Module Level: 6
Credit Value: 15 credits
Module Tutor: Prof. Edward Adams
Module Tutor contact details: e.adams@kcl.ac.uk
Module Tutor office hours: Weds 12noon-1pm; Thurs 12noon-1pm (semester 1)
Weds 12noon-1pm; Thurs 11.30am-12noon (semester 2)
GTA: None
Semester: Semester 1
Day and Time: Thursdays, 4-6pm
Dates: No class lecture on 29th October because it falls in Reading Week.
Room: Strand S0.12

1. Introduction

Outline / What is our topic?

(a) Module educational aim

- To develop an understanding of the distinctive theological content of the New Testament by focusing on selected themes or writers
- To gain an understanding of the problems and issues involved in theological analysis of the New Testament
- To develop skills in interpreting New Testament texts in terms of their theological content, relating issues of theology to the historical, social and cultural context of the texts
- To gain a positive appreciation of theological diversity in the New Testament

(b) Module learning outcomes

Generic skills:
- engage analytically and critically with primary sources
- assess and interact with secondary literature relating to the primary sources
- present confidently ideas and arguments in both oral and written form
- undertake independent study

Module-specific skills:
- display a detailed knowledge of specified areas of New Testament theological thought
- demonstrate an understanding of modes of theological enquiry appropriate to the New Testament
- read New Testament texts closely, both independently and in interaction with others, with theological questions in view, relating the texts to their historical, social and cultural contexts
- display a knowledge of and to account for theological variety in the New Testament
(c) Module content: description and teaching plan

This course will enable students to engage with a significant area of New Testament theological thought. The specific focus of the course is New Testament eschatology. After a general introduction to the subject, the course will explore eschatological ideas in some of the main New Testament writings and issues relating to them which have provoked scholarly debate. The course will cover the main New Testament writings. The background to New Testament eschatological conceptions will be discussed. The distinctive eschatological views and emphases of New Testament writers will be considered, and attention will be given to the different categories used by different writers to express their eschatological understanding. Historical questions such as the theological impact of the delay of the parousia on the each church will be addressed.

Set Passages
The eschatological discourse in its three Synoptic forms: Mark 13.1-37; Matthew 24.1-25.46; Luke 21.5-38
John 14:1-31
1 Corinthians 15:20-58
2 Corinthians 5:1-10
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10
Hebrews 12:12-29
2 Peter 3:4-13
Revelation 20:1-22:5

Lectures, seminars and participation / How can I get involved?

The teaching sessions will be seminar-based. There will be some up-front teaching, but the emphasis will be on student interaction and class discussion.

We will look at the set NT texts in class, and one session will be devoted entirely to several of them. **So please bring a Bible (in print or electronic form) to every class.** But we will not be able to discuss the passages in the necessary detail during class time. Students should work through all the passages on their own, consulting the commentaries.

Apart from materials that will enable you to take notes, bring this module syllabus to every lecture. This is for a very practical reason. Since I may wish to refer to books/articles during a lecture, it helps if you can consult the reading lists there and then; I will not waste time either dictating bibliographical details or writing them up on the board. **It is also important that you remember to bring (if you don’t bring a laptop) printouts of whatever primary sources might have been made available via KEATS. You will not wish to be the only member of the group who cannot follow a text that is being read and discussed. Sharing is not always convenient. And remember to bring a Bible (either in electronic or printed form) to all classes!**

KEATS & Maughan Library / Where do I find relevant sources?

Lecture handouts and some of the set readings are available on KEATS. Do also refer to the library’s ‘subject resources’ page for TRS; [http://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/trs](http://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/trs)

The books listed below are all held in the Maughan Library. Students should contact the module tutor or Maughan Library, if they think that relevant sources are missing.
2. Module plan & Readings

Recommended introductions, source collections, and general works

The subject is quite a specialized one, and there is no overall introductory work that would serve as a core textbook for this module as I teach it. N.T.Wright’s *Surprised by Hope* (2008) is a popular rather than an academic book, but it offers an accessible account of Wright’s ‘take’ on NT eschatology, with particular focus on the question of whether biblical hope is ultimately ‘heavenly’ in nature. Guidance on reading to gain to orientation to the subject of NT eschatology will be given in class.


*History and Eschatology*, Edinburgh: University Press, 1957


*Greek Influence in Jewish Eschatology: With Special Reference to the Apocalypses and Pseudepigraphs*, London: SPCK, 1961


A.Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, London: Black, 1911


*Jesus and the Victory of God*, London: SPCK, 1996
Teaching plan with essential readings

24th September
Introduction: definitions and distinctions; trends in the Study of New Testament Eschatology (with a focus on Albert Schweitzer)

1st October
The Old Testament and Jewish Apocalyptic Background
   Read in advance: Collins, ‘Apocalyptic Eschatology in the Ancient World’

8th October
The Eschatological Discourse of Mark 13
   Read in advance Mark 13:1-37
   N.T.Wright, Jesus and the Victory of God, pp. 339-68.

