

Anthropology/Religion/Women's Studies 356: Women and Religion

Fall, 2007

SYLLABUS IN PROGRESS Subject to change WITH notice

MWF 8:30 Webster 112

Instructor: Nancy Kleiber, Ph.D.
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In this course we will examine women's religious experiences from the perspective of the individual participants, the lay and professional practitioners, and the religious institutions in a variety of cultural traditions, including our own. We will use anthropological and feminist methodologies and analytical tools, and include our own experiences as part of the material to be studied.

Required Texts:

Anderson, Leona M., and Pamela Dickey Young [eds.]
2004 Women and Religious Traditions. Oxford University Press.
ISBN 0-19-541754-2 PAPERBACK

Falk, Nancy Auer, and Rita M. Gross
2001. Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives. [3rd edition] Wadsworth Thompson Learning, Belmont, Ca. ISBN 0-534-51570-3. PAPERBACK

Young, Serinity [ed.]
1993 An Anthology of Sacred Texts by and about Women. Crossroads, N.Y.
ISBN 0-8254-1418-1 PAPERBACK

Plus readings and handouts.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To develop critical and ethical thinking, research, and analytical skills with a feminist perspective.
2. To explore individual, professional, institutional and ethical issues related to women's religious experiences and expressions.
3. To acquire and demonstrate skills in evaluating theoretical and factual materials relating to women and religion
4. To experience individual and team research projects and presentations of issues in women and religion.

PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION:

1. Attendance and participation are required. Students who are late to class, or miss classes, may have their grades lowered. Readings **MUST** be done in preparation for **EVERY** class period. [50 points]
2. There will also be a number of field projects which will require visiting religious institutions, usually on Sunday mornings. Be sure you will have time to participate in these projects, as they are required. [Participant-observation reports 5 @ 10 points = 50 points]
3. There will be **THREE EXAMS**, providing the opportunity to synthesize and articulate your growing understanding of women and religion, as addressed by anthropological, religious and feminist scholarship. [100 points]
4. There will be **TWO** research projects, to be created by the class, with a bit of assistance/insistence from the instructor. One will focus on women's [and men's] experiences in different religious institutions, based on student participant-observation. The other will involve integrating course materials with participant observation, to provide the historical context for current developments. These will be presented in class **AND** written as scholarly papers. [100 points]

Total points: 300.

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AST = Anthology of Sacred Texts by and About Women edited by Serinity Young

UW = Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives edited by Nancy Auer Falk and Rita M. Gross

WRT = Women and Religious Traditions edited by Leona M. Anderson and Pamela Dickey Young

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Participant- Observation
Week I Aug 20 - 24	Introduction and Introductions Women, Religion and Anthro Video: <i>Need to Know</i> 19237	Women and Religion Readings: Sharma: Preface Young, K.: Introduction Video: <i>Need to Know</i> 19237	Ethnocentrism and Androcentrism Readings: Gross: Studying Women and Religion [handout]	Greek Festival Ala Moana Park Sat and Sun
Week II Aug 27 - 31	Creation Stories: Sacred Texts Sanday: Female Power, etc.	Ancient Middle East and Goddess Traditions. Reading: Ancient Near East, Greece and Rome, in AST	Participant Observation Projects Topics for Research Papers	
Week III Sept 3 - 7	All Believers' Network Symposium	Hinduism Reading: Anderson: Women in Hindu Traditions in WRT	Hinduism Reading: White: Mother Guru in UW and Hinduism in AST	Hawaii Academy of Art S Asian Gallery
Week IV Sept 10 - 14	Hinduism Reading: Jacobson: Golden Handprints; and Wadley: Hindu Women's Family . . in UW	Judaism: Rosh Hashanah/ Ramadan Reading: Kuikman: Women in Judaism in WRT	Judaism: Reading: Judaism in AST	Attend a Jewish service [High Holy Days]
Week V Sept 17 - 21	Judaism Reading: Nuedel: Innovation and Tradition in UW	Review and create questions Choose Topics for Research Papers	Exam I Yom Kippur	
Week VI Sept 24 - 28	Buddhism Reading: Neumaier: Women in the Buddhist Traditions in WRT Sept 23: Autumnal Equinox	Buddhism Rev. Jan Youth	Buddhism Readings: Buddhism in AST	Attend a service at a Buddhist temple
Week VII Oct 1 - 5	Chinese Traditions Reading: Rainey: Women in the Chinese Traditions in WRT	Chinese Traditions Reading: Nadeau: Harmonizing Family and Cosmos in UW	Japanese Traditions: Reading: Nakamura: No Women's Liberation in UW	Oct 6: Pow-Wow at Thomas Square

Week VIII Oct 8 - 12	Indigenous Traditions: Africa Reading: Binford: Julia, an East African Diviner, in UW	Indigenous Traditions: Native America Annotated Bibliography for RP	Indigenous Traditions: Pacific Islands Durga Puja begins	Attend church at Kawaiahao or a Samoan or Tongan church
Week IX Oct 15 - 19	Christian Traditions: Contested History and Relevance: Reading: Reuther: Christianity and Women in the Modern World [handout]	Christian Traditions Sister Joan Chatfield Readings: Christianity in AST Outlines for Research Papers	Christian Traditions: Reading: Young, P.: Women in Christianity in WRT	Attend a Christian service . . . NOT your own!!
Week X Oct 22 - 26	Islam Reading: Clark: Women in Islam in WRT, Islam in AST	Islam Reading: Mernissi: Women, Saints and Sanctuaries	Islam Video	Attend a service at the Mosque
Week XI Oct 29 - Nov 2	Exam II	New Age Traditions Reading: Anderson and Young: Women in New Age Traditions in WRT Halloween	New Age Traditions: Reading: Alternative Religious Movements in AST El Dia de los Muertos	Service for El Dia de los Muertos
Week XII Nov 5 - 9	Research Paper Drafts due in class, organize presentations	Research papers	Research papers Diwali	
Week XIII Nov 12 - 16	Research papers	Research papers	Research papers	
Week XIV Nov 19 - 21	Research papers	Research papers DRAFT and Final copy due. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	Thanksgiving Holiday. Give thanks!	
Week XV Nov 26 - 30	Research papers	Research papers	Research papers	
Week XVI Dec 3 -	Evaluation and create Exam III Dec 4: Hanukkah begins	Summary and conclusions Dec 6: St Nicholas		
Final Exam	7:30 - 9:30 Monday, Dec 10.			