

session will require a separate make-up assignment. Failure to complete any or all make-up assignments will affect your grade.

Participation in the class (whether online or in-person) includes having read the assigned material and have access to copies of it for class. The student must stay engaged (and awake) in discussion, during occasional lectures, and videos. Contributing to discussion as well as note-taking is expected.

Class is not only an opportunity to learn new things, but also: an opportunity to learn more about yourself and your classmates, an occasion for the professor to provide some clarification and insight, an experience in which you can improve your ability to express your views and the knowledge you have and the chance to learn from your peers, who may have thought about the same information in a slightly different manner than yourself.

Response Papers (25% each / 75% total):

Students will write three 800 word responses to answer a professor-proposed prompt. The main purpose of these papers is to show that the student has done the assigned reading. Think of them as reading checks. The papers will show both engagement with course material as well as the student's ability to think critically and analyze a given topic. Instructions and prompts will be given two weeks before each assignment is due. Any paper less than 750 or more than 800 words will not be accepted. Two weeks before the assignment is due, the student will receive the complete instructions and prompts for that assignment. All assignments will only be accepted via the course website on Moodle. **No outside research is allowed; only class readings and in-class materials can be referenced.**

For each day the paper is late, the student's grade decreases by one number. Papers more than one week late will not be accepted. The student will only be allowed to make-up a missed paper for valid medical emergencies. A doctor's note is required.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

5 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Gender and Religion:

Distribute syllabus & intro to material.

In-Class Reading:

Judith Plaskow, "The Coming of Lillith," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring, 2007), pp. 34-41.

Zuzana Budapest, "Self-Blessing Ritual," in *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*, (Oakland: Susan B. Anthony Coven No. 1, 1986).

12 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: Week 1

In-Class Reading:

joanne stato, "Cultural Appropriation," *Off Our Backs*, Vol. 21, No. 9 (october 1991), pp. 20-21.

Reading:

Rita M. Gross, *Feminism and Religion: An Introduction*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996). Ch. 2 and 4.

Recommended Reading:

Rita M. Gross, *Feminism and Religion: An Introduction*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996). Ch. 1.

19 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: Week 2

Reading:

Rita M. Gross, *Feminism and Religion: An Introduction*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996). Ch. 5 - 6.

Recommended Reading:

Rita M. Gross, *Feminism and Religion: An Introduction*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996). Ch. 3.

26 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: "Reform"ing Religion

Reading:

Judith G. Martin, "Why Women Need a Feminist Spirituality," in *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 21, No. 1/2, Spirituality and Religions (Spring/Summer, 1993), pp. 106-120.

2 NOVEMBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: "Revolution"izing Religion

Reading:

Carol P. Christ, "Why Women Need the Goddess," in *Laughter of Aphrodite: Reflections on a Journey to the Goddess* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987) pp. 117-132.

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE VIA MOODLE

9 NOVEMBER 2020

Exploring Traditions, Week 1: Islam

Reading:

Amira El-Azhary Sonbol, "Rethinking Women and Islam," in *Daughters of Abraham: Feminist Thought in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and John L. Esposito, (University of Florida Press, 2001), pp. 108-146.

Fatima Seedat, "Islam, Feminism, and Islamic Feminism: Between Inadequacy and Inevitability," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2013), pp. 25-45.

16 NOVEMBER 2020

Exploring Traditions, Week 2: Buddhism

Reading:

Cathryn Bailey, "Embracing the Icon: The Feminist Potential of the Trans Bodhisattva, Kuan Yin," *Hypatia*, Vol. 24, No. 3, (Summer, 2009), pp. 178-196.

Rita M. Gross, "The Suffering of Sexism: Buddhist Perspectives and Experiences," *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, Vol. 34 (2014), pp. 69-81.

23 NOVEMBER 2020

Exploring Traditions, Week 3: Christianity

Reading:

Mary E. Hunt, "Women-Church: Feminist Concept, Religious Commitment, Women's Movement," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 25, No. 1, (Spring 2009), pp. 85-98.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Christian Feminist Theology: History and Future," in *Daughters of Abraham: Feminist Thought in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and John L. Esposito, University of Florida Press, 2001, pp. 65-80.

Recommended Reading:

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Dualism and the Nature of Evil in Feminist Theology," *Studies in Christian Ethics*, 5 no 1 (April 1992), p 26-39.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE VIA MOODLE

30 NOVEMBER 2020

Exploring Traditions, Week 4: Feminist Spirituality

Reading:

Cynthia Eller, "Relativizing the Patriarchy: The Sacred History of the Feminist Spirituality Movement," *History of Religions*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Feb., 1991), pp. 279-295.

Carol P. Christ, "Why Women, Men and Other Living Things Still Need the Goddess: Remembering and Reflecting 35 Years Later," *Feminist Theology*, Vol. 20, No.3, (2012), pp. 242-255.

[7 DECEMBER 2020](#)

Exploring Traditions, Week 5: Judaism

Reading:

Leila Gal Berner, "Hearing Hannah's Voice: The Jewish Feminist Challenge and Ritual Innovation," in *Daughters of Abraham: Feminist Thought in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and John L. Esposito, University of Florida Press, 2001, pp. 35-49.

Marcia Falk, "Notes on Composing New Blessings toward a Feminist-Jewish Reconstruction of Prayer," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Spring, 1987), pp. 39-53.

[14 DECEMBER 2020](#)

Exploring Traditions, Week 6: Hinduism

Reading:

Vrinda Dalmiya, "Loving Paradoxes: A Feminist Reclamation of the Goddess Kali," *Hypatia*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Winter, 2000), pp. 125-150.

Sharada Sugirtharajah, "Hinduism and Feminism: Some Concerns," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall, 2002), pp. 97-104.

[6 JANUARY 2021](#)

CLASS: TBA

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE VIA MOODLE ON 13 JANUARY BY MIDNIGHT.