15th October
The Eschatology of Matthew
   Read in advance: Matthew 24:1-25.46
   Sim, Apocalyptic Eschatology, chap. 7.

22nd October
   Read in advance: 21:5-36
   Tuckett, Luke, pp. 33-49

29th October: Reading Week

5th November
The Eschatology of Paul (the key texts; to be rescheduled)
   Read in advance: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 2 Corinthians 5.1-10
   Dunn, Theology, pp. 294-316

12th November
The Eschatology of Paul
   Read in advance: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 2 Corinthians 5.1-10
   Dunn, Theology, pp. 294-316

19th November (with Janet Fyffe)
The Eschatology of Hebrews
   Read in advance: Heb 12:12-29; 2 Peter 3:4-14
   Barrett, ‘The Eschatology of the Epistle to the Hebrews’
   Käsemann, ‘An Apologia for Primitive Christian Eschatology’

26th November
The Eschatology of Second Peter and the Fourth Gospel
   Read in advance: John 14:1-31
   Asthon, Understanding the Fourth Gospel, pp. 443-78

2nd December
The Eschatology of the Book of Revelation
   Read in advance: Revelation 20:1-22:5

Items highlighted as advance readings will be available via KEATS. It is your responsibility to manage your time such that you can read the text before the relevant session. Some additional texts for discussion, usually shorter ones, may be distributed during a teaching session.
Revision Class: A revision class will take place in timetabling week 36 (2-6 May 2016).
Recommended Further Reading

You are not expected to read everything on each list – I give plenty of suggestions in view of (a) the size of the group; and (b) the possibility that some works may not be available when you visit the library, though you ought to search other libraries to which you have access, especially the Senate House Library, located in the complex behind the British Museum. Nevertheless, **the more you read the better**: you will be required to demonstrate, both in the assessed coursework essay and in the summer examination, not only that you understand the essential features of any particular topic, but also that you are familiar with different interpretations of that topic. **It is never enough, therefore, to rely either upon a single book or upon lecture notes.**

The Old Testament and Jewish Apocalyptic Background

‘Apocalyptic Eschatology in the Ancient World’ in J.L.Walls (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Eschatology*

The Eschatological Discourse of Mark 13


Matthew

V.Balabanski, *Eschatology in the Making*


Paul
M.C. de Boer, *The Defeat of Death*, Sheffield: JSOT, 1988
‘Paul and Apocalyptic Eschatology’ in Collins (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Apocalypticism, Volume I*

Hebrews
C.K. Barrett, ‘The Eschatology of the Epistle to the Hebrews’ in Davies & Daube, *Background* *

Second Peter

The Fourth Gospel
R. Kysar, *John, the Maverick Gospel*, revised edition; Louisville: WJK, 1993

The Book of Revelation

For the set passages, students should consult modern critical commentaries held in the library.

3. **Assessment / How will my work be assessed?**

(If you are a Study Abroad student at King’s in Semester 1 only, please also see Section 4 below.)

- 1 x 3000-word coursework essay, the title to be chosen from the list provided at the end of this module syllabus (worth 40% of the overall module mark). Do not formulate your own essay title. Due: 22nd October, **BEFORE 4pm**, on KEATS
  Feedback will be available on KEATS no later than Thurs 12th November. Feedback tutorials will offer further guidance on improving your work.
• 1 x 2-hour unseen written examination, in which THREE questions must be answered, from a choice of seven (worth 60% of the overall module mark). The examination will take place in Period II (May-June 2016).

The most recent exam past papers will be available in the relevant KEATS module area.

**Scope of assessment**

Coursework essay questions generally relate to some topics covered in the first half of the module. Examination questions normally deal with most of the remaining topics (from both halves of the semester). Care is taken to avoid overlap across both coursework essay questions and exam questions. Some examination questions may be formulated so as to encourage analysis, in the same answer, of topics that were investigated in different sessions, including those that fell early in the module.

**What is a good essay/exam answer?**

• In the assessed coursework essay and examination answers, successful students will need to demonstrate a nuanced grasp of any topic, an awareness of its [eg historical, literary] context and a capacity to develop a well-reasoned argument that is convincingly supported by reference to suitable evidence and is presented in a structured manner using clear English.
• Poor English (e.g. grammar, punctuation and spelling) will lead to loss of marks.
• Discussion of the best approaches to meeting these requirements forms part of the teaching programme in the module. Students should seek advice if they are unsure of anything.
• For more details please see the link to marking criteria below (“Essential Information”).

