

Apocalypticism

REL 3294.07C3 / JST 3930.134E, Fall 2016

MWF 5 (11:45-12:35), 19 Anderson

Professor: Robert Kawashima
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Course Description:

Apocalypticism refers in the first instance to a development within Second Temple Judaism. As such, it originated in the religious culture of ancient Israel and the ancient Near East more generally, and it eventually came to constitute the religious-cultural matrix out of which Christianity was eventually born. This development entailed both a new literary form, namely, the apocalypse (literally “revelation”), and also a new way of viewing reality, what we might refer to as the apocalyptic “worldview.” This course will focus in particular on Jewish and Christian apocalypticism through a survey of apocalyptic texts from the Hebrew Bible, Second Temple Jewish literature (including the Dead Sea Scrolls), and the New Testament. While surveying this body of literature and its historical contexts, we will, in the course of the semester, consider various aspects of apocalyptic writing and thinking: the nature of the cosmos, the nature of history, and the literary forms used to convey this religious vision.

Required Texts:

John J. Collins, *The Apocalyptic Imagination*, third edition
Mitchell G. Reddish, editor, *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader*
HarperCollins Study Bible — or other approved translation

additional secondary readings, course materials, and general information will, as much as possible, be made available through e-Learning: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. Occasionally students may need to make photocopies from masters available in the department office. Note: a few scholarly articles may be added to the assignments listed below.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory

Participation – (10%)

2 Written Exercises (3 pages) – (30%)

2 Exams – (60%)

Make-up exams must be approved by instructor beforehand, or justified afterward by providing appropriate documentation (medical, etc.).

Grade scale:

	87–89 = B+	77–79 = C+	67–69 = D+	below 60 = E
93–100 = A	83–86 = B	73–76 = C	63–66 = D	
90–92 = A-	80–82 = B-	70–72 = C-	60–62 = D-	

Schedule:

Week 1

8/22	Introduction: syllabus; general background
8/24	Genre: Myth and History; Prophecy Collins: chapter 1 Bible: Ezekiel 1-2; Zechariah 9-14 Other: Baal; Eliade, “Sacred Time and Myths”; Coogan, pp 436-43
8/26	Genre: Myth and History; Prophecy

Week 2

8/29	Genre: Myth and History; Prophecy
8/31	Enoch and the Otherwordly Journey Collins: chapter 2 (pp 43-62) Reddish: “The Book of Watchers” Bible: Genesis 1-11 Other: “The Astronomical Book”; Epic of Gilgamesh, excerpts
9/2	Enoch and the Otherwordly Journey

Week 3

9/5	Labor Day (no class)
9/7	Enoch and the Otherwordly Journey
9/9	Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees Collins: chapter 2 (pp 62-84) Reddish: “The Animal Apocalypse”; “The Apocalypse of Weeks” Bible: Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 6-7, 29-30; 2 Kings 22-23 Other: “Jubilees”

Week 4

9/12	Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees
9/14	Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees
9/16	Daniel: the Periodization of History; the Eschaton Collins: chapter 3 Bible: Daniel; Genesis 1, 6-9, 17; Exodus 6, 12; 2 Kings 24-25; Isaiah 11, 24-27 Other: Hesiod, excerpts

Week 5

9/19 **Daniel: the Periodization of History; the Eschaton**

9/21 **Daniel: the Periodization of History; the Eschaton**

9/23 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism**

Collins: chapter 4

Reddish: "Testament of Levi"; "The Testament of Moses"

Bible: Genesis 49; Deuteronomy 33-34

Other: Hesiod, excerpts; "Sibylline Oracle 3"; "Testament of Judah"

Week 6

9/26 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism; WRITTEN EXERCISE 1 due in class**

9/28 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism**

9/30 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism**

Week 7

10/3 **Rosh Hashana: CLASS CANCELLED**

10/5 **EXAM 1**

10/7 **Dead Sea Scrolls: the Apocalyptic Community at Qumran**

Collins: chapter 5

Reddish: "The Community Rule"

Other: "The Damascus Document"; Frank Moore Cross, "The Historical Context of the Scrolls"

Week 8

10/10 **Dead Sea Scrolls: the Apocalyptic Community at Qumran**

10/12 **Yom Kippur: CLASS CANCELLED**

10/14 **Homecoming (no class)**

Week 9

10/17 **Dead Sea Scrolls: the Apocalyptic Community at Qumran**

10/19 **Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran; Dualism**

Collins: chapter 6

Reddish: "The War Scroll"; "The New Jerusalem"; "The Similitudes of Enoch"

Other: "Florilegium"; "Commentary on Habakkuk"; "Thanksgiving Hymns 11, 19"

10/21 **Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran; Dualism**

Week 10

10/24 **Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran; Dualism**

10/26 **After the Fall of Jerusalem to Rome: Typology in History**

Collins: chapter 7

Reddish: "4 Ezra"; "2 Baruch" (pp 97-102, 141-2)

Bible: Nehemiah 8-9; Jeremiah 32, 36, 43, 45

10/28 **After the Fall of Jerusalem to Rome: Typology in History**

Week 11

10/31 **After the Fall of Jerusalem to Rome: Typology in History**

11/2 **Jewish Apocalypticism in the Roman Period**

Collins: chapter 8

Reddish: "Sibylline Oracle 2"; "Testament of Abraham"

Bible: Genesis 12:1-25:11

Other: "Sibylline Oracles 1, 4, 5"; "2 Enoch"; "3 Baruch"

11/4 **Jewish Apocalypticism in the Roman Period**

Week 12

11/7 **Jewish Apocalypticism in the Roman Period**

11/9 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers**

Collins: chapter 9 (pp 256-68)

Bible: Mark; Matthew 13, 17-18, 27-28; 1-2 Corinthians; 1-2 Thessalonians; Jude

11/11 **Veterans Day (no class)**

Week 13

11/14 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers**

11/16 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers**

11/18 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers; WRITTEN EXERCISE 2 due in class**

Week 14

11/21 **Class canceled (due to conference)**

11/23 **Thanksgiving (no class)**

11/25 **Thanksgiving (no class)**

Week 15

11/28 **Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses**

Collins: chapter 9 (pp 269-79), Epilogue

Reddish: "The Apocalypse of Peter"; "The Ascension of Isaiah"

Bible: Mark 13; Book of Revelation

11/30 **Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses**

12/2 **Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses**

Week 16

12/5 **Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses**

12/7 **EXAM 2**