SEMESTER: Fall 2022

COURSE TITLE: Major Theological and Religious Thinker

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 4090 01

TIMES/DAYS: MW 1:45-3:25

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Emanuel

CORE AREA:

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

SUBJECT: Biblical Prophets and Apocalyptic Thinkers

This course introduces students to major prophetic and apocalyptic biblical thinkers. In biblical context, prophets were people who claimed to speak on behalf of their god. Apocalyptic thinkers were those who claimed to have visions of cosmic truths, sometimes about the end of the world. Throughout this course, students will study major thinkers such as Amos, Hosea, Ezekiel, Jesus, and Paul. In doing so, special attention will be given to intertextuality—that is, the ways in which any singular prophetic and/or apocalyptic thinker relied on the works of others in making his own claims. Indeed, much like the multivocality of the singular “The Bible” more broadly, when it comes to biblical prophecy and apocalypse, one thinker is really enmeshed in an ongoing conversation with multiple thinkers. Alongside the topic of multivocality, themes of good and evil and ideas about the end of the world will also be discussed.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To develop a vocabulary to discuss the perspectives and goals of biblical prophets and apocalyptic thinkers;
2. To discuss the relationship between prophecy and apocalypse;
3. To gain familiarity with the textual complexities of prophetic and apocalyptic writings;
4. To discuss the relationship among thinker, text, context, and reader;
5. To think about the ways in which prophets and apocalyptic thinkers might have been significant to their communities of origin;
6. To consider prophetic and apocalyptic influences on contemporary culture;
7. To engage thinkers closely, attending to the multivocality and multiplicity of meaning.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance and Participation 15%
2. Reading Responses 25%
3. Final Projects* 60%
   *This includes:
   3a. 2-page proposals (10%)
   3b. In-Class Presentations (15%)
   3c. 3-page project write-ups (10%)
   3d. Final projects proper (25%)