

Reading the Apocalypse

RL385E/RL585E

Spring 2013

Wednesdays 6:30-9:15pm



Learning to read the Apocalypse is no easy task; it is strange in so many ways, made even stranger by wild interpretations proposed by would-be prophets of the end times. We will learn to read it in a disciplined way by doing successive readings: first naïvely, then as a literary narrative, as a social critique, and as a historical document; our final reading will be a public oral performance. Along the way we will address questions of the meaning of meaning, the necessity of polyvalence, and the importance of a critical stance—especially a feminist critique of gender and an ethical critique of righteous violence.

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