COURSE DESCRIPTION
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.

PROFESSOR BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Gudorf received her MA, MPhil, and Phd from Columbia University in New York. She has authored 8 books in the area of religious ethics, most notably Body, Sex and Pleasure: Reconstructing Christian Sexual Ethics, as well as books in comparative ethics, environmental ethics, and religious social ethics. She is past-president of the Society of Christian Ethics, and has served on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Religious Ethics and the Journal of the American Academy of Religion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:
- Describe what the sacred texts of world religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism) have said about the nature of 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 to restriction to gender-based assignments within the tradition;
- Describe the contemporary issues of women, and the reforms they are advocating.
within the religions of the world.

Policies

Please review the policies page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable etiquette important for online courses.

This online section does not require an on-campus meeting and/or exam.

Textbook


ISBN-10: 0534515703

Expectations of this course

This is an online course, meaning that the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online 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 (forum).
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard.
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers and keep up with all assignments.
- Review and follow the course calendar.
**COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this course will take place via messages.

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 up-to-date communication.

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

**EXAMS**

**Midterm (Exam 1) / Final (Exam 2) (30% each)**

The Midterm & Final (Exams 1 & 2) are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of the materials covered in lectures and the readings for a designated unit. Each exam is non-cumulative, and covers 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 1-2 hours per essay, so that you may either write it online, or cut and paste from pre-written essays. The list of essay questions from which the exam essays will be chosen will be distributed one week 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 period will result in a zero (0) except for very serious reasons.
QUIZZES

Quizzes (Quiz average=25% of final grade)

Each student has **two attempts at each quiz**. The availability period for each quiz is a week. 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. Do not ask for a reset unless my tracking will confirm that you were ejected from both of your attempts. In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "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].

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments (Assignment average is 15% of final grade)

During the course of the semester, each student should write two essays that answer in great detail the questions posted on the Course Content page. These are short essays of 500-600 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. You may supplement course materials with outside sources (not necessary), but if you substitute outside sources for course materials, it will be assumed that you have not read and/or comprehended the course materials. Students who desire A or B on these essays should use notes to refer to the readings.
(either in-text, footnotes or endnotes) to cite sources.

Many, if not all, of these citations will be to course materials.

**RULES & POLICIES**

1. No extra work is accepted; you must master the assigned materials.

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 generally 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 the appropriate individuals; be sure to include contact numbers. Once verified, a decision as to how to proceed will be made by the Professor. Do contact the professor in case of emergency.

5. Inevitably, a number of students for various reasons will miss one or another quiz deadline. Two days before the final exam, all the quizzes, will be open from 3 pm to midnight. Immediately after this the makeup window closes, and all the quizzes, with correct answers marked, will be made available for you to use in studying for the exam. No quiz make-ups are available at other times, regardless of reason.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm (Exam 1) 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (Exam 2) 30%</td>
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<td>13 Quizzes (Averaged) 25%</td>
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<td>Three Assignments (Averaged) 15%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
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**Course Calendar**

**WEEK 1**

**June 24-30**

*Women in Ancient Religions I*

Read:
Beverly Moon, "Inanna: The Star Who Became Queen"

Marija Gimbutas ("Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe") in Course Content.

View
"Goddesses in the Ancient Near East"

Take
Quiz 1: ANE Goddesses

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**Women in Ancient Religions II**

**Read**
Rita Gross ("Feminism's Impact on Religion and Religious Studies") in Course Content.

View
Powerpoints: Goddesses in Egypt, and Goddesses in Greece and Crete (Course Content)

Films: Ancient Crete: The Minoans and Ancient Egypt (Course Content)

Take
Quiz 2: Goddesses Egypt/Greece/Crete

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**WEEK 2**

July 1-7

**Women's Religious Roles in India**

**Read**
Falk and Gross, Chapters 4, 7, 8, 9

View Powerpoints: Motherhood and Women in Hinduism

Assignment
Take Quiz 3: Hinduism-F&G

Women Leaders in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions

Read
Falk and Gross, Chapters 1, 15, 23

View
"Trajectory of World Religions"

Take
Quiz 4: African-F&G

Due: Assignment 1 by July 7, by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox.

WEEK 3

July 8-14

Women in Local Asian Religions

Read
Falk and Gross, Chapters 5, 6

View
"Patriarchy"

Take
Quiz 5: Asian Folk-F&G

Women in Buddhism
Read
Falk and Gross, Chapters 16, 19

View
"Women in Buddhism

Take
Quiz 6: Buddhism-F&G

WEEK 4

July 15-21

Midterm Essay and Objective Parts, Available from July 14, 12:00 am – July 16, 11:59 pm

Women in Islam

Read
Falk and Gross, Ch 12


View
"Iran Behind the Veil" (Course Content: Films)

Take
Quiz 8: Islam
WEEK 5

July 22-28

Women in Australian and North American Indigenous Religions

Read
Falk and Gross, Chapters 24, 25

View
"Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime" (Course Content: Films)

Take
Quiz 9: Indigenous-F&G

Assignment 2 Due: July 27 by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox

Women in Judaism

Read
Content
Falk and Gross, Chapter 18

Judith Plaskow, "Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective" (Course Content)

View
"Women in Judaism"

Take
Quiz 12: Judaism
WEEK 6

July 28-August 2

Women in Christian Religions

Read

Falk and Gross, 3, 17, 22


Susan Thistlethwaite, "Every Two Minutes: Battered Women and Feminist Interpretation’ in Liberating Faith, ed. Roger S. Gottlieb (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003) (Course Content)

View

"Women in Christianity"

Take

Quiz 11: Christianity-F&G

Make-up day for Missed Quizzes July 28, 12:01 am-11:59 pm

Final exam, Essay and Objective, August 1, 12:01 am – August 2, 11:59 pm