

Florida International University
Department of Religious Studies
Spring 2013

REL 6935 – SEMINAR IN SACRED TEXTS
Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 1:45 p.m., CBA 140

Theme for 2013: “Women’s Expressions of Religion”

Instructors:

Nathan Katz (coordinator), DM305A, hours Thurs, 9:30-10:30

Iqbal Akhtar

Tudor Parfitt

Steven Vose, DM 3XX, office hours MW 1:00-2:30 or by appointment

Textbooks:

Carolyn A. F. Rhys-Davids, trans., *Psalms of the Sisters* (Forgotten Books, 2007 [repr. of 1909]) Online: www.forgottenbooks.com

Haleem, M. A. S. Abdel. *The Qur'an*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Maznavi, Nura and Ayesha Mattu, *Love, InshAllah: The Secret Love Lives of American Muslim Women*. Berkeley: Soft Skull Press, 2012.

Shah, Idries. *Tales of the Dervishes*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

Purchase these three books from FIU bookstore or online vendor.

Readings online:

Nathan Katz, *Buddhist Images of Human Perfection*, pp. 1-54

(Blackboard)

Genesis 1-5 (Hebrew and assorted Jewish and Christian commentaries

(Blackboard)

Elaine Pagels, *Adam, Eve and the Serpent* (Blackboard)

Gary Anderson, *The Genesis of Perfection* (Blackboard)

Whitney Kelting, *Heroic Wives* (Blackboard .pdf)

Padmanabh Jaini, *Gender & Salvation* (e-book via FIU Library)

Kalpa Sutra (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/sbe22/index.htm>)

Uttaradhyayana Sutra (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/sbe45/index.htm>)

(*Both also available as *Gaina Sutras I & II* from www.forgottenbooks.com)

The Forest of Thieves and the Magic Garden (FT, Granoff, ed.)
(Blackboard .pdf)

The Clever Adulteress and Other Stories (CA, Granoff, ed.)
(Blackboard .pdf)

Paul Dundas, *The Jains* (2nd ed.) (Blackboard.pdf)

Syllabus:

Date	Topic	Readings
1/10	Introduction to the seminar with Katz, Parfitt, Akhtar, and Vose	
1/17	Theravada Buddhism 1 (read Katz)	
1/24	Theravada Buddhism 2 (read text)	
1/31	Theravada Buddhism 3 (read text)	
2/7	Judaism/Christianity 1	
2/14	Judaism/Christianity 2	
2/21	Judaism/Christianity 3	
2/28	Islam 1: Quranic Women	Read: <i>The Qur'an</i> , chapters 1, 3, 4, and 19
3/7	Islam 2: Sufism	Read: <i>All Tales of the Dervishes</i> .

- 3/14 Spring break
- 3/21 Islam 3:
Read: All *Love, InshAllah*
- 3/28 Jainism 1: Monastic Debates on Women's Liberation.
Read:
1) P. Jaini, *Gender & Salvation*, Foreword (vii-xxiv), Introduction (1-30), Kundakunda, *Sūtraprābhṛta* (31-40, focus on text 34-5), Prabhacandra, *Nyayakumudacandra* (109-138), Meghavijaya, *Yuktiṣrabodha* (159-193) (e-book via FIU Library);
2) *Kalpa Sūtra*, pp. 267-8, 274, 278, 284
(<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/sbe22/index.htm>).
[Focus on the numbers of each segment of each Jinas' community. A glossary will be provided.]
*For background on Jainism, see Dundas, *The Jains* (2nd ed.), esp. Ch. 2 (pp. 55-9 on sectarian debates concerning women's liberation). (Blackboard .pdf)
- 4/4 Jainism 2: Medieval and Early Modern Stories about Good Women (*Satīs*)
Read (all .pdf's):
Laywomen: Revati (FT);
Wives: Nala and Damayanti (FT), Rudradatta's Beloved (FT), Padmalata (FT); Rohini (CA),
Merusundara, *Narmadāsundarī* (Vose, trans.);
Mothers: Ambikā (FT); Anjanā Sundarī (DCK);
Daughters: Candanbālā (DCK);
Nuns: excerpts from N. Shanta, *The Unknown Pilgrims* (pp. 584-596, 600-609, 678-683).
- *Reference: Dundas, *The Jains*, Chs. 6 & 7.
- 4/11 Jainism 3: Tracing Rājul's Story: Wife, Nun, *Satī*
Read:
1) Kelting, *Heroic Wives*, pp. 3-32, 109-140 (.pdf);
2) *Kalpa Sūtra*, Ariṣṭanemi Carita
(<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/sbe22/sbe2287.htm>);

- 3) *Uttarādhyayana Sūtra*, Ch. 22, Rathanemi and Rājimatī (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/sbe45/sbe4524.htm>);
- 4) Hemaandra, *Triśaṣṭi-śalākā-puruṣa-carita*, Neminātha Carita, (pp. 186-199, 219-20, 235-6) (.pdf)
- 5) Vinayacandrasūri, 'Neminātha-Chatuspadikā' (in Vaudeville, *Bārahmāsā*) (.pdf)
- 6) Devcand, *Nemanāth-no Saloko* (Keltling, trans.*)

4/18 Open

Seminar procedures and requirements:

1. The first seminar meeting will be an introduction with all instructors; review of course topics and requirements.
2. Students are expected to have read weekly background materials (to be posted on Blackboard) and prepared the texts for seminar-style discussion.
3. There are four sections to this course, one on Theravada Buddhism, one on Jainism, one on Judaism, and one of Islam. Each section will require an essay and perhaps a seminar presentation. The individual instructors will assign topics and presentations. The essays will be due one week after completing the discussion of that tradition, i.e., on 2/7, 2/28, 3/28, and 4/18.
4. Essays will be submitted on Turnitin. Each professor will assign a grade for his/her section of the seminar, and the seminar final grade will be an average of these four.
5. Late essays will not be accepted except under serious and documented emergencies.
6. Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings and to participate actively.