

# *From Prophecy to the Apocalypse*

**Religion 226**

**Classroom:** 114 Comenius Hall

**Class Times:** TTh 1:10-2:20pm

**E-mail:** radine@moravian.edu

**Professor:** Jason Radine

**Office:** 108 Comenius Hall, ext. 1314

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 4pm-6pm  
and by appointment

## **Course Description**

This course will explore the phenomenon of prophecy as a social institution as known in the ancient Near East as well as prophetic literature in biblical texts. The development of apocalyptic thought in Judaism and Christianity will be studied, up to and past the book of Revelation.

## **Course Goals**

Prophetic and apocalyptic thought form a significant and influential part of western religion, and this course will examine them as both religious and literary phenomena. A taxonomy of different types of predictive beliefs will be developed that will allow for a clearer understanding of the interaction of these types. Assumptions about prophecy and apocalyptic thought will be questioned, and the relationship between performed and literary prophecy will be given particular attention.

## **Assignments and Grading**

Grading will be based on an average of three essay examinations and three 7 page research papers. Plagiarized papers will result in a one-letter course grade reduction at least and a failing grade for the course overall at most. Attendance will be taken in each class day, and more than two unexcused absences will result in a 1/3 of a letter course grade reduction. Assigned readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. Active, in-class participation is encouraged. Cell phones must be silenced in class, and texting is not allowed. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support on the first floor of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

## **Required Reading**

- 1) The New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible, with Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books (Oxford University Press).
- 2) *A History of Prophecy in Israel, Revised and Enlarged*, by Joseph Blenkinsopp, Westminster John Knox Press.

- 3) *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader*, edited by Mitchell G. Reddish, Hendrickson Publishers.
- 4) *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., by John J. Collins, Eerdmans/Dove Publishers.
- 5) *Early Christian Apocalypticism: Genre and Social Setting*, Semeia 36, edited by Adela Yarbro Collins, Society of Biblical Literature.

### **Class Schedule**

#### **Ancient Near Eastern Background**

- Introduction, Magic and Divination August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Ancient Near Eastern Background August 28<sup>th</sup>  
*Readings:* Handouts, Blenkinsopp 3, 4, 5.

#### **Biblical Prophecy**

- Prophecy in Biblical Narrative September 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>  
*Readings:* Blenkinsopp 5, 6, 1, 2, biblical passages TBA
- Eighth-Century Prophecy September 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>  
*Readings:* Blenkinsopp ch. 8-12; Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah 1-39.
- No class, Prof. Radine at conference September 11<sup>th</sup>
- Late-Monarchic Prophecy September 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Readings:* Blenkinsopp 13-15, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah
- No class on September 25<sup>th</sup> for Rosh Hashanah
- Exilic and Post-Exilic Prophecy Sept 30<sup>th</sup>-Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Readings:* Blenkinsopp 16-24, Ezekiel, Isaiah 40-66, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Jonah

Prophecy Exam

#### **Jewish Apocalypticism**

- Background and Genre October 7<sup>th</sup>  
*Readings:* J.J. Collins 1

