



COURSE INFORMATION:

Title: **End of Days—Apocalypse Across the Ages**



uafapocalypse.blogspot.com

(official course website—required)



twitter.com/uafapocalypse

(extra credit—optional)

- Meeting Times/Dates: Fall 2012 (Oct 10–Nov 7), Wednesdays 6:00–9:00pm
- Location: BRKS 302 @UAF main campus
- Department/Number: RELG-F193 [TE3] (CRN 78833)
- Credits: 1 (one)
- Prerequisites: none

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Dr. Paul Korchin

Office Location: none (adjunct faculty)
Telephone: **907-374-8870** (before 10pm)

Office Hours: by appointment
E-Mail: **pdkorchin@alaska.edu**

COURSE READINGS / MATERIALS:

Course Textbook: *End of Days—Essays on the Apocalypse from Antiquity to Modernity*
Author: Karolyn Kinane & Michael A. Ryan, editors
Publisher: McFarland & Company; Jefferson, North Carolina

Supplementary Readings: Relevant texts, articles, and audio/visual materials will be provided via the course website and/or photocopied handouts.

Supplies Required: Computer with internet access (available @ UAF, CTC campuses).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study into the origins and interpretive history of Abrahamic religious traditions dealing with the end-time. What were the ancient sociocultural circumstances out of which Jewish, Christian, and Muslim apocalypticism developed? In what manners do nonscriptural end-time narratives and images compare/contrast with those found in the Bible and the Quran? How and why have Biblical and Quranic apocalyptic traditions been (mis)appropriated during later eras, including our own?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES:

By the conclusion of this course, the diligent student will be knowledgeable about the societal origins and textual sources of eschatological, apocalyptic, and millenarian imaginings within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The attentive student will gain insight into the historical circumstances and mentalities that fueled such imaginings, as well as the contemporary dynamics which perpetuate them. The dedicated student will also be able to reflect critically upon various social and cultural ramifications of end-time theologies amid the 21st Century.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Within the classroom, this course will be conducted in a lecture–seminar format, featuring presentations and questions by the instructor designed to engage the students in productive conversations about the material and topics at hand. Visual media will be incorporated (chiefly PowerPoint slides) to provide a more vivid context for reflection and engagement. The instructor and students will also undertake critical readings of primary source texts, along with relevant secondary literature. Beyond the classroom, this course will maintain blogging and micro-blogging sites in order to foster a more sustained and vibrant intellectual dialogue about the subject matter. Postings will include relevant multimedia sources, class discussion threads, and course logistics.

COURSE CALENDAR:**OCT 10: JUDAISM AMID THE END-TIMES*****Apocalypse in and beyond the Jewish Bible*****Assignment:**

- Kinane & Ryan, 27–46 (Starnes, *Ancient Visions*)
- Online postings & feedback

OCT 17: CHRISTIANITY AMID THE END-TIMES***Apocalypse in and beyond the Christian Bible*****Assignment:**

- Kinane & Ryan, 67–86 (Morrison, ‘*Seeing*’ the Apocalyptic City)
- Kinane & Ryan, 103–119 (Gómez-Galisteo, *Flight from the Apocalypse*)

- Online postings & feedback
- >> **Final Project assignment (DUE by 11:59pm on Wed Nov 21st, 2012)** <<

OCT 24: **ISLAM AMID THE END-TIMES**

Apocalypse in and beyond the Quran

Assignment:

- Kinane & Ryan, 47–66 (Poole, *Beatus of Liébana*)
- Kinane & Ryan, 142–172 (Reisenauer, ‘*Tidings out of the East*’)
- Online postings & feedback

OCT 31ST: **HEIRS TO THE END-TIMES**

Setting and Resetting the Apocalyptic Clock

Assignment:

- Kinane & Ryan, 199–220 (Mohamad, *Protestant Evangelicals...Israel*)
- Kinane & Ryan, 265–286 (Pautz, *End-Times Narratives...Far Right*)
- Online postings & feedback

NOV 7TH: **THE END-TIMES AMID OUR TIMES**

Apocalypse Now—Are We There Yet?

Assignment:

- Kinane & Ryan, 287–308 (Schaefer, *The ‘Left Behind’ Series*)
- Kinane & Ryan, 349–368 (Mulligan, *Zombie Apocalypse*)
- Online postings & feedback

COURSE POLICIES:

For those who enroll in this course for credit, consistent and prompt attendance are mandatory, as well as timely completion of the weekly reading and online assignments, as well as the final project. All students are required to exhibit an engaged intellectual curiosity and respectfulness toward the subject matter and fellow class participants, both in the classroom and online. Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are intolerable, and will be forwarded to the appropriate college authorities for disciplinary measures (*consult the course website for proper citation methods, and for guidance about avoiding plagiarism*).

EVALUATION:

Auditing is permitted (the student *must formally* notify the UAF Registrar of this status). Letter grades for credit will be determined according to the following formula:

20%—**Attendance**—promptness & consistency; unexcused absences cost 12 points each; unexcused late arrivals/early departures cost 6 points each.

30%—**Participation**—class discussion (15%): frequency, relevance, depth of questions, comments, engagement with instructor & colleagues about lectures & readings; online feedback (15%): frequency & substance of reactions/reflections about

course website postings (3x/week = A–B; 2x/week = B–C; 1x/week = C–D; 0x/week = F).

50% — Final Project — a 6–8 page critical reflection paper (double-spaced text, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, with proper grammar, spelling, citations); students will have a choice from among a limited number of relevant topics/motifs provided and/or approved by the instructor; grading rubric distributed between structure, content, depth; *an unexcused late paper will receive a failing grade.*

According to the following scale:

A+	98–100
A	94–97
A-	91–93
B+	88–90
B	84–87
B-	81–83
C+	78–80
C	74–77
C-	71–73
D+	68–70
D	64–67
D-	61–63
F	0–60

SUPPORT SERVICES:

UAF Academic Advising Center @509 Gruening Building (main campus). Services for degree seeking and non-degree seeking students. Visit www.uaf.edu/advising on the web or contact via phone (907-474-6396) or e-mail (uaf.advising@alaska.edu).

UAF Writing Center @801 Gruening Building (main campus). Tutor-provided assistance with all stages of the academic writing process. Visit www.alaska.edu/english/writing-center on the web or contact via phone (907-474-5314).

DISABILITY SERVICES:

UAF Disability Services Office @208 Whitaker Building (main campus). A part of UAF's Center for Health and Counseling, providing academic accommodations to enrolled and eligible students. Visit www.uaf.edu/disability on the web or contact via phone (907-474-5655) or e-mail (uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu).