

**SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION 032: MILLENNIUM & APOCALYPSE
SPRING 1999**

Instructor: Catherine Murphy
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SCTR 032.11629
 Bannan 331
 MWF 1:00–2:05 p.m.
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Required Texts:

SCTR 032 Reader (selected articles and texts)	[\$35.00?]
<i>The Bible</i> , New Revised Standard Version (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)	[\$14.95]
John J. Collins, <i>The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature</i> , 2d ed. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1998; orig. 1984)	[\$30.00]
Adela Yarbro Collins, <i>The Apocalypse</i> (New Testament Message 22; Collegeville, Minnesota: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1990, orig. 1979)	[\$14.95]
Toni Morrison, <i>Sula</i> (New York: Plume, 1987, orig. 1973)	[\$11.95]

Course Description and Objectives

As the new millennium approaches, apocalyptic language is in the air. This course will focus on the characteristics of the ancient Judeo-Christian literary genre “apocalypse.” We will begin by exploring the literary precursors to the apocalyptic genre in ancient Israel, Babylon, Persia and Greece. With the help of contemporary studies of millennial groups, we will discuss the social forces that contributed to the growth of apocalyptic movements. Then we will turn to classical apocalyptic works to see how and why the literature developed and eventually died out. The course will conclude with some attention to recent literature and movements. Students will develop appreciation for the features of apocalyptic literature, its characteristic motifs and themes, the social origins of apocalyptic movements, and the various ways that apocalyptic themes are interpreted as cultural resources today.

Course Requirements*Attendance & Informed Class Participation*

Students are expected to be present and on time. Should illness or circumstance necessitate absence, please notify the professor in advance of or soon after the class. Notice renders the absence excused; lack of notice constitutes an unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences without penalty are allowed. With three unexcused absences, the student has missed 10% of the course and can earn at most a grade of B-, regardless of the completion of assigned work. Six unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Excused absences affect the grade at half the rate of unexcused absences.

Class participation will be assessed regularly by several means: daily roll, occasional quizzes, and verbal participation. 25% of grade.

*Critical Inquiry**In-Class Presentation of Apocalyptic Text*

In a group with two other students, you will prepare and present a 10-minute in-class introduction to one of the texts we are studying. Student groups will receive a common grade for the quality of the oral presentation. Specific directions for the presentations are included in the Course Reader. 10% of grade.

Research Paper

Each student is responsible to write a research paper exploring the relationship between the apocalyptic scriptures of the past and a contemporary issue. Possible topics and specific directions are included in the Course Reader; you may also develop another option in consultation with the professor. The essay will be submitted in stages, beginning with a prospectus in the 2nd week and ending with the submission of the completed paper in the 9th week (complete schedule in Course Reader). 25% of grade.

Examinations

Two exams are scheduled. Each exam is cumulative of material covered up to that point in the course. Midterm exam 1 hour (15%), final exam 2–3 hours (25%). 40% of grade.

Grading

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation (attendance, verbal participation, quizzes)	25%
In-Class Presentation	10%
Research Paper	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam (cumulative)	25%

Grading Scale

93.5–100	A	86.7–89.9	B+	76.7–79.9	C+	66.7–69.9	D+
90.0–93.4	A-	83.3–86.6	B	73.3–76.6	C	60.0–66.6	D
		80.0–83.2	B-	70.0–73.2	C-		

Plagiarism Policy

Students are expected to collaborate to share ideas, resources, and questions. This sharing becomes plagiarism when the student presents as original the insights or work of another. Work on research essays and exams is expected to be original to each student. Reliance on other authors should be fully documented in the standard format presented in the Course Reader (pp. xxvi–xxvii). Failure to abide by the spirit and letter of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Wk	Date	Pages of Reading	Topic of Lecture & Discussion
1	3/29		INTRODUCTIONS
UNIT 1. BACKGROUND OF APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE			
	3/31	[39]	APOCALYPSE AS LITERATURE, APOCALYPSE AS HISTORY <u>Secondary Readings:</u> Reader 1-19; Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 1-21
	4/2		<i>Holiday: Good Friday–Easter</i>
2	4/5	[23]	THE GENESIS OF APOCALYPTIC: JEWISH PROPHECY AND WISDOM <u>Primary Reading:</u> Isaiah 6–7; 24–27; 56–66; Zechariah 9–14 <u>Secondary Reading:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 21-6
	4/7	[37]	THE GENESIS OF APOCALYPTIC: BABYLONIAN, PERSIAN AND HELLENISTIC INFLUENCES <u>Primary:</u> Reader 20-45 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 26-37
			➤ Sign-ups for In-Class Group Presentations
	4/7-8		➤ Library Sessions: Tools for Religious Studies Research, 4:00–5:00 p.m., Library Classroom in SE corner of Reference Room
	4/9	[42]	THE GENESIS OF APOCALYPTIC: THE SOCIAL SETTING <u>Secondary:</u> Reader 46-65; Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 37-42
			➤ Prospectus for Research Paper due
UNIT 2. JEWISH APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE			
3	4/12	[41]	1 ENOCH: THE BOOK OF THE WATCHERS <u>Primary:</u> Reader 66-74 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 43-59
	4/14	[23]	1 ENOCH: THE ASTRONOMICAL BOOK AND THE APOCALYPSE OF WEEKS <u>Primary:</u> Reader 75-82 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 59-65

