



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: BI331D/ND Daniel and Revelation (blended*)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2023 (Cycle 2)
Time: 1:00–2:20 P.M. Monday and Wednesday, August 21–October 11
Location: Calvary University, EEd 116 and online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M. (Ph.D. in process)
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I. DESCRIPTION

A study of the books of Daniel and Revelation with special emphasis on the prophetic outline developed in these books. The course also will deal with the arguments for the authenticity of the book of Daniel. (Prerequisite: BI115)

** This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

II. OBJECTIVES

The basic goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow. “Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*.”¹ When you have knowhow, you are ready to explore the implications of the books of Daniel and Revelation for yourself. Of course, growth in knowhow is a lifelong process and thus beyond the scope of this course. In it, however, you will begin or continue the process by accomplishing the following objectives:

A. *Basic Facts*. You can’t distinguish what’s relevant from what’s not unless you know the basic facts associated with the book. To help you achieve this awareness, you are expected to be able to identify all the following by the end of the semester:

1. Basic Facts about the Books (the author, recipients, date, occasion, theme, purpose, and structure). (PLO’s: 1, 2) (Assignments: Readings, Term Project)
2. Basic Facts within the Book (its major topics and themes). (PLO’s: 1, 2, 3, 4) (Assignments: Readings, Interpretive Papers, Term Project)

B. *Solving Knotty Problems*. Only a reliable procedure can consistently provide reliable solutions when you confront an interpretive problem. Toward this end, you will be expected to do all the following by the end of the semester:

1. Explain why selected interpretive problems need to be solved.

¹ Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The emphasis comes from the authors themselves.)

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2. Evaluate the relative strength of the solutions proposed for these problems.
 3. Derive and justify your own tentative solutions to these problems.
- C. **Insight into the Overall Message/Theology.** You don't really understand a book until you see how all its parts work together to make a point. (The whole really is greater than the sum of its parts.) To show that you have made progress toward this level of understanding, you should be able to do all the following:
- a. Identify and collate the argument of both books. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments: Readings, Interpretive Papers, Term Project)
 - b. Identify the overall prophetic picture disclosed by the two books taken together. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments: Readings, Interpretive Papers, Term Project)
 - c. Propose practical—and interpretively sound—applications of the books and their teaching. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments: Readings, Interpretive Papers, Term Project)

III. TEXTBOOKS

A. **Holy Bible.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. **Other Textbooks.**

1. Wood, Leon. *A Commentary on Daniel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1998. [ISBN: 978-1579101336; \$37.00]
2. Walvoord, John F. *Revelation*. The John F. Walvoord Prophecy Commentaries. Chicago: Moody, 2011). [ISBN: 978-0802473127; Hardback, \$27.99; Kindle, \$17.49]

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

It is my conviction that most of the learning and the best learning that you will gain from this class will come through the assignments you do. Although they will be used to calculate your course grade, the primary purpose of these assignments is to help you develop knowhow, the ability to extract insight from the Bible. Of course, knowhow doesn't just happen; you must cultivate it, so take out your spade; it's time to start digging.

- A. **Reading (300 points).** Knowhow cannot develop without facts. Therefore, your first responsibility is to fill your mind with the fundamental facts found in Daniel and Revelation. Focused reading is the most efficient way for you to gain this information. Therefore, you will perform two types of reading this semester: the reading of the biblical books themselves and the reading of the two other course textbooks. You will report this reading in four reading reports. Each of these reports is designed to help you prepare your term project. You will receive no credit for partial readings, but you will get half credit for readings completed late.
1. **Reading #1. Analysis of Daniel.** Your first reading report should include all the following:
 - a. You will report that you have read the book of Daniel through since the beginning of the course and identify the major events and participants in each chapter of the book.

- b. You will report that you have read the introduction and first seven chapters in Wood's commentary on Daniel, very briefly summarize the basic content, and note any issues, problems, or critiques you have.
2. **Reading #2. Synthesis of Daniel.** Your second reading report should include all the following:
- a. You will report that you have read the book of Daniel through since the first exam and suggest a unifying theme and purpose statement for the whole book. (This statement must account for the content of every chapter in the book.)
 - b. You will report that you have read chapters 8 through 12 of Wood's commentary, very briefly summarize the content, and note any issues, problems, or critiques you have.
3. **Reading #3. Analysis of Revelation.** Your first reading report should include all the following:
- a. You will report that you have read the book of Revelation through since the beginning of the course and identify the major events and participants in each chapter of the book.
 - b. You will report that you have read the introduction and first eleven chapters in Walvoord's commentary on Revelation, very briefly summarize the basic content, and note any issues, problems, or critiques you have.
4. **Reading #4. Synthesis of Revelation.** Your second reading report should include all the following:
- a. You will report that you have read the book of Revelation through since the first exam and suggest a unifying theme and purpose statement for the whole book. (This statement must account for the content of every chapter in the book.)
 - b. You will report that you have read chapters 12 through 22 of Walvoord's commentary, very briefly summarize the content, and note any issues, problems, or critiques you have.

