

Apocalypticism
REL 3294 / JST 3930, Fall 2024
MWF 5 (11:45-12:35), Anderson 013

Professor: Dr. Robert Kawashima
office hours: M 1:30-2:30; W 9:00-10:00; or by appointment
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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 - Student Edition – or other approved translation
additional secondary readings, course materials, and general information will, as much as possible, be made available through e-Learning: <https://elearning.ufl.edu>.

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

8/23 **Introduction:** syllabus; general background

Week 2

8/26 **Myth and History; History of Religion**

Bible: Genesis 1; Psalm 74; Revelation 13, 21

Other: Eliade, “Sacred Time and Myths”; Epic of Baal, excerpts; Epic of Creation, excerpts

8/28 **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

8/30 **Genre:** Myth and History; Prophecy

Week 3

9/2 **Labor Day (no class)**

9/4 **Genre:** Myth and History; Prophecy

9/6 **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

Week 4

9/9 **Enoch and the Otherwordly Journey**

9/11 **Enoch and the Otherwordly Journey**

9/13 **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 5

9/16 **Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees**

9/18 **Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees**

9/20 **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 6

- 9/23 **Daniel: the Periodization of History; the Eschaton**
9/25 **Daniel: the Periodization of History; the Eschaton**
9/27 **Class Cancelled:** Lecture in Tallahassee

Week 7

- 9/30 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism:** WRITTEN EXERCISE 1 due in class
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"
10/2 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism**
10/4 **Oracles and Testaments: Determinism**

Week 8

- 10/7 **EXAM 1**
10/9 **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"
10/11 **Dead Sea Scrolls: the Apocalyptic Community at Qumran**

Week 9

- 10/14 **Dead Sea Scrolls: the Apocalyptic Community at Qumran**
10/16 **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"
10/18 **Homecoming (no class)**

Week 10

- 10/21 **Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran; Dualism**
10/23 **Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran; Dualism**
10/25 **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

Week 11

- 10/28 **After the Fall of Jerusalem to Rome: Typology in History**
10/30 **After the Fall of Jerusalem to Rome: Typology in History**
11/1 **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"

Week 12

11/4 **Reading Day**

11/6 **Jewish Apocalypticism in the Roman Period**

11/8 **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

Week 13

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

11/13 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers**

11/15 **Early Christianity: Jesus and Paul as Apocalyptic Thinkers: WRITTEN EXERCISE 2 due in class**

Week 14

11/18 **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

11/20 **Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses**

11/22 **Class cancelled: Academic Conference**

Week 15

11/25 Thanksgiving (no class)

11/27 Thanksgiving (no class)

11/29 Thanksgiving (no class)

Week 16

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

12/4 **EXAM 2**

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report

any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments: For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>