**DRAFT v1**
**Subject to change. Full syllabus available in Canvas week of March 17, 2027**

**Loyola Institute for Ministry**
**Loyola University New Orleans**

# Biblical Apocalyptic, Prophecy, and Wisdom
# RELM 411-YZ1
**Spring 2027**

**Instructor:** Rev. Moses Gordon
**Email:** msgordon@loyno.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment, email to set up a meeting

**Important:** Please check your Canvas course and/or your Loyola email account for an email from the instructor alerting you the course is open, then reply to that email confirming you are ready to begin the course.

## Course Overview

This course examines the biblical genres of prophecy, wisdom, and apocalyptic; their intersections; and their implications for today. This course presumes some background on the Bible.

## Key Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to

- draw on biblical scholarship to understand the complexity of the biblical genres of prophecy, wisdom, and apocalyptic, their similarities and differences.
- reflect critically on cultural appropriations of these genres throughout history.
- draw implications of these genres for one's own life and for social and environmental justice.

## Required Books

*Please order the required text as soon as possible from the bookstore of your choice.*

*The Catholic Study Bible*, 3rd Edition (Oxford, 2016). 0190267232. (CSB)

Brown, William P. *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*. Eerdmans, 2014. 0802867936. This book is available in Canvas as an ebook whose pages you may download.

Stulman, Louis and Hyun Chul Paul Kim. *You are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. Abingdon, 2010. 0687465656. This book is available in

Canvas as an ebook whose pages you may download.

Handouts and other material on Canvas, through the Monroe Library, or on the Internet.

## Evaluation and Course Requirements

### Sequence of Topics/Calendar of Assignments

Assigned readings, videos, and discussion items are provided in the weekly modules of the Canvas course. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. of each week, unless otherwise noted. You are expected to post or submit assignments by the due date. If you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date to discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Submission of late assignments or failure to submit assignments is unacceptable and will result in points deducted from your final course grade and could result in course failure.

| Week | Topic | Assignments |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1:<br>March 22–28 | Prophets 1<br>Easter Holiday: March 25-29 | • Initial Understanding<br>• Personal Introduction<br>• Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Question |
| Week 2:<br>March 29– | Prophets 2<br>Easter Holiday: March 29 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Questions |
| Week 3:<br>April 5–11 | Prophets 3/Wisdom 1 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Questions<br>• Prayer Journal 1 Due |
| Week 4:<br>April 12–18 | Wisdom 2 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Questions<br>• Midterm Paper |
| Week 5:<br>April 19–25 | Wisdom 3 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Small Group Meeting |
| Week 6:<br>April 26–May 2 | Apocalyptic 1 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Questions<br>• Final Exam Review available |
| Week 7:<br>May 3–9 | Apocalyptic 2 | • Assigned readings/media<br>• Discussion Questions 1 and 2<br>• Prayer Journal 2 Due |
| Week 8:<br>May 10–16 | Final Exam | • Complete final exam |

**Mid-Term Grades:** Due on date TBA
**Final Exam:** a 3-hour window of your choice May 12–13
**Final Grades:** Due for posting by 11:59 pm on May 18

**Week 1 Assignments**

- Do First: Initial Understanding, ****Due March 24****
- Complete Personal Introduction (assignment in Canvas)
- Stuhlman, Introduction, chapters 1-3
- Polan, "Lectio Divina: Reading and Praying the Word of God"

**Assessment**

Each student's final grade will include the following parts:

| | | Percentage of Grade |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Full, Active and Conscious Participation on Discussion Board | 39% |
| 2 | Small Group | 6% |
| 3 | Initial Understanding | 10% |
| 4 | Midterm Paper | 15% |
| 5 | Final Exam | 20% |
| 6 | Prayer Assignment | 10% |

**1) Full, Active and Conscious Participation on Discussion Board (39%)**

For <u>each</u> Discussion assignment, students are required to make three (3) posts: a major post in which they respond to the question posted, and two (2) minor posts in which they respond to two (2) of the major posts made by their fellow students. Complete details in Canvas.

**2) Small Group (6%)**

Students will be organized into smaller groups to host your own virtual learning session that should last for at least one hour with other members of your group to discuss this week's assigned material in light of the discussion questions on Canvas. Complete details in Canvas.

**3) Initial Understanding (15%)**

In Week 1 students compose an entry about their initial thoughts and assumptions about some of the things studied in this course. Complete details in Canvas.

**4) Midterm Paper (15%)**

Students will develop their understanding of biblical prophets and relate that to their understanding of contemporary prophets. Complete details in Canvas.

**5) Final Exam (20%)**

The open-book final exam takes place for 3 hours between 6 pm Central Time Wednesday, May 7 and 11:59 pm Central Time Thursday, May 8. You will select the 3-hour time slot in which you'll take the exam. Complete details in Canvas.

**6) Prayer Assignment (15%)**

Students will engage in prayer throughout the course and will submit two prayer response assignments. Each will be either a synthesis or highlight(s) of your prayer experience. Complete details in Canvas.

**Grading Scale**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A** | 93-100 | **B-** | 80-82.9 | **D+** | 67-69.9 |
| **A-** | 90-92.9 | **C+** | 77-79.9 | **D** | 63-66.9 |
| **B+** | 87-89.9 | **C** | 73-76.9 | **F** | 0-62.99 |
| **B** | 83-86.9 | **C-** | 70-72.9 | | |

## Course Policies

### Incomplete Grade Policy

Students are subject to the university policy regarding incomplete grades with the following additions to university policy. Grades of Incomplete are given at the instructor's discretion. Students must complete LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources » Policies, Forms, & Services section of their Canvas course. Students should first inquire of their instructor whether or not they are eligible for an incomplete; this must occur with sufficient time to complete the process explained here. To be eligible, students may not have received an Incomplete in the previous semester, must have completed at least 75% of the course work to date, and must have at least a C or above in the course. After the instructor makes an initial assessment of eligibility, including checking with the LIM Office to ensure there was no Incomplete in the previous semester and finds the student eligible, by the due date of the course's final assignment, a student must complete and obtain all signatures for LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources section of their Canvas course and submit it to their instructor, who will forward a copy to the LIM Director. LIM graduate students may not receive Incompletes in LIM courses in consecutive semesters.

### Attendance & Participation

Students are subject to the university policy regarding attendance found online in the *Bulletin*. Students in online courses communicate their presence by active participation in weekly discussions. Each course's instructor sets requirements for how many times

students must post on the Discussion Board in Canvas. Failing to post during the first week of class may result in removal from the course. If you foresee that you will be unable to post in a given week, please contact the instructor ahead of time. Extensions for posting are given at the instructor's discretion and for a valid reason may be granted if arranged ahead of time. In extraordinary circumstances, students may arrange with their instructor to post up to two weeks after a deadline, though this may entail a grade reduction. Posts and other assignments submitted more than two weeks late may be subject to a grade of zero. If students do not post in a given week, they are considered absent. Absence for more than one week without contacting the instructor may result in removal from and failure of the course.

Tentatively, there will be two **optional video conferences** during the course. To participate, students will need access to a computer with a web camera and microphone, and earphones or earbuds. More information will be included in the Canvas course.

## University Policies

Please read Part 2 of the syllabus (located in Canvas) for university policies on plagiarism, AI, accessible education, and more.