

## ASSIGNMENT TWO:

### GENDER AND RELIGION: 'REVOLUTION'IZING TENDENCIES, ISLAM AND BUDDHISM.

DUE: 23 November 2020 via Moodle

#### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Choose one prompt on which to write. This response paper should answer the proposed question in a way that demonstrates significant engagement with and critical reflection on course readings. **A good reflection paper will engage with many course readings and/or multiple chapters from the same author.** Be sure to have a clear thesis statement and proper citations (lectures too must be cited). **Citations for ALL sources must be (Author's Last Name, page number).** Citations are not just quotes but any time you summarize and/or use information from a reading. **Outside resources and research are not permitted.**

The format is as follows: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and **800** words. Include the word-count at the bottom of the page. A paper 50 words over or under the word-count and/or without citations will not be accepted. (Citations are not part of the word-count.)

#### PROMPT OPTIONS (Choose one.):

1. Who is the Goddess and how does she help women?\*
2. Explain what is important for Muslim and Buddhist feminists when it comes to creating a post-patriarchal religion.
3. In what ways have Islam and Buddhism been historically sexist?
4. How could Kuan Yin be embraced as a trans figure within Buddhism and how does that advance a post-patriarchal Buddhism?\*
5. Why have some Muslim feminists distanced themselves from the term Islamic feminism?\*

#### COURSE READINGS:

(REMEMBER: USE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD WELL.)

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.

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.

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.

\* WARNING: These questions will be considerably harder as they are asking about one specific reading, but need to include ideas and concepts from more than one reading.

