

WOMEN AND RELIGION

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PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor:

Christine Gudorf

Phone:

(859) 740 4301

Office:

Online

Messages:

Please use Blackboard course messages

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course will examine the treatment of women within major religions of the world, theories for that treatment, and patterns of women's response, both resistance and adaptation, to their treatment within religions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Describe what the sacred texts of world religions have said about women;
- Identify what roles have been assigned to women within world religions in various time periods;
- Recognize and explain the patterns in women's religious lives and how they respond to exclusion from central areas of the tradition, or from gender-based assignments within the tradition; and
- Describe the contemporary issues of women within the religions of the world.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

Please review the [policies page](#) as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at IU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" page to find out more information on this subject.

For detailed information about the technical requirements, please [click here](#).

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information about the specific limitations with the technologies used in this course, please [click here](#).

For more information about Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment, [click here](#).

For additional assistance please contact our [Disability Resource Center](#).

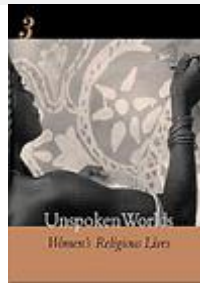
COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

This course does not have a proctored exam.

TEXTBOOK



Unspoken Worlds and 3rd Edition
Nancy Falk and Rita Greer
Wadsworth (2006)

ISBN 10: 0534515706
ISBN 13: 978-0534515706

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via [message](#)

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the Blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure they are up-to-date.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

EXAMS

Midterm (Exam 1) / Final (Exam 2) (30% each, 60% of final grade)

The Midterm & Final (Exams 1 & 2) are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of materials covered in lectures and the readings for a designated unit. Each exam is non-cumulative, and covers only the readings and lectures in that Unit only. You have only one (1) attempt to take each exam. There are two parts to each exam, an objective section with multiple choice, matching & true/false questions, and an essay section. The objective section is closely timed, like the quizzes. The essay section offers 2 hours per essay, so that you may either write your essays online, or cut and paste from pre-written essays. The list of essay questions from which the exam essays will be chosen (randomly by Blackboard) will be distributed in advance of the exam. Multiple choice questions are randomized.

across students so no two students will have the same questions. Failure to take the exam in the allotted time per will result in a zero (0) except for very serious reasons.

QUIZZES

Quizzes (Quiz average is 25% of final gra

Each student has two attempts at quizzes. The availability period for each quiz is a week. Each quiz has a total of 100 pts. You may miss one question and still have 99 pts. There are more questions in each quiz database than the 10 that appear; your second attempt may be on entirely different questions. (Remember not to touch the computer Back button within Blackboard - use the arrow to scroll backward.) Some servers may eject you from Blackboard in the middle of a quiz. This is the reason for the second attempt.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take a "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Please note assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments (15% of final gra

During the course of the semester, each student should answer the two assignment questions posted on the Course Content page. These are to be short—but well-developed and edited-- essays of 600-700 words, which must be submitted to Turnitin.com via the Assignment Dropbox. Assignment essays should reflect your grasp of the readings and lectures to date, and should present a clear and well-argued stance, whether critical or constructive. Students who desire A or B on these essays should refer to the readings and use notes (either in-text, footnotes or endnotes) to cite sources. Many, if not all, of these citations will be to course materials. Essays will be graded on three criteria: Research, Argument, and Style, each worth one third of the grade.

RULES AND POLICIES

1. No extra work is accepted; you must master the assigned material.
2. The writing assignments in the course are the exam (Exam 1 & Exam 2) essays, and the assignments; these are the principal means of integrating course material. Take them seriously.
3. Under university rules, Incompletes are only available to students who have completed the majority of work in the class. I will only give Incompletes when asked, and only when asked in advance of the end of classes.

Incompletes granted will only extend until the next semester you enroll for courses (or, if you do not return to classes will default to F under university rules after two semesters.)

4. **Make-Up Policy:** There are no automatic make-ups given in this course. All assignments are due as indicated. If some unforeseen emergency arises that prevents you from taking an exam or handing in an assignment, documentation must be provided (i.e., a summons for jury duty, letter on Physicians letterhead stating explicitly why student could not hand in assignment/take exam, etc). This documentation will be verified by contacting appropriate individuals; be sure to include contact numbers. Once verified, a decision as to how to proceed will be made by the Professor.
5. Inevitably, a number of students for various reasons will miss one or another quiz deadline. Two days before the final exam (April 19) all the quizzes will be open from 12:01 am to midnight. Immediately after this make-up window closes, all the quizzes will be made available for you to use in studying for the exams. No quiz make-ups are available at other times, regardless of reason.

