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/Deuteronocanonical 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*, 2nd 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 th
Ancient Near Eastern Background <i>Readings</i> : Handouts, Blenkinsopp 3, 4, 5.	August 28 th

Biblical Prophecy

Prophecy in Biblical Narrative	September 2 nd -4 th
Readings: Blenkinsopp 5, 6, 1, 2, biblic	al passages TBA

Eighth-Century Prophecy September 9th-16th *Readings*: Blenkinsopp ch. 8-12; Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah 1–39.

No class, Prof. Radine at conference

Late-Monarchic Prophecy September 18th-23rd *Readings*: Blenkinsopp 13–15, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah

No class on September 25th for Rosh Hashanah

Exilic and Post-Exilic Prophecy *Readings*: Blenkinsopp 16–24, Ezekiel, Isaiah 40–66, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Jonah

Prophecy Exam

Jewish Apocalypticism

Background and Genre *Readings*: J.J. Collins 1 October 7th

September 11th

Early Enochic Literature <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 2, Enoch readings from Redd	October 9 th -16 th lish
No class on October 14 th for Fall Break	
Daniel <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 3, Daniel Prophecy paper due	October 21 st
Related Genres and Qumran <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 4, 5, Reddish: 2 nd half of 2, a	October 23 rd -28 th ll of 3.
Similitudes of Enoch and Other Works <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 6–8; Reddish readings TBA	Oct 30 th -Nov 4 th
Jewish Apocalypticism Exam	
Christian Apocalypticism	
Jesus and Paul <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 9	November 6 th
Revelation, Apocalypse of John <i>Readings</i> : J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins,	November 11 th -13 th Hellholm, Aune, Thompson.
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Readings: J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins, Jewish apocalypticism paper due Apocalypse of Peter	Hellholm, Aune, Thompson.
Readings: J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins, Jewish apocalypticism paper due Apocalypse of Peter Readings: Reddish 243-254 Shepherd of Hermas	Hellholm, Aune, Thompson. November 18 th
Readings: J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins, Jewish apocalypticism paper due Apocalypse of Peter Readings: Reddish 243-254 Shepherd of Hermas Readings: Reddish 255-265, Osiek	Hellholm, Aune, Thompson. November 18 th November 20 th
Readings: J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins, Jewish apocalypticism paper due Apocalypse of Peter Readings: Reddish 243-254 Shepherd of Hermas Readings: Reddish 255-265, Osiek No class, Prof. Radine at conference Ascension of Isaiah and Apocalypse of Paul	Hellholm, Aune, Thompson. November 18 th November 20 th November 25 th December 2 nd
Readings: J.J. Collins 9, Revelation, A.Y. Collins, Jewish apocalypticism paper due Apocalypse of Peter Readings: Reddish 243-254 Shepherd of Hermas Readings: Reddish 255-265, Osiek No class, Prof. Radine at conference Ascension of Isaiah and Apocalypse of Paul Readings: Reddish 277-290, Himmelfarb Other Christian Apocalypses	Hellholm, Aune, Thompson. November 18 th November 20 th November 25 th December 2 nd