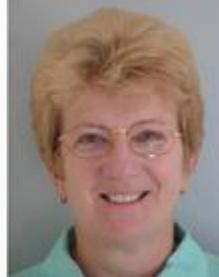


**REL 3145 WOMEN AND RELIGION
SUMMER B 2014**

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor:
Christine Gudorf
Office: DM 305A
Phone: 859 740 4301 (I am not in Miami in the summer semester)
Please use Blackboard course messages except for real emergencies

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 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](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

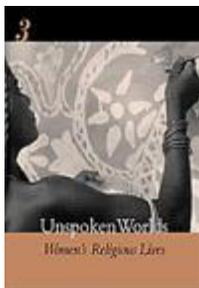
Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXTBOOK



Unspoken Worlds 3rd Edition

Nancy Falk and Rita Gross

Wadsworth (2001)

0534515703

978-0534515706

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

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 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

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 the 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 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. Since the quiz database is the source of the questions on the objective midterm and final, quiz answers will be released in advance of the midterm and final for those who completed the quizzes, so that they can study from the quizzes.

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.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

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

QUIZZES

Daily Quizzes (Quiz average is 30% of final grade)

Each student has two attempts at quizzes. Two quizzes must be completed each week, and all will be open from Monday at 12:01 am until Sunday at 11:59 pm. Each quiz has a total of 110 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 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](#) in order to be able to both take quizzes and view videos.

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](#).

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 one half the course 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

simply type in a pre-written essay. The list of essay questions from which the exam essays will be distributed in advance of the exam: each student's essay question from that list (usually of three) will be selected randomly by Blackboard.

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.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Written Assignment (10% of final grade)

During the course of the semester, each student should answer the question posted in the Assignment Dropbox. The essay responses to the question should be 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 this essay 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.

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Midterm (Exam 1)	30%
Final (Exam 2)	30%
11 Quizzes (Averaged)	30%
Written Assignment	10%
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><u>Week 1</u> <u>June 23-29</u></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>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 1 Goddesses in the Ancient Near East</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>Quiz 2: Goddesses Egypt/Greece/Crete</p>
<p><u>Week 2</u> <u>June 30-July 6</u></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>Take</p> <p>Quiz 3: Hinduism-F&G</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>

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS
<p><u>Week 3</u> <u>July 7-13</u></p>	<p>Women in Local Asian Religions</p> <p>Read Falk and Gross, Chapters 5, 6</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Patriarchy"</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 5: Asian Folk-F&C</p> <p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 6: Buddhism-F&C</p>
	<p>Midterm Exam</p>	<p>Midterm (Exam 1) Objective and Essay</p> <p>Available: December 20 July 11, 12:01am - December 22 July 13, 11:59 pm</p>
<p><u>Week 4</u> <u>July 14-20</u></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>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</p>	<p>Take</p> <p>Quiz 8: Islam II - Weiss - Hosseini</p> <p>Quiz 9: Indigenous-F&C</p>

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS
"Iran Behind the Veil" (Course Content: Films)		
<p><u>Week 5</u> <u>July 21-27</u></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 Rosemary Ruether ("Sexism and God Talk") in Course Content</p> <p>View Powerpoint "The Power of Language"</p> <p>View PowerPoint "Women in Christianity"</p>	<p>Take Quiz 10: Christianity-F&G</p> <p><u>Writing Assignment</u> <u>Due by 11:59 pm to Turnitin via the Assignment Dropbox</u></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 11: Judaism -F&G Plaskow</p>
<p><u>Week 6</u> <u>July 28-August 1</u></p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p><u>Quiz Make-Up Days</u> <u>July 28, 12:01 am til July 29 11:59 pm</u></p> <p>Final (Exam 2) Objective and Essay</p> <p>Available: <u>July 30, 12:01am –July 31, 11:59 pm</u></p>

