

# DIV4079 — Devotional Study of a Christian Classic

*The Name of God in Revelation*

Course Syllabus · Spring 2018 · Thursdays, 10:40-11:30

Campbell University Divinity School

Andrew H. Wakefield, Ph.D.

---

P. O. Box 4050  
Buies Creek, NC 27506  
(919) 639-5722 (before 8pm)

Email: [wakefield@campbell.edu](mailto:wakefield@campbell.edu)  
Website: [www.wakefieldphd.com](http://www.wakefieldphd.com)  
Office: 100 Taylor Hall · (910) 893-1849

---

## TEXTS:

Required:

Revelation

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, students will grow in spiritual formation as a result of reflection and discussion concerning selected names, titles, and descriptions of God as found in the book of Revelation. In particular, students will

1. Gain a deep understanding and appreciation of selected names, titles, and descriptions of God as found in the book of Revelation.
2. Learn to practice a structured weekly spiritual discipline focused on these names, titles, and descriptions.
3. Develop their own spiritual insights and applications as a result of reflection on the practice of the spiritual discipline and class discussions.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Preparation and Participation ..... 50%

As a class focused on spiritual formation in community, preparation for and attendance of class is essential for satisfactory completion of the course. Every student will be expected to commit to following the structured spiritual discipline exercise throughout each week and to be prepared to share insights and participate in class discussions. **Please note that, except in extreme circumstances, more than three absences from class will result in failure of the course.**

2. Personal Reflection Journal ..... 50%

Each student will keep a journal of reflections throughout the semester. While there is no particular format that must be followed, the journal should adequately demonstrate that the student has engaged seriously with the daily/weekly spiritual discipline exercise, including the in-class discussion and worship times. The final entry in the journal should reflect on the overall experience of the class, including insights and applications that the student plans to incorporate in ongoing personal spiritual formation. The journal can be hand written or typed and must be submitted by **May 3**.

**GRADING:**

The grading in this class is Pass/Fail. Students who attend and participate in class, engage in the spiritual discipline exercise, and turn in the reflection journal will pass the course.

**SCHEDULE:**

Each week will feature a selected name, title, or description of God and/or Jesus (hereafter referred to as the n/t/d) as drawn from the book of Revelation (see the weekly schedule included below). Throughout the week, students are expected to pray using the n/t/d and to reflect on the impact that using this n/t/d has on their prayers. Students are also expected to engage each day in a spiritual discipline exercise as specified in the following daily schedule:

**Daily Schedule**

Day	Exercise
Sunday	Spend some time brainstorming on the n/t/d. What images, ideas, feelings does this n/t/d invoke? What claims are we making about God and/or Jesus by using this n/t/d? Begin praying using this n/t/d and reflect on the impact this has on your prayers.
Monday	Spend some time reading through the passages in Revelation listed for the n/t/d. Be sure to look not just at the specific verse(s) listed, but at the context around these verses. How do these verses and their context alter or confirm your initial brainstorming about the n/t/d? Can you think of other scripture passages that offer insight into this n/t/d? Continue praying using the n/t/d; continue reflecting, incorporating new insights that have come to mind.
Tuesday	Spend some time using <i>via negativa</i> to reflect on the n/t/d. One way to do this is to think about what it would mean if God and/or Jesus were <i>not</i> described by the n/t/d. Another way is to brainstorm categories or ideas <i>opposite</i> to what is suggested by the n/t/d; ask yourself to what extent we can/should say that God and/or Jesus is <i>not</i> one or more of these opposite categories or ideas, and to what extent we <i>need</i> these opposite categories or ideas along with the n/t/d in order to describe God. Continue praying using the n/t/d; continue reflecting, incorporating new insights that have come to mind.
Wednesday	Spend some time thinking about the implications of the n/t/d for our identity as human beings: If God is _____, then we must be _____. When and to what extent do these implications describe you? Are any of these implications surprising, or are they things you have long known about yourself? Continue praying using the n/t/d; continue reflecting, incorporating new insights that have come to mind.
Thursday	Spend some time in community discussing and practicing the use of this n/t/d in an experience of worship. (We will do this in the class sessions.) Continue praying using the n/t/d; continue reflecting, incorporating new insights that have come to mind.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Exercise</b>
Friday	Spend some time reflecting on what the n/t/d and the insights you have gained suggest about how you need to practice your faith: If God is _____, I need to start doing _____. What do you need to change in the ways that you worship, minister, deal with struggles, interact with others, and so on? Continue praying using the n/t/d; continue reflecting, incorporating new insights that have come to mind.
Saturday	As you continue to pray using the n/t/d, try to open yourself to any additional insights that God may reveal. Continue reflecting on all the insights that have come to mind and on the impact this week has had on your understanding of God and/or Jesus, of yourself, and of your faith.

