



# Holy Apostles

## College & Seminary

SAS 719 Catholic Epistles and Revelation  
Fall 2025  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:45 am

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### 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the content, background, purpose, composition, and structure of the Catholic Epistles (James, I-II Peter, I, II, III John, Jude) and the Book of Revelation. Students will be introduced to a variety of patristic, medieval, and contemporary interpretive approaches to these books as found in the rich Catholic spiritual and intellectual tradition.

### 2. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. **Situate** people and events in the Catholic Epistles and Revelation in their biblical, historical, and geographical context.
2. **Explain** the structure, content, and theological themes of the books of the Catholic Epistles and Revelation.
3. **Evaluate** the different strengths of patristic, medieval, and contemporary interpretations of the Catholic Epistles and Revelation.
4. **Analyze** difficult passages within the Catholic Epistles and Revelation with the help of the Catholic Tradition and modern exegetical tools.

### 3. REQUIRED READINGS and RESOURCES:

- Holy Bible (most of the references I make in my lectures will rely on the RSV – 2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic Edition)
  - If you wish to use another translation in your research and writing, please do not select a “paraphrased” Bible. Other acceptable translations include (for example) the Douay-Rheims, ESV, NASB, or KJV.
- Anderson, Kelly and Daniel Keating, *James, First, Second, and Third John*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. ISBN-10: 0801049229. List Price: \$24.99.
- Keating, Daniel. *First and Second Peter, Jude*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN-10: 0801036453. List Price: \$25.00
- *Latin Commentaries on Revelation*. Trans. William C. Weinrich. Ancient Christian Texts. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2011. ISBN-10: 9780830829095. List Price: \$72.99.

## 4. COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson Content	Readings and Assignments
<b>Week One:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• James (Part 1)</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin reading James</li> <li>• Begin reading/consulting Kelly &amp; Keating, <i>James, First, Second, and Third John</i>, pp. 15-121</li> </ul>
<b>Week Two:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Class 9/1 (Labor Day)</li> <li>• James (Part 2)</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish reading James</li> <li>• Finish reading/consulting Kelly &amp; Keating, pp. 15-121</li> </ul>
<b>Week Three:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Peter</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Peter</li> <li>• Read/Consult Keating, pp. 17-125</li> </ul>
<b>Week Four:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Peter</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Peter</li> <li>• Read/Consult Keating, pp. 127-189</li> </ul> Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Submit Proposed Passage for Exegetical Paper</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week Five:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 John</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 John</li> <li>• Read/Consult Kelly &amp; Keating, pp. 125-242</li> </ul>
<b>Week Six:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 John</li> <li>• Jude</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 John, 3 John, Jude</li> <li>• Read/Consult Kelly &amp; Keating 245-274</li> <li>• Read/Consult Keating 191-220</li> </ul>
<b>Week Seven:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study Session</li> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Midterm Exam</b></p>
<b>Week Eight:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revelation (Introduction)</li> <li>• Revelation 1-3</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revelation 1-3</li> <li>• Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul> Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Submit draft Introduction and Outline for Exegetical Paper</b></li> </ul>

<b>Week Nine:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Class 10/13 (Columbus Day)</li> <li>Revelation 4-5</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 4-5</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Ten:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 6-7</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 6-7</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Eleven:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 8-11</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 8-11</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Twelve:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 11-14</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 11-14</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul> Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Submit Exegetical Paper</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week Thirteen:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 15-16</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 15-16</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Fourteen:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 17-22</li> </ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revelation 17-22</li> <li>Read <i>Latin Commentaries on Revelation</i> (pages TBD)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Fifteen:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study Session</li> <li>Final Examination</li> </ul>	<b>Final Examination</b>

## 5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Midterm Exam (25% of total grade)

### 2. Final Exam (25% of total grade)

### 3. Exegetical Paper (35% of total grade)

Students will choose a single passage from one of the Catholic Epistles or Revelation and proceed to write an exegetical (i.e., biblical interpretation) paper. The paper should address the following areas:

- Historical, Cultural, or Geographical Background**

- What historical, cultural, or geographical information do we need to know in order to interpret this passage correctly?

- **Word Study**
  - A “word study” is a close study of a specific Greek word from your passage. How does knowing the full meaning of that word help us to interpret this passage correctly? Note that you do not need to know Greek in order to complete this portion of the paper.
- **Old Testament Relationship/Fulfillment**
  - How does your passage relate to the Old Testament? Are there any narratives or teachings from the Old Testament that will help us to unlock the meaning of your passage?
- **The Relationship between your passage and the rest of the New Testament**
  - How does your passage relate to the larger story/theology recounted in the New Testament (the Gospels, Acts, or Epistles)? Do other passages or stories help us to interpret your passage correctly?
- **History of Interpretation**
  - How have later saints and theologians interpreted this passage? Offer at least two examples.
- **Summary and Application**
  - Summarize the meaning of the passage based on everything you have discovered.
  - Apply the passage. How does this passage apply to the Church today, or to the individual soul? What practical value does it have for living the Christian life? You are welcome connect your passage to the liturgical/sacramental life of the Church in this section.

