

COURSE SYLLABUS

WOMEN AND RELIGION

1131-REL3145VC1131-12509

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Instructor:Christine Gudorf Emergency Phone: 859 740 4301 Office: 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.

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 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 we 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](#).

For additional assistance please contact our Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXTS

Unspoken Worlds, 3rd Edition

Nancy Falk and Rita Gross, Wadsworth (2001)

ISBN 10: 0534515703

ISBN 13: 978-0534515706

And assorted posted articles.

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 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, 60% of final grade)

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 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 (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 period will result in a zero (0) except for very serious reasons.

QUIZZES

Quizzes (Quiz average is 25% of final grade)

Each student has two attempts at quizzes. The availability period for each quiz is a week. 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.

Some of you will miss quizzes because you did not order the book early enough. There is a quiz make up day at the end of the course, a 24 hour period when all the quizzes will be open. This is the only time that quizzes may be made up.

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.

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 grade)

During the course of the semester, each student should answer the two assignment questions posted on the Course Content page. These are 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

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

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.

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.)

Make-Up Policy: There are no automatic make-ups for assignments 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). 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.

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 makeup 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

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

Week 1 January 7 - 13 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 PowerPoint "Goddesses in the Ancient Near East"

Take: Quiz 1 Goddesses in the Ancient Near East

Week 2 January 14 - 20 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"

View Videos

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

Take: Quiz 2: Goddesses Egypt/Greece/Crete

Week 3 January 21 - 27 Women's Religious Roles in India

Read

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

View PowerPoints "Women in Hinduism" and "Motherhood"

Assignment 1 Due: January 27, by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox.

Take Quiz 3: Hinduism-F&G

Week 4 January 28 - February 3 Women Leaders in African and Afro- Caribbean Religions

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 1, 15, 23

View PowerPoints

"Trajectory of World Religions"

Take Quiz 4: African-F&G

Week 5 February 4 - 10 Women in Local Asian Religions

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 5, 6

View PowerPoint "Patriarchy"

Take Quiz 5: Asian Folk-F&G

Week 6 February 11 - 17 Women in Buddhism

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 16,19

View PowerPoint

"Women in Buddhism"

Take Quiz 6: Buddhism-F&G

Week 7 February 18 - 24

Midterm Exam Midterm (Exam 1) Objective and Essay Available: February 21, 12:00am - February 24, 11:59 pm

Week 8 February 25 - March 3 Women in Islam I

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 11, 12, 13

View PowerPoint

"Women in Islam"

Take Quiz 7: Islam I-F&G

Week 9 March 4 - 10 Women in Islam II

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

View Video

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

Take Quiz 8: Islam II - Weiss – Hosseini

Week 10 March 11 - 17 Spring Break

Week 11 March 18 - 24 Women in Australian and North American Indigenous Religions

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 24, 25

View Video

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

Assignment 2 Due: March 23 by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox

Take Quiz 9: Indigenous-F&G

Week 12 March 25 - 31 Women In Contemporary Japanese New Religions / Sexist Language

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapter 14

Rosemary Ruether ("Sexism and God Talk") in Course Content

View Powerpoint "The Power of Language"

Take Quiz 10: Reuther-Sayo-F&G-Power of Language

Week 13 April 1 - 7 Women in Christian Religions

Read

Susan Thistlethwaite, "Every Two Minutes: Battered Women and Feminist Interpretation." In Letty M. Russel, Ed., *Feminist Interpretation of Scripture* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, Philadelphia 1985).
Course Content

Falk and Gross, Chapters 2, 3, 17, 22

View PowerPoint

"Women in Christianity"

Take Quiz 11: Christianity-F&G

Week 14 April 8 - 14 Women in Judaism

Read

Judith Plaskow , "Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective," in Carol Christ and Judith Plaskow, Eds., Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality (San Francisco: Harper, 1989) Course Content

Falk and Gross, Chapter 18

View Powerpoint "Women in Judaism"

Take Quiz 12: Judaism -F&G-Plaskow

Week 15 April 15 - 21 Women in Latin American Religions

Read

Falk and Gross, Chapters 10, 20, 21

View Videos

"In A Just World: Contraception, Abortion and World Religions" (Course Content: Films)

"Maria Lionza: Mother, Queen, and Goddess" (Course Content: Films)

Take Quiz 13: Latin America-F&G

Week 16 April 23 - 28

Make-up day for Missed Quizzes: April 19, 12:00am-11:59pm

Final Exam Final (Exam 2) Objective and Essay Available: April 21, 12:00am - April 24, 11:59 pm