignments is a key factor in establishing time estimates that are on the lower end of the *Student Handbook’s* “average two to three hours outside of class.”

B. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-100	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

C. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

The overall course grade is a composite of several factors. It is not a measure of personal worth or necessarily of the amount of information that a student feels that he or she has learned. Rather, it is a cumulative figure that bears a relationship to the student’s successful completion of the course requirements. This figure is determined in the following manner:

For MABC students (course taken for 2 credits)

Reading	45 points
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	50 points
Final Exam	5 points

For non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

Reading	35 points
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	25 points
Final Exam	5 points

Critical Interaction Paper	20 points
Relevance Paper	15 points

D. Class Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and to support their classmates in Christian theological conversation. Theology is best done in community. The professor assumes that all students share in this conviction and desire to build up one another in love.

E. Late Assignments

Late assignments are generally not accepted. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the professor in extreme circumstances. Such exceptions will usually include a significant grade reduction of up to a letter grade per day late.

PLEASE NOTE: "Students needing additional time to complete course work must petition the Credits Committee for an extension. The petition form is available on CampusNet, and must be submitted before the last day of the semester or session. Financial and grade penalties may apply to students who do not petition for extensions before the end of the semester or session. Students must read the extenuating circumstances criteria (Section 1.33) prior to submitting the petition, and must specify how their circumstances fit the criteria" (*Handbook*, 1.20.4)

The professor cannot grant extensions beyond the last day of the semester (see *Catalog* for the date for this semester).

F. Absences

Attendance at class sessions is required. Students will be responsible for keeping track of their attendance and reporting the number of absences to the professor. The attendance policy in the *Student Handbook* will be followed in this course.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. The selection of textbooks should not be interpreted as implying the professor's endorsement of any of the views of the authors. Textbooks are selected for their perceived value in helping to meet the course goals and objectives.
2. "The purpose of the Department of Theological Studies is to equip godly servant-leaders for worldwide ministry by: passing onto students an understanding of the church's one true faith embraced within a distinctively dispensational, premillennial evangelicalism; encouraging students to think theologically as a response to Scripture with a sensitivity to the history of theology, philosophy, and culture; [and] helping students gain perspectives essential to spiritual formation, global servant-leadership, and the evaluation of contemporary issues and trends." (*Catalog*).
3. Course lecture notes will be available on online.dts.edu after the lectures. Other materials may be given from time to time. PLEASE NOTE: These materials are for your use only. Do not copy or distribute them to individuals not registered for this course. Any requests for these materials by non-registered individuals should be directed to the professor.
4. Students may not tape class sessions without permission of the professor. If a student desires to tape record a class session, written permission must be obtained in advance of the taping. Please submit a written request explaining the purpose of taping and the extent of use of the tapes. Under no conditions may tapes be duplicated, given, or lent to anyone not registered for this class. No transcriptions of class lectures or discussions are allowed.
5. Please turn off cell phones and paging devices during class sessions.
6. Work that has been done for other classes may not be used to earn credit in this class. Submission of work for this class is presumed to include an affirmation that it is the student's own work and has not previously been submitted in another course. "Plagiarism is defined as 'passing off as one's own ideas, writings, etc., of another.' Plagiarism is academically dishonest and is contrary to biblical standards. Any course work

involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as zero without any resubmission permitted. In each case, the Dean of Students' Office will be notified" (*Student Handbook*). Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be referred to the professor or the Dean of Students.

7. Due dates for graduating students (or those participating in commencement ceremonies) may be different than those listed in the syllabus. For these dates consult the deadlines in the information provided to graduation participants from the Registrar's Office. Students who do not submit work by those deadlines jeopardize their graduation.
8. Written assignments will be submitted at online.dts.edu. Log in instructions are found on the home page.
9. Students are responsible for any additions or corrections made to this syllabus at the discretion of the professor and announced in class.
10. Electronic Etiquette: "Students should refrain from using cell phones, laptop computers, or other devices in a manner that distracts others in the class. Playing games, browsing the Internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc., are considered unacceptable when class is in session. Unless permitted by the professor, students should turn off all electronic devices during tests and quizzes." (*Student Handbook*). The professor requests that students refrain from talking on their cell phones or having headphone(s) in ear during class.
- 11 *Dallas Theological Seminary works to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with psychological, medical, physical, and learning disabilities. A student desiring or needing accommodations on the basis of such disabilities or of medical incidents such as hospitalization or severe injury is to contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (<https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/disability-services/>). If the student is aware of a condition that may impact his/her studies, the student should contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities prior to the beginning of the semester or at the onset of a crisis.*

VII. COURSE LECTURE SCHEDULE

This course is a hybrid of online and live lectures. See Canvas for schedule and more information.