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:
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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>93–100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90–92</td>
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<td>87–89</td>
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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 Otherworldly 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 Otherworldly Journey**

Week 3
9/5  
**Labor Day (no class)**

9/7  
**Enoch and the Otherworldly Journey**

9/9  
**Enoch and Pseudonymity; Jubilees**
Collins: chapter 2 (pp 62-84)
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
        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
        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
    Collins: chapter 9 (pp 269-79), Epilogue
    Reddish: “The Apocalypse of Peter”; “The Ascension of Isaiah”
    Bible: Mark 13; Book of Revelation
12/2   Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses

Week 16
12/5   Early Christianity: New Testament Apocalypses
12/7   EXAM 2