### Weekly Schedule

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Name/Title/Description</b>	<b>Scripture Passages (Revelation)</b>
January 14	Creator	4:11; 10:6; 14:7
January 21	Almighty	1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22
January 28	Alpha and Omega	1:8; 21:6; 22:13; see also 1:17; 2:8
February 4	Holy, True, Just	3:7; 4:8; 6:10; 15:4; 16:5
February 11	Lion	5:5
February 18	Christ (Messiah)	1:1, 2, 5; 11:15; 12:10; 20:4, 6
February 25	[One Like the] Son of Man / Son of God	1:13; 2:18; see also 14:14
March 4	[One Who Has the] Seven Spirits of God	1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
March 11	Faithful [and True / Witness]	1:5; 3:14; 19:11
March 18	Shepherd	7:17
March 25	Lamb [That Was Slain]	5:6, 8, 12-13; 6:1, 16; 7:9-10, 14, 17; 8:1; 12:11; 13:8; 14:1, 4, 10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7 9; 21:9, 14, 22-23; 22:1, 3
April 1	Firstborn from the Dead / One Who Was Dead and Now Lives [Forever]	1:5, 18; 2:8; cf. 4:9-10; 7:2; 10:6; 15:7
April 8	One Seated on the Throne	4:2, 9-10; 5:1, 7, 13; 6:16; 7:10, 15; 19:4; 20:11; 21:5; cf. 3:21
April 15	One Who Has the Keys	1:18; 3:7

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Name/Title/Description</b>	<b>Scripture Passages (Revelation)</b>
April 22	One Who Is and Was and Is to Come	1:4, 8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5
April 29	<b>Journal Due by May 3</b>	

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

As a class focused on spiritual formation, specifically related to reflection on the names, titles, and descriptions of God and/or Jesus as drawn from the book of Revelation, this course obviously fulfills both the “Christ Centered” and “Bible Based” portions of the Campbell University Divinity School mission statement. However, our reflection and spiritual formation will have a direct impact on our practice of ministry. Thus, this course will be “Christ Centered, Bible Based, and Ministry Focused.”

The mission statement of the Divinity School fits within the statement of purpose for Campbell University; the full text of this statement can be found in the Divinity School Catalog or on the internet at <http://www.campbell.edu/mission>. While this course should help to advance all of the purposes identified in the statement to some degree, it will particularly enhance the following items:

- The course will promote the “three basic theological and biblical presuppositions: learning is appointed and conserved by God as essential to the fulfillment of human destiny; in Christ all things consist and find ultimate unity; and the Kingdom of God in this world is rooted and grounded in Christian Community” (Introduction).
- The course will operate within and promote a “world view informed by Christian principles and perspectives” (1).
- The course will encourage students to move beyond simply knowing about the Bible, so that they may “think critically and creatively” as they reflect on the text in the context of spiritual formation (7).

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Students with documented disabilities who desire modifications or accommodations must contact the office of Student Success located in the University’s Student Services Building (between Carter Gym and the Wallace Student Center). No accommodations will be made without approval through the University’s process. For disability services, contact Laura Rich, Director of Access and Outreach, Student Services Bldg, room 113, 910-814-4364 or [richl@campbell.edu](mailto:richl@campbell.edu).
- Except in extreme circumstances, students who need to take an incomplete in the class or who desire special consideration for the submission of papers or taking of exams must submit a request in advance via email (preferred) or in writing.
- Students are expected to keep a backup copy of all papers and assignments submitted. It is strongly recommended that students keep a printed copy as well as an electronic copy.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class. Please give the Divinity School main office phone number (910-893-1830) or Student Services office number (910-893-

1882) to churches, family members, or child care givers as an emergency contact number. In case of an emergency, one of the staff will bring a message to class.

- Laptop or handheld computers may be used during class only for taking notes, and only if they are used in such a way that they do not distract others. Related activities may be approved by the professor (e.g., using Bible reference software during a discussion) with prior permission. In no case may such devices be used to send email, play games, browse the Internet, or otherwise engage in activities unrelated to, or disruptive of, the class.
- All electronic devices must be turned off and put away during in-class examinations.
- All students are subject to the academic integrity and behavioral expectations of the University.