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
Midterm (Exam 1)	30%
Final (Exam 2)	30%
13 Quizzes (Averaged)	25%
Two Assignments (Averaged)	15%
Total	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	Above 93	B-	80-82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 - 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 - 72	F	< 60

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS
<p>Week 1 January 12-18</p>	<p>Women in Ancient Religions I</p> <p>Read Beverly Moon ("Inanna: The Star Who Became Queen") Marija Gimbutas ("Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe") in Course Content.</p> <p>View PowerPoints "Goddesses in the Ancient Near East"</p>	<p>Take:</p> <p>Quiz 1 Goddesses in the Ancient Near East</p>
<p>Week 2 January 19-25</p>	<p>Women in Ancient Religions II</p> <p>Read Rita Gross ("Feminism's Impact on Religion and Religious Studies") in Course Content.</p> <p>View PowerPoints "Goddesses in Egypt", and "Goddesses in Greece and Crete"</p> <p>View Videos "Ancient Crete: The Minoans" and "Ancient Egypt" (Course Content: Films)</p>	<p>Take:</p> <p>Quiz 2: Goddesses Egypt/Greece/Crete</p>
<p>Week 3 January 26-Feb 1</p>	<p>Women's Religious Roles in India</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 4, 7, 8, 9</p> <p>View PowerPoints "Women in Hinduism" "Motherhood"</p>	<p>Assignment 1 Due: January 29, by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox.</p> <p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 3: Hinduism-F&G</p>
<p>Week 4 Feb 2-8</p>	<p>Women Leaders in African and Afro- Caribbean Religions</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 1, 15, 23</p> <p>View PowerPoints "Trajectory of World Religions"</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 4: African-F&G</p>
<p>Week 5 February 9-15</p>	<p>Women in Local Asian Religions</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 5, 6</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Patriarchy"</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 5: Asian Folk-F&G</p>

<p>Week 6 February 16-22</p>	<p>Women in Buddhism</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 16,19</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Women in Buddhism"</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 6: Buddhism-F&G</p>
<p>Week 7 February 23-March 1</p>	<p>Midterm Exam</p>	<p>Midterm (Exam 1) Objective and Essay</p> <p>Available: February 24, 12:00am - February 28 11:59 pm</p>
<p>Week 8 March 2-8</p>	<p>Women in Islam I</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 11, 12, 13</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Women in Islam"</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 7: Islam I-F&G</p>
<p>Week 9 March 9-15</p>	<p>Women in Islam II</p> <p>Read Weiss ("The Slow Yet Steady Path to Women's Empowerment in Pakistan") Course Content Mir Hosseini ("The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought and Strategies for Change") Course Content</p> <p>View Video "Iran Behind the Veil" (Course Content: Films)</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 8: Islam II - Weiss - Hosseini</p>
<p>Week 10 March 16-22</p>	<p>Spring Break</p>	
<p>Week 11 March 23-29</p>	<p>Women in Australian and North American Indigenous Religions,</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 24, 25</p> <p>View Video "Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime" (Course Content: Films)</p>	<p>Assignment 2</p> <p>Due: March 25 by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox</p> <p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 9: Indigenous-F&G</p>
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>Women In Contemporary Japanese New Religions / Sexist</p>	<p>Take</p>

<p>March 30-April 5</p>	<p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapter 14 Rosemary Ruether ("Sexism and God Talk") in Course Content</p> <p>View Powerpoint "The Power of Language"</p>	<p>Quiz 10: Reuther-Sayo-F&G-Power of Language</p>
<p>Week 13 April 6-12</p>	<p>Women in Christian Religions</p> <p>Read Susan Thistlethwaite, "Every Two Minutes: Battered Women and Feminist Interpretation." In Letty M. Russel, Ed., <i>Feminist Interpretation of Scripture</i> (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, Philadelphia 1985). Course Content Falk and Gross, Chapters 2, 3, 17, 22</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Women in Christianity"</p>	<p>Take Quiz 11: Christianity-F&G</p>
<p>Week 14 April 13-19</p>	<p>Women in Judaism</p> <p>Read Judith Plaskow , "Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective," in Carol Christ and Judith Plaskow, Eds., <i>Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality</i> (San Francisco: Harper, 1989) Course Content Falk and Gross, Chapter 18</p> <p>View Powerpoint "Women in Judaism"</p>	<p>Take Quiz 12: Judaism -F&G-Plaskow</p>
<p>Week 15 April 20-26</p>	<p>Women in Latin American Religions</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 10, 20, 21</p> <p>View Videos "In A Just World: Contraception, Abortion and World Religions" (Course Content: Films) "Maria Lionza: Mother, Queen, and Goddess" (Course Content: Films)</p> <p>Make-up day for Missed Quizzes April 22, 12:00am-11:59pm</p>	<p>Take Quiz 13: Latin America-F&G</p>
<p>Week 16 April 27</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>Final (Exam 2) Objective and Essay Available: April 27, 12:00am - April 29, 11:59pm</p>

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