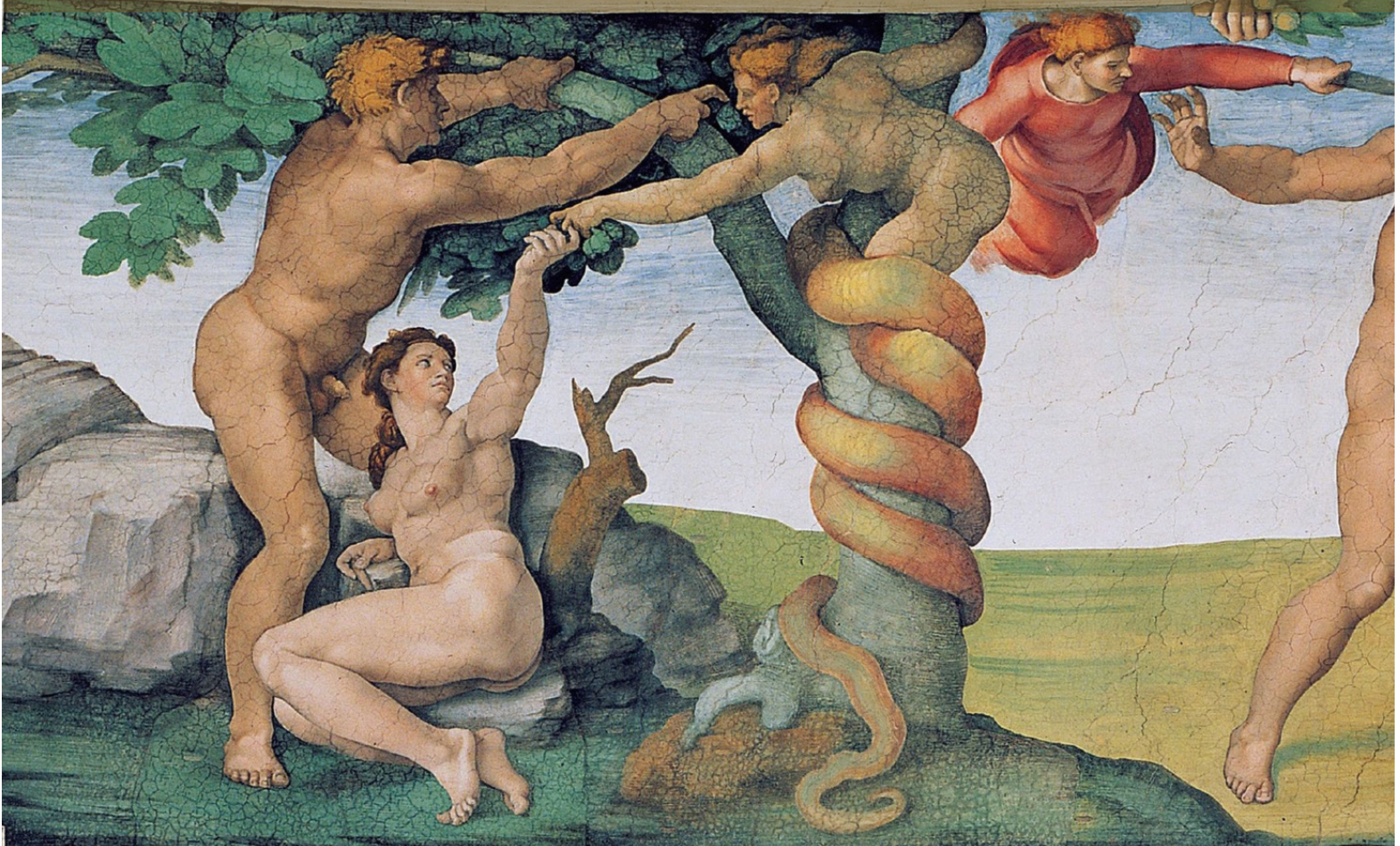


SEX AND THE SACRED

THE INTERTWINING OF FAITH AND INTIMACY FROM THE TIME OF MOSES TO THE EARLY RENAISSANCE

Fall 2024 Seminar (HUMC 394-01)



Fall 2021 Seminar: HUMC 394-01

Dates: Tuesdays at 2 - 3:50 p.m.
September 10 - October 22

Instructor: Michael J. Gonzalez, PhD
Department of History
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Details: One (1) unit of credit
Pass/fail only
No prerequisites or technical skills required.
Open to all upper division students.



What is intimacy? What is natural for human intimacy? How does Judaism establish patterns for Christianity and Islam to describe faith in intimate terms? How do early Christians reject Graeco-Roman ideas about sexuality? How did the three monotheistic faiths regard same-sex relationships? What is the purpose of marriage? How does faith unite body and soul?

There is a long tradition in which Jews, Christians, and Muslims used heterosexual, and sometimes, same sex, references to celebrate their union with the divine. Some scholars say the references in sacred texts reflect pagan influence. But others note that while pagan influence cannot be ignored, from antiquity to the early renaissance, many Jews, Christians, and Muslims used sexual imagery to describe their faith. This class will discuss how and why human intimacy, from same-sex love to the ties between men and women, earns mention in sacred texts. One only needs to know what to look for.