OBJECTIVES: To understand the diversity of religious patterns that scholars have termed millennialism, the expectation of an imminent transition to a collective state of salvation either earthly or heavenly. Significant millennial patterns include catastrophic millennialism (apocalypticism), progressive millennialism, and nativist millennial movements (which can be either catastrophic or progressive). Among millennial groups that become involved in violence, three types will be distinguished: assaulted millennial groups, fragile millennial groups, and revolutionary millennial groups. This study of millennialism will be cross-cultural with an emphasis on recent and contemporary movements.

Texts:


Catherine Wessinger, How the Millennium Comes Violently: From Jonestown to Heaven’s Gate (Seven Bridges Press, 2000). WESSINGER on ERES (Ereserves)

Additional articles on Ereserves (ERES).

To get to Ereserves, go to http://library.loyno.edu; select reserves; select Electronic Reservations; select Wessinger. You will see a folder for Millennium Seminar. The chapters of WESSINGER in pdf format are located in a folder here.

T Jan. 13 Introductory Class
Discuss objectives of class, syllabus, course requirements, basic terms.

R Jan. 15 Definition of Categories of Millennialism
T Jan. 20  Introduction to American Millennialism

R Jan. 22  website construction class – room to be announced
(Instructor out for surgery.)

T Jan. 27  TERM PAPER TOPICS APPROVED BY THIS DATE.
Early Christian, Medieval, and Reformation Millennialism

R Jan. 29  Christian Dispensationalism
VIDEO IN CLASS: “60 Minutes: Zion’s Christian Soldiers”

T Feb. 3  Catholic Millennialism
HUNT: Massimo Introvigne, “En Route to the Marian Kingdom: Catholic Apocalypticism and the Army of Mary,” 149-65.
WOJCIK: “Apocalyptic Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in New York City,” 60-96.

R Feb. 5  Pentecostal Millennialism
HUNT: Margaret Poloma, “The Millenarianism of the Pentecostal Movement,” 166-86.
Hebraist Millennial Movements

T Feb. 10  EXAM #1
R Feb. 12  **Apocalyptic Violence**  

T Feb. 17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE OF TERM PAPER ARE DUE. 10 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE PAPER’S FINAL GRADE IF THESE ARE NOT TURNED IN ON THIS DATE.**  
Seventh-day Adventism  
Branch Davidians  

R Feb. 19 **Branch Davidians**  
GUEST: Lee Hancock,  *Dallas Morning News*  
VIEW outside of class (see Viewings Schedule): “Waco: The Rules of Engagement”  
READ: Articles by Lee Hancock posted on BLACKBOARD.  

T Feb. 24 Off – Mardi Gras

R Feb. 26 Off- Mardi Gras break

T Mar. 2 **Revolutionary Millennial Movements: Taiping Rebellion and the Euro-American Nativist Movement**  

R Mar. 4 **Alternative and New Age Millennialism**  

T Mar. 9 **UFO Millennialism**  
WOJCIK: chapter eight, “Emergent Apocalyptic Beliefs about UFOs and Extraterrestrial Beings,” 175-208.

R Mar. 11  Aum Shinrikyo

(F Mar. 12 – MID-TERM GRADES DUE)

T Mar. 16  ROUGH DRAFT OF TERM PAPER IS DUE. 10 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE PAPER’S FINAL GRADE IF THE ROUGH DRAFT IS NOT TURNED IN ON THIS DATE.
A Violent Catholic Millennial Group: Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God
RESERVE DESK (HARD COPY): Article by John Walliss on the MRTCG forthcoming in Nova Religio.

R Mar. 18  Apocalyptic Sources for al-Qaida
ERES: David Cook, “Suicide Attacks or ‘Martyrdom Operations’ in Contemporary Jihad Literature,” Nova Religio, 7-44.

T Mar. 23  Chinese Pacifist Millennialists Court Martyrdom

R Mar. 25  Secular Apocalypticism

T Mar. 30  Apocalyptic Themes in Movies: “The Matrix”
VIEW: “The Matrix” outside of class (see Viewings schedule).
R Apr. 1  
**Nazi Millennialism**
VIEW: “Triumph of the Will” by Leni Riefenstahl outside of class (see Viewings schedule).

T Apr. 6  
NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

R Apr. 8  
NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

T Apr. 13  
**When Prophecy Fails**

R Apr. 15  
**Conclusions**
WESSINGER: 282-84.

T Apr. 20  
EXAM #2

R Apr. 22  
**TERM PAPERS ARE DUE. 10 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR LATE PAPERS. TO BE ON TIME, TWO HARD COPIES MUST BE TURNED INTO THE INSTRUCTOR AND THE TERM PAPER MUST BE UPLOADED TO THE STUDENT’S WEBSITE BY THIS DATE.**
Student Presentations

T Apr. 27  
Student Presentations

R Apr. 29  
Student Presentations

T May 4  
Student Presentations

EXAM  
Tuesday, May 11, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The 3 exams (50 pts. each) count half of the final grade. The remaining half of the final grade will consist of the term paper (50 pts.), discussion in class (50 pts), and discussion on the discussion board (50 pts).

GRADING SCALE:  A - 92%; B - 83%; C - 71%; D - 65%.

There will be no make-up exams except in cases of severe illness or if there is a family emergency. In either case, the instructor should be notified at once.

The course is a seminar, therefore discussion in this course is essential. The discussion grade also will be determined by the student’s attendance record. The discussion grade will include a 10-minute presentation of the student’s research and class discussion of that research at the end of the semester.

In order to continue discussions beyond the classroom and to promote further consideration of the materials, a discussion board will be set up on Blackboard. To get credit for full participation on the discussion board, the student should log on at least twice a week and leave a thoughtful message: observations, questions, sharing news articles. Students should feel free to initiate their own threads (discussion themes); the instructor will post new threads relating to each class.

The research paper should be 10-12 pages typed and double-spaced. The instructor must approve the student’s term paper topic. The topic must be one for which there are adequate resources for a substantive research paper. Bearing this consideration in mind, the student will have freedom to select a topic relating to millennialism in which she or he has a particular interest. At the end of the semester, the term papers will be put on reserve in the library and content from the term papers will be part of the final exam.

The Internet is an abundant source of information on millennial groups. Students will be encouraged to utilize the Internet in researching their papers and to share information about relevant Web sites with the class.

A bibliography and outline of the term paper are to be turned in on **February 17**. Students are to keep the instructor informed of their progress on the research paper. A rough draft of the term paper is required to be turned in on **March 16** for comments by the instructor. The final draft of the term paper is on **April 22**, the first date of class presentations. To be on time, the term paper must be uploaded to the student’s website and two hard copies turned into the instructor on this date. **Ten points will be deducted from the grade of a paper when the deadlines are not kept.**

Since most of the assigned readings relate to “catastrophic millennialism” (the expectation that there will be a catastrophic transition to the imminent collective salvation), the students will be encouraged, but not required, to research examples of “progressive millennialism” (the expectation that there will be a noncatastrophic but still imminent transition to the collective salvation) for their term papers. Progressive millennialism is understudied by scholars, but it is a significant millennial pattern.