Course Syllabus
WYT 2308H – Dimensions of Hope: Exploring Eschatology
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Summer 2019

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Jonathan Slater, PhD
Office Location:	
Telephone:	(416) 802-8534
E-mail:	jonathan.slater@utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	Skype office hours: TBA.

Course Identification

Course Number:	WYT 2308H F
Course Format:	Online
Course Name:	Dimensions of Hope: Exploring Eschatology
Course Location:	
Class Times:	
Prerequisites:	WYT1101—The God of the Gospel: Systematic Theology I, or equivalent

Course Description

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. These topics will be explored through weekly readings, online conversation, and two short papers.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

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

Course Website

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 Blackboard should ask [insert college contact] for further help.]

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Course Outcomes	Course Element	Program Outcomes
By the end of this course students	**This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:**	**This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)**
Identify and assess various approaches to interpreting Biblical texts with a view to giving a Biblical grounding to Christian hope.	- Course notes - Discussion forums - Short paper	MTS: 1.1, 2.1 MDiv: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1
Identify and assess diverse understandings of Christian hope in the patristic and modern periods, including differences between Christian traditions.	- Course notes - Discussion forums - Short papers	MTS: 1.2, 1.3, 2.1 MDiv: 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1
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 parousia, 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.	- Course notes - Discussion forums - Short papers	MTS: 1.2, 2.1 MDiv: 1.3, 2.1

Course Outcomes	Course Element	Program Outcomes
Engage in critical and respectful discussion of assigned readings in an online learning environment.	• Discussion Forums • Reading Responses • Short Papers	MTS: 3.1; MDiv: 2.2
Gather, analyze and assess material from both primary and secondary literature	• Reading Responses • Short Papers	MTS: 2.1, 2.2; MDiv: 2.1
Express themselves effectively both orally and in writing	• Reading Responses • Short Papers	MTS: 2.1, 2.2 MDiv: 2.1

Evaluation

Requirements

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

(1) *Reading Responses (20%)* - You will submit a reading response of 500 – 700 words for each module. The reading responses should be oriented toward the assigned readings, including the course notes. While you are welcome to underscore important points from the readings, your response should not simply consist of a summary. Rather, in your response you are invited to raise questions, express curiosity or puzzlement, and flag things you strongly agree or disagree with. You are encouraged to relate themes in the reading to your own experience, as well as to issues and questions raised in other courses, so long as this does not detract from the primary focus on the text. You are not trying to come up with definitive answers to theological questions, simply to respond to the things you've read with as much critical intelligence and sensitivity as you can muster. You will be graded on the basis of the quality and not simply the quantity of your notes.

(2) *Online Conversation (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, one of the group members will initiate discussion of the topic by midnight on Tuesday with a post of approximately 500 words. The post should identify and briefly develop two or more questions for discussion. Initiating discussion will rotate between group members.

Each member of the group will be responsible to contribute at least two substantive comments of between 250 and 300 words to the discussion. One of these comments must be a response to the initial post. The person who makes the initial post only needs to make one other post that week. The other comment must be a response to one of the other students in the group. Normally, all contribution to the group discussion should be completed by the beginning of the next module.

(3) _Midterm paper_ _(1800 words; 25%)_ - You will submit a mid-term paper exploring an aspect of the course in relation to Paul's discussion of eschatological themes in 1 Corinthians 15. You should consult with the instructor at least two weeks before the paper is due concerning their paper topic.

(3) _Final Paper_ _(1800 words; 25%)_ – You will submit a final paper exploring an aspect of the course in relation to one or more of the eschatological statements of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, or another topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. **You should consult with the instructor at least one week before the paper is due concerning their topic**.

Grading System

> A+ (90-100)
> A (85-89)
> A- (80-84)
> B+ (77-79)
> B (73-76)
> B- (70-72)
> 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.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; 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. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes 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. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

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.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. 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* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. 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 http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

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. 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 should 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

Note: To make the course schedule more flexible, the course material has been divided into five modules, two of which will extend over two weeks.

Module 1
June 10 - 16   The Foundation of Hope

- Wright, *Surprised by* Hope, 1 – 51

- Rowland, "New Testament Eschatology", *Oxford Handbook of Eschatology*

Module 2
June 17 - 23   Cosmic Hope: A New Heaven and a New Earth

- Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 79 – 136
- Allison, *Night Comes*, 121 - 150

Module 3
June 24   Bodily Hope: The Resurrection of the Body
July 7
- Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 53 – 76; 123 – 163
- Allison, *Night Comes*, 19 – 43
- George Hunsinger, "The daybreak of the new creation: Christ's resurrection in recent theology," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 57.2 (2004), 163 – 181

Module 4
July 7 – 13   Hastening and Waiting: Living in Hope

- Wright, *Surprised by* Hope, 189-295

Mid-Term Paper: Due July 13

Module 5
July 14 –   *5a:* Hope and Judgment: Hell and Universalism
August 2   *5b:* Intermediate Hope: Paradise and Purgatory

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

Final Paper: Due August 5