Wk	Date	Pages of Reading	Topic of Lecture & Discussion
3	4/16	[28]	JUBILEES <u>Primary:</u> Reader 83-93 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 79-84 P Quiz #1
4	4/19	[24]	DANIEL <u>Primary:</u> Daniel 1-5 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 85-98
	4/21	[54]	DANIEL <u>Primary:</u> Daniel 6-12; Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 3-29 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 98-115 P Research Paper Stage 1 due
	4/23	[31]	SYBILLINE ORACLES <u>Primary:</u> Reader 94-103 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 116-27 P Class will not meet today. Simply do the readings. We will discuss them in class on Monday.
5	4/26	[33]	TESTAMENTS <u>Primary:</u> Reader 104-111 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 127-44

4/28 P MIDTERM EXAM

UNIT 3. APOCALYPTICISM AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

4/30	[29]	QUMRAN: AN APOCALYPTIC COMMUNITY? <u>Primary:</u> Reader 112-22 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 145-57
6	5/3	[33] QUMRAN AND THE INTERPRETATION OF PAST PROPHECY <u>Primary:</u> Reader 123-35 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 157-66
	5/5	[34] QUMRAN AND THE END OF DAYS <u>Primary:</u> Reader 136-46 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 166-76

UNIT 4. CHRISTIAN APOCALYPTICISM

	5/7	[60] EARLY CHRISTIAN APOCALYPTICISM <u>Primary:</u> 1-2 Thessalonians; 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Acts 2; 4:1-5:11 <u>Secondary:</u> Reader 147-71; Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 264-8
7	5/10	[59] GOSPEL OF MARK <u>Primary:</u> Mark 1-8; Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 30-66 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 256-64

Wk	Date	Pages of Reading	Topic of Lecture & Discussion
7	5/12	[33]	GOSPEL OF MARK <u>Primary:</u> Mark 9–16:8; Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 67-85 ➤ Quiz #2
	5/14	[42]	REVELATION <u>Primary:</u> Revelation 1–3 <u>Secondary:</u> A. Collins, <i>Apocalypse</i> ix-xiv, 3-31
8	5/17	[51]	REVELATION <u>Primary:</u> Revelation 4–11 <u>Secondary:</u> A. Collins, <i>Apocalypse</i> 32-75
	5/19	[43]	REVELATION <u>Primary:</u> Revelation 12–16 <u>Secondary:</u> A. Collins, <i>Apocalypse</i> 79-116
	5/21	[45]	REVELATION <u>Primary:</u> Revelation 17–22 <u>Secondary:</u> A. Collins, <i>Apocalypse</i> 116-153 ➤ Research Paper Stage 2 due
9	5/24	[37]	CATASTROPHE AND RESPONSE: THE FALL OF THE SECOND TEMPLE <u>Primary:</u> Baruch 4:5–5:9 (NRSV), Reader 172-80 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 194-212
	5/26	[50]	APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE FROM THE DIASPORA <u>Primary:</u> Reader 181-200 <u>Secondary:</u> Collins, <i>Apocalyptic Imagination</i> 241-51
UNIT 5. THE AFTERLIFE OF APOCALYPTIC			
	5/28	[45]	THE AFTERLIFE OF APOCALYPTIC: DEVELOPMENTS IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY <u>Primary:</u> Reader 201; Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 89-111 <u>Secondary:</u> Reader 202-235 [202-214 will be distributed in class]
10	5/31		<i>Holiday: Memorial Day</i>
	6/2	[64]	SULA <u>Primary:</u> Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 112-49 <u>Secondary:</u> Reader 237-44 ➤ Last Day to submit Research Papers
	6/4	[41]	SULA <u>Primary:</u> Morrison, <i>Sula</i> 150-74 <u>Secondary:</u> Reader 245-59
	6/9		➤ FINAL EXAM, Wednesday, June 9, 1999, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.