

Syllabus

REL 4146 Feminist Theology and Ethics

Fall 2014

Dr. Christine Gudorf

Thursday, 5-7:45

Office hours: DM 305B, Thurs. 1-2 pm

Contact: Blackboard Messages, Wed/Thur office 305 348 2729/rest of week 859 740-4301

Text:

Mary McClintock Fulkerson and Sheila Briggs, Eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theology* (\$45 paperback at Amazon, \$50 from publisher, ? Bookstore)

Other required course readings posted online (free)

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God Talk*, ch 1-2 (on method in feminist theology) ch 5-6 (on Christology and Mariology)

Nicolas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity Worldwide* Introduction and pp 1-16 (Global situation of women), 109-122 (Why women die in childbirth), 146-148 (Is Islam misogynistic?), 185-204 (on women and microcredit)

In Jung, Hunt and Balakrishnan, Eds, *Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives from the World's Religions:*

Suwanna Satha-Anand, "Buddhism on Sexuality and Enlightenment"

Patricia Beattie Jung, "Sanctifying women's Pleasure"

Christine E. Gudorf, "To Make A Seamless Garment, Use a Single Piece of Cloth," in *Cross Currents*,

Winter 1985: 473-491

Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" in Blackboard

Ziba Mir Hosseini, "The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought" In Blackboard.

Course Policies:

All students must submit the course paper to Turnitin.com (which checks for plagiarism) within the Blackboard REL 4146 course, and take the midterm and final exam online.

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Absences after the first free absence will cost 2 pts to be detracted from the final grade.

Students will treat other students, and the instructor, with respect. Disruptive comments or behavior will result in removal from the class. You need not agree with instructor or students, but disagreements must be reasoned, and should not be repeated in ways that prevent discussion from continuing. Some

of the course material may be disturbing for some. If you have problems, see me, but do not attempt to use the class as group therapy.

Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned readings and ready to contribute to class discussions.

Incomplete grades, under University policy, are only to be given to students who have completed 51% or more of the course work with a passing grade. If you cannot continue, but do not meet this standard, you must drop the class. Instructors are not required to give IN grades; you must have a good reason.

There is no extra credit work in this class.

Assignments:

There will be a midterm and a final exam. Both will have two parts, an objective and an essay part, and both parts will be taken online, in Blackboard. Class will not meet for either the midterm or the final.

There will be one research and writing assignment 7-8 pages, not including notes. Students should submit a topic and preliminary outline with at least five prospective sources by October 15, and the final paper by Nov 30. The topic must be based in an issue that is raised in the course readings, and must make an original argument. It should not simply describe what others have said, but use the data to create an argument of your own. It might help if you begin by asking a real question that exists within the issue chosen, and then set out to answer the question.

Grading:

The grading scale is 93-100=A, 90-92 =A-, 87-89= B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, 60-62=D-, and -60=F.

Midterm 35% of final grade

Final 35%

Essay 30% The outline and sources assignment will account for one third of this, and the paper itself for 2/3.

In grading the both paper and outline/bibliography, one third of the grade will be on the quality of the research, one third on the quality of the argument presented with special attention to clarity, completeness and originality, and one third on grammar, spelling, punctuation and compliance with an accepted academic style (MLA, Chicago or Turabian are all acceptable, as well as various social science styles).

Schedule

Week 1 Nicolas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity*
August 28 *Worldwide*, Introduction and pp. 1-16 (Global situation of women), pp.109-122 (Why

women die in childbirth), pp. 146-148 (Is Islam misogynistic?), pp. 185-204 (On women and microcredit).

- Week 2
September 4 Feminist Theology at the Crossroads: *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theology* (OHFT) Chapters 1, 2, 3.
- Week 3
September 11 Methodological Critiques. OHFT Chs. 18, 20, 26
- Week 4
September 18 Feminism on Christianity: Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God Talk*, Chs. 1-2 (on method in feminist theology) Chs. 5-6 (on Christology and Mariology) in Blackboard.
- Week 5
September 25 Sexuality in Feminism. Patricia Beattie Jung, "Sanctifying Women's Pleasure" (from *Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives From World Religions*, eds. P. Jung, M. Hunt and R. Balakrishnan, Rutgers University Press, 2001); Christine E. Gudorf, "To Make A Seamless Garment, Use a Single Piece of Cloth" (from *Cross Currents* Winter 1985: 473-491); and Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power," (from Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*, Crossing Press, 2007). All three in Blackboard.
- Week 6
October 2 African Feminist Perspectives. OHFT Chs. 9, 10, 11. **Research paper proposal assignment due October 2 by 5 pm in Assignment Dropbox.**
- Week 7
October 9 Indigenous Feminist Issues and Perspectives. OHFT Chs 13, 14.
- Week 8
Online Midterm. Two parts: essay and objective. Available 12:01 am Sunday Oct 12-11:59 pm Saturday Oct. 18. **No Class.**
- Week 9
October 23 Latin American Feminist Perspectives, Part 1. OHFT Chs. 6,7.
- Week 10
October 30 Latin American Feminist Perspectives, Part 2. OHFT Chs. 21, 22, 24.
- Week 11
November 6 Muslim Feminism. OHFT Chs. 8, 19 and Ziba Mir Hosseini, "The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought" In Blackboard.
- Week 12
November 13 Feminism in Hinduism and Buddhism. OHFT 4, 5 and Suwanna Satha-Anand, "Buddhism on Sexuality and Enlightenment."
- Week 13
November 20 Feminist Currents in the Developed World and Impact on Interreligious Dialogue. OHFT Chs. 12, 15, 16. **Research Papers due in Blackboard under Assignment Dropbox, by 5 pm November 20.**
- Week 14
December 4 Religious Subjectivity and De-Traditioning. OGFT Chs. 17, 23.

Week 15
Dec. 6-10

Final Exam in two parts: essay and objective. Available in Blackboard 12:01 am Sat. December 6 through 11:59 pm Wed. December 10.