

**Course Syllabus**  
**WYT 2308H — Dimensions of Hope: Exploring Eschatology**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Summer 2024**

***Instructor Information***

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***Course Identification***

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Course Number: WYT 2308H S  
Course Format: Online  
Course Name: Dimensions of Hope: Exploring Eschatology  
Course Location:  
Class Times: Asynchronous — no scheduled class time  
Prerequisites: WYT1101—The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I, or equivalent

***Course Description***

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This course explores Christian hope in its personal, corporate, and cosmic dimensions through listening to the witness of the Scriptures and the early church, and through critical engagement with contemporary conversations about eschatology and hope. Topics to be covered include life after death, bodily resurrection, heaven, hell, the questions of universal salvation and of purgatory, the Parousia, the Millennium, interpreting the book of Revelation, the destiny of the cosmos, and the contemporary in-breaking of hope in the church and the world.

***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts/Bibliography**

- N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (Harper One, 2008).
- Dale C. Allison Jr., *Night Comes* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016). Kindle edition available.
- Additional readings will be available through the course site on Quercus.

**Course Website(s)**

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus

using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask [insert college contact] for further help.]

### ***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

<b>Course Outcomes</b>	<b>Course Element</b>	<b>Program Outcomes</b>
<b>By the end of this course students</b>	<b>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</b>	<b>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)</b>
Identify and assess various approaches to interpreting Biblical texts with a view to giving a Biblical grounding to Christian hope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modules 1, 2, 3, 4</li> <li>• Discussion forums</li> <li>• Short papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 1.2, 2.1; MDiv: 1.3, 2.1
Identify and assess diverse understandings of Christian hope in the patristic and modern periods, including differences between Christian traditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modules 1 – 8</li> <li>• Discussion forums</li> <li>• Short papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 1.2, 2.1, 2.2; MDiv: 1.3, 2.1, 2.2
Articulate an understanding of Christian hope for the future that is pastorally sensitive, biblically grounded and critically engaged with respect to eschatological issues such as life after death, bodily resurrection, heaven, hell, and the questions of universal salvation and of purgatory, the <i>parousia</i> , the Millennium, interpreting the book of Revelation, and the destiny of the cosmos, and the contemporary in-breaking of hope in the church and the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modules 1 – 8</li> <li>• Discussion forums</li> <li>• Short papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 1.3; MDiv: 1.5

Course Outcomes	Course Element	Program Outcomes
Engage in critical and respectful discussion of assigned readings in an online learning environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forums</li> <li>• Short Papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 3.1; MDiv: 2.2
Gather, analyze and assess material from both primary and secondary literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short Papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 2.1, 2.2; MDiv: 2.1
Express themselves effectively both orally and in writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forums</li> <li>• Short Papers</li> </ul>	MTS: 2.1, 2.2 MDiv: 2.1

## Evaluation

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### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in two areas:

(1) *Discussion Forums (30%)* – Participating in online discussion will form a key element of the course, providing opportunity for students to learn from one another and to clarify their thinking as they engaging with one another and with the course material. Students will be assigned to discussion groups of 5 to 7 persons. For each module, you will post comments or questions on the reading and respond to postings by other students in your group. You will participate in discussion for at least six modules. Further guidelines and the grading rubric will be available on Quercus.

(2) *Two short papers (1800 words; 35% each)* – Students will submit a mid-term paper which addresses an aspect Paul’s discussion of eschatological themes in 1 Corinthians 15. The final paper will explore an aspect of the course in relation to one of the eschatological statements of the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed, or another topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. The point of these papers is for you formulate and defend a thesis in which you have some personal investment. Your task is to identify some question or issue within the given doctrine and argue for or against some particular way of thinking about that question or issue. The paper should consider possible objections to your own viewpoint. The topics of these papers will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students who wish to explore a topic in greater depth may choose to combine the two papers and submit a single final paper of approximately 3600 words. This decision will be made in consultation with the instructor. Further guidelines and the grading rubric will be available on Quercus.

### Grading System - Basic Degree Students

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good

73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

### Grading System - Graduate Degree Students

5000, 6000 and 7000 level courses use the following alpha grading scale;

A+	(90-100)	Profound & creative
A	(85-89)	Outstanding
A-	(80-84)	Excellent
B+	(77-79)	Very Good
B	(73-76)	Good
B-	(70-72)	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level
FZ	(0-69)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late work.** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

### Policies

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges: <https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019> .

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## **Course Schedule**

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### **Module 1**

June 17 - 23

#### **Foundations of Hope**

Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 1 – 76

George Hunsinger, "The daybreak of the new creation: Christ's resurrection in recent theology," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 57.2 (2004), 163 – 181

Richard Bauckham, "Eschatology" in *Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology*

### **Module 2**

June 24 - 30

#### **Hope and History: Messianic and Apocalyptic Hope**

Bill T. Arnold, "Old Testament Eschatology and the Rise of Apocalypticism," *Oxford Handbook of Eschatology*

Ian Boxall, "The Apocalypse Unveiled: Reflections on the Reception History of Revelation," *The Expository Times* 125:6 (2014), 261-271

Richard Bauckham, "The Millennium," in *God will be all in all: The Eschatology of Jürgen Moltmann* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1999), 123-148

Jürgen Moltmann, "The hope of Israel and the Anabaptist alternative," in *God will be all in all: The Eschatology of Jürgen Moltmann* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1999), 149-154

### **Module 3**

July 1 – 7

#### **Cosmic Hope: A New Heaven and a New Earth**

Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 79 – 136

Allison, *Night Comes*, 121 – 150

### **Module 4**

July 8 – 14

#### **Bodily Hope: The Resurrection of the Body**

Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 137 – 163

Allison, *Night Comes*, 1 – 43

### **Module 5**

July 15 – 21

#### **The Time of Hope: Imagining Eternity**

Nicholas Lash, "Eternal Life: Life 'after' Death?," *The Heythrop Journal* 19.3 (1978) 271-284

Brian Hebblethwaite, "Time and Eternity and Life 'After' Death," *The Heythrop Journal* 20.1 (1979), 57-62

Nicholas Lash, "Time and Eternity and Life 'After' Death: A Comment," *The Heythrop Journal* 20.1 (1979), 63-64

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, selections

**Mid-Term Paper due July 21**

## **Module 6**

July 22 – 28

### **Hope and Judgement: Hell and Universalism**

Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 165-86

Allison, *Night Comes*, 45 – 68; 93 – 119

George Hunsinger, "Hellfire and Damnation: Four Ancient and Modern Views," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 51.4 (November 1998), 406-434

## **Module 7**

July 29 – Aug 4

### **Intermediate Hope: Paradise and Purgatory**

Griffiths, "Purgatory," *Oxford Handbook of Eschatology*

Jerry Walls, "If we are saved by grace, why do we need purgatory," in *Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory: A Protestant view of the Cosmic* (Baker, 2015).

## **Module 8**

Aug 5 – 11

### **Hastening and Waiting: Living in Hope**

Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 189-295

Allison, *Night Comes*, 69 - 92

**Short Paper 2 due August 6**