#### **Instructions for Submission:**

- You must submit your proposed Scripture passage to the instructor by the end of **week four**.
- You must submit your draft introduction and outline to the instructor by the end of **week eight**.
  - The outline should include a brief (1-3 sentence) summary of what you plan to include in each section of the paper.
  - Both the introduction and outline can be edited/updated as you continue your research and writing.
- You must submit the completed paper by the end **of week twelve**.

#### **Note:**

- Do not choose a passage that is too “big” for a paper of this size. Ideally, choose something “bite-sized,” and write with depth.
- Do not choose a passage that is relatively easy to understand, or that you have studied at great length previously. You should select a passage that you find challenging.
- Ideally, each of the six components of the paper will have its own section and heading. However, you are permitted to “blend” them at times provided each component is still given an appropriate degree of attention. For example, you may wish to blend the “History of Interpretation” section and the “Old Testament Fulfillment” section into one longer, interrelated section (i.e., where an ancient commentator is commenting on the relationship of the Old Testament to your passage).
- Be sure to cite any secondary sources you use (see Holy Apostles’ plagiarism policy, included at the end of the syllabus). For Scripture citations, you may simply place the references in a parenthetical note (e.g., Gen. 3:15). For all other references, use footnotes.

#### **Requirements:**

- 8-10 pages. Up to 12 pages is acceptable. Anything above 12 pages requires special permission.
- 12-point font; double-spaced
- Minimum of 8 scholarly resources
  - You must use both ancient and modern sources.
  - You must use at least *one* scholarly resource in support of each of the six components of the paper (listed above).
  - You may use scholarly resources however you wish (disagree, agree, as a point of contrast, etc.)
  - These resources must be published academic resources. You may not use Wikipedia, personal websites, blogs, church websites, YouTube, etc., except for your own personal reference.

- You may use magisterial documents, the *Catechism*, the Missal, etc., in your paper, but these do not count toward your required number of academic resources.

#### 4. Attendance and Participation (15% of total grade)

Come prepared each week to participate in class discussion. When reading, be sure to write down your comments and questions. You will not receive full participation points simply for being in your seat.

## 6. EVALUATION

### GRADING SCALE:

**A** 94-100; **A-** 90-93; **B+** 87-89; **B** 84-86; **B-** 80-83; **C+** 77-79; **C** 74-76; **C-** 70-73 **D** 60-69; **F** 59 and below

**Late Assignment Policy:** Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of **5% grade deduction per day**. This applies to all assignments, from discussion posts, to learning checks, to exegetical paper assignments.

To request an extension for an assignment, please email me directly ([ablaski@holypostles.edu](mailto:ablaski@holypostles.edu)). In your email, cite the assignment, the reason for the extension request, and (if possible) a new proposed submission date.

## 7. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

The effective and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to teach and learn at Holy Apostles College and Seminary must align with its mission to form missionary disciples, servant leaders, and “co-workers in the vineyard.” While using AI in some stages of your assignments will help to prepare you for your vocation, the College’s integrity policy applies in all cases. Please see the college’s AI usage policy details in the Academic Catalog.

In general, HACS permits using AI tools to help brainstorm assignments or projects or revise existing work you have written. You are responsible for making all submitted work your own, maintaining academic integrity, and avoiding plagiarism. Be aware that the accuracy or quality of AI-generated content may not meet the standards of this course, even if you only incorporate such content partially and after substantial paraphrasing, modification, and/or editing. Also, remember that AI-generated content may not provide appropriate or clear attribution to the author(s) of the original sources, while most written assignments in this course require you to find and incorporate highly relevant quality publications. You must cite your use of AI following guidelines promulgated by the College.

Before using AI in a course, check with the instructor for any restrictions on AI usage. Please be aware that HACS uses AI and plagiarism detection applications for assignments, including discussion posts. Inappropriate use of AI violates academic integrity and will be treated accordingly.

## 8. FOR THE DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY, THE ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY, THE ATTENDANCE POLICY, AND THE INCOMPLETE POLICY,

SEE [holypostles.edu/syllabus-policies](https://holypostles.edu/syllabus-policies)

## 9. ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

**Dr. Andrew Blaski** joined the faculty of Holy Apostles College & Seminary as Assistant Professor of Theology in 2019 after completing his doctoral work on Origen of Alexandria and early Christian biblical interpretation. From May 2021 to May 2022, he served as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean. He has taught Scripture, theology, and church history in a variety of academic and ecclesial settings both in the US and in the UK. Broadly speaking, Dr. Blaski’s research has been focused on the metaphysical relationship between the nature of Scripture (“what is it?”) and the hermeneutics of Scripture (“how do we interpret it?”) stressed in the writings of the Church

Fathers. Dr. Blaski lives in the Farmington Valley (Connecticut) with his wife, his six children, and his many piles of partially read books.

**Education**

- PhD, Early Christianity, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
- MA, Theology, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY
- MA, Church History, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL
- BA, English, Biblical Studies, Trinity College, Deerfield, IL