I will grade each reading assignment according to the following scale: reading of the biblical text through (20 points), the project associated with it (30 points), reading of the assigned portions of the commentary (10 points), and the assigned project for it (15 points) Although I will accept late reading reports through the last day of the cycle, they will receive only HALF-credit; partial or incomplete readings receive NO credit.

- B. Personal Studies (180 points).** While knowhow does require a body of basic facts, facts alone are not enough. You also need skill in interpreting, correlating, and applying those facts. In short, you need to be able to see the big picture. An important part of this ability is skill in solving problems. The personal study assignments are designed to help you develop that skill. In fact, these assignments will provide much more than an opportunity to develop your interpretive skill; they will also help you understand the overall message of Daniel and Revelation much better than you get from just sitting in class.

The procedure is as follows. Six times during the course, you will submit a two or three-page personal study of an assigned interpretive, theological, or practical problem. While the specific form will vary from study to study, each will require you to identify why the problem matters and to propose and justify your own solution. (You must choose a solution—no matter how tentatively you hold to it.) Each paper will be graded based on your ability to recognize which issues are important (10 points), make them clear (10 points), and suggest viable interpretations and/or applications of the passage under discussion (10 points). Personal studies may be submitted late, but late work receives only HALF-credit.

- C. Examinations (300 points).** During the semester, you will take three online examinations. In these, you will demonstrate your competency in all three categories of course objectives, but particularly in the last two. Each exam will consist of five to seven essay questions and require you to explain or apply material covered in class.

D. Term Project (220 points). On the last day of the course, you will submit your analysis of a major interpretive, theological, or practical issue associated with Daniel and/or Revelation. It will be ten to fifteen double-spaced pages in length, be formatted in Calvary-Turabian format, and include a bibliography of at least five books or articles. In it you will demonstrate your ability to interpret, collate, and apply teaching from one or both of the books studied in this course. Your paper will consist of the following sections:

1. **Introduction.** In this section, you will identify the topic (or thesis) of your paper and provide any background information that the reader will need to understand, apply, or appreciate it. In other words, this section will state what your paper is about and why it should matter to the reader.
2. **Exposition.** In this, the main portion of your paper, you will explain and justify your analysis by showing that the facts, properly interpreted, lead to the conclusion(s) you propose. It is not enough to assert that what you say is true; you must show it. It is in this section that you do so.
3. **Conclusion.** You will conclude your paper by summarizing your basic findings and proposing at least one way in which they contribute to theology or to daily life.
4. **Bibliography.** As previously mentioned, you should indicate the breadth and depth of your research in a bibliography containing at least five references.

The grade for your project will be based on the following four criteria: accuracy (55 points), adequacy (55 points), clarity (55 points), and mechanics (55 points). In other words, to get the best possible grade, get your facts straight, have enough of them to justify your conclusions, express your thoughts clearly, and use proper spelling, grammar, and form. Any final project submitted later than the Sunday following the last class session will be considered late and receive a grade no higher than 200 points.

Specific Assignments (showing what is due each week)

Week 1. Introduction; Daniel 1–2		(0 points)
Week 2. Daniel 3–7		(105 points)
Reading #1	75 points	
Study #1	30 points	
Week 3. Daniel 8–12		(205 points)
Reading #2	75 points	
Study #2	30 points	
Examination #1	100 points	
Week 4. Introduction; Revelation 1–3		(105 points)
Reading #3	75 points	
Study #3	30 points	
Week 5. Revelation 4–8		(105 points)
Reading #4	75 points	
Study #4	30 points	
Week 6. Revelation 9–13		(130 points)
Study #5	30 points	
Examination #2	100 points	
Week 7. Revelation 14–18		(30 points)
Study #6	30 points	

Week 8. Revelation 19–21	(320 points)
Term Project	220 points
Examination #3	100 points

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. **Lecture.** I will use lectures to introduce and explain new material—and there will be a substantial amount, especially early in the course. Therefore, come to class prepared to take notes and ask questions.
2. **Class Discussion.** No one ever gained any practical understanding of Scripture just taking and reciting lecture notes. Therefore, we will devote class time each week to analysis and discussion to the theological and practical implications of material from Daniel and Revelation.

B. Grading

1. Reading Assignments. 300 points
 2. Personal Studies 180 points
 3. Examinations 200 points
 4. Term Project. 220 points
- Total 1000 points

C. Calculating the Final Grade

930–1000 points	A	730–769 points	C
900–929 points	A-	700–729 points	C-
870–899 points	B+	670–699 points	D+
800–829 points	B-	630–669 points	D
770–799 points	C+	0–559 points	F

D. Academic Issues and Support

1. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the latest Calvary Style Guide.
3. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, provides free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
4. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.