UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2013  
Instructor: Christopher Brenna  
Course #: THEO 2110  
Sections: 101, 102  
Course Title: New Testament Selected Books  
Variable Topic: The Apocalypse of John

Description:

The Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse of John, is perhaps the strangest book in the New Testament. Filled with esoteric symbols which describe cataclysmic events, it has been interpreted in a myriad of different ways throughout history. In this course, we will try to understand the Book of Revelation as an example of apocalyptic literature. We will devote ourselves to understanding this genre principally through reading other examples of it, both in the ancient world and in our own modern context.

That means we'll be reading books written very long ago, such as the Apocalypse of Abraham, the Ascension of Isaiah, and 1 Enoch. But we'll also be looking at modern apocalypses, expressed in literature and film, and at apocalyptic movements. Ultimately, through what we learn about the Book of Revelation and the apocalyptic genre, you'll have an opportunity to interpret your favorite apocalypse and maybe even try your hand at writing your own.

There will be mid-term and final exams, six short quizzes, and one final 3-4 page paper.