**Essential information: How do I submit my essay?**

• **The Faculty of Arts & Humanities cover-sheet** needs to be the first page of the submitted essays; please follow this link:
  [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/study/handbook/assessment/taught/submission.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/study/handbook/assessment/taught/submission.aspx)
• **The candidate number** (e.g. W01234) on the cover-sheet needs to be accurate and of the present academic year. Your work cannot be attributed to you on the College systems, if this information is incomplete or wrong.
• **The word limit** includes all footnotes/endnotes, but excludes the bibliography, which you should provide. There is a 5% tolerance: no penalty will be incurred for essays that are up to 5% over the word limit. Beyond that tolerance band, two marks will be deducted for every 5% of excess words until 50% is reached. After 50%, three marks will normally be deducted for each further 5% of excess words.
• **The MHRA/Harvard reference style** has been adopted for this module. Please find the *Quick Guide to Reference Styles in TRS* in the TRS Handbook online. The presentation of your work, including the insertion of page numbers, quality of referencing and bibliographical information and the standard of English, has a strong bearing on the mark given for it.
• **Submission BEFORE 4pm**: Your work must be submitted via the assessment submission section of the KEATS area for the module, by the published deadline, i.e. **before 4pm** on the relevant day.
  Work with a TurnitIn time stamp of 4.00pm counts as a late submission (see next point).
• **Late submissions** will be treated as follows:
  Unless an extension has been granted by the Chair of the UG Programme Board of Examiners on the basis of a Mitigating Circumstances Form (MCF), supplied with supporting evidence, or comes to be granted retrospectively:
- Work submitted within 24 hours after the original deadline will be marked, but the mark for this element will be capped at the pass mark of 40%.
- Work submitted more than 24 hours after the original deadline will not be marked, and the submission will receive a mark of zero.

- **Mitigating Circumstances Forms:** MCFs can be downloaded from the Policy Zone of the College website.

**Extensions retrospectively:** An extension may be granted retrospectively, providing the MCF with supporting documentation is submitted no later than 7 days after the missed assessment and supporting documentation has been received no later than 21 days after the missed assessment. Please note that extensions are granted by the TRS Assessment Board Chair and NOT by individual module tutors.

- **Plagiarism:** Please make sure that you understand the College rules on plagiarism. Information is available at: [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/plagiarism/index.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/plagiarism/index.aspx), and you should also have been enrolled on a KEATS plagiarism module.

- **Collusion** also counts as misconduct. Think twice before circulating your work to other students.

- **Marking:** Your essays for this module will be assessed according to Model 3: [https://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/study/handbook/assessment/taught/markmodels.aspx](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/study/handbook/assessment/taught/markmodels.aspx)
  
  **Essays:** First and second markers will apply the Faculty’s Undergraduate Marking Criteria: [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/study/handbook/sguides/assessment/ugmarkcrit.pdf](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/study/handbook/sguides/assessment/ugmarkcrit.pdf)

  **Classroom presentation and participation** are assessed in line with these Marking Criteria: [https://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/modules/level6/files/TRS-Marking-Criteria-for-presentations.pdf](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/trs/modules/level6/files/TRS-Marking-Criteria-for-presentations.pdf)

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### 4. Study Abroad Students: Semester 1 only

If you are studying at King’s in **Semester 1 only**, then you must submit a final essay in lieu of the summer examination as follows:

- **Final essay in lieu of exam** (3500 words in place of a 2 hour exam, contributing 60% to the module mark). Please choose a second essay question from the list given at the end of this syllabus (but do not choose both questions 3 & 4).
  
  **Due:** Monday 7 December 2015 **BEFORE 4pm** in hardcopy to the TRS Office.

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### 5. Essay Questions

Please choose **ONE** question:

(1) What in your view is of lasting importance in Albert Schweitzer’s construal of Jesus’ eschatology?

**Suggested reading:**

*Jesus of Nazareth: Millenarian Prophet*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998  
A.Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, London: Black, 1911  
(2) ‘[T]here is no justification for seeing “apocalyptic” as necessarily speaking of the “end of the world” in a literally cosmic sense.’ (N.T.Wright, The New Testament and the People of God, p. 298). Discuss the validity of this claim.

**Suggested reading:**
See the reading for *The Old Testament and Jewish Apocalyptic Background*  
E.Adams, *The Stars will Fall from Heaven*

(3) What did Jesus mean when he announced the kingdom of God?

**Suggested reading:**

(4) How consistent is the theme of the kingdom of God in Mark’s Gospel?

**Suggested reading:**
Commentaries on Mark  

Note: the suggested reading is simply to get you started. You should research your own bibliography.