

Bruce Springsteen's Theologies

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Azzan Yadin-Israel, SAS - Jewish Studies

MTH 09:50-11:10A

Honors College Seminar Room S124

College Ave Campus

The course offers a close analysis of the biblical and theological motifs found throughout Bruce Springsteen's lyrics. The first part of the course will be devoted to Springsteen's critical employment of religious motifs in early songs such as "Lost in the Flood" and "It's Hard to Be a Saint in the City," his attempt to offer a this-worldly model of redemption in "Thunder Road," and his rejection of model in the album /Darkness on the Edge of Town/. The second part will examine two key motifs that recur in a number of albums after /Darkness/: sin and redemption. The third part of the course, "Springsteen's Midrash," focuses on songs that engage and re-imagine biblical stories. Among these songs are "Adam Raised a Cain," "Into the Fire," and "Jesus was an Only Son." Each song is examined against the backdrop of the relevant biblical passages and theological motifs.

AZZAN YADIN-ISRAEL is professor of Jewish Studies, where he focuses on early rabbinic literature, and Classics, where he teaches Plato.