Feminist Theology in Third World Perspective

Instructors

Kwok Pui-lan
Episcopal Divinity School
99 Brattle St
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 868-3450
Puilk@aol.com

Letty M. Russell
Yale Divinity School
116 River St.
Guilford CT 06437
(203) 453-6640 [h]; (203) 432-5322 [wk]; (203) 458-0328 [fax]
Letty.Russell@yale.edu

Institution

Yale Divinity School

Course Level and Type

Master level team-taught course

Hours of Instruction

3hrs/week over a 12 week term

Enrolment and Last Year Taught

1996; 22 students

Description

A critical study of the challenges and the contributions of Third World Feminist theologians to the theological discipline. Analyzing emerging themes and issues in African, Latin American, and Asian feminist theology through studying the works of important figures such as Mercy Amba Oduyoye, Elsa Tamez, Ivone Gebara, Chung Hyun Kyung, and Kwok Pui-lan. The class will promote global awareness in doing theology and explore possibilities for dialogue and solidarity among women in different contexts.

Course Schedule

1. The Challenge of Multicultural Dialogue

   Sept 4 Introduction

   Sept 11 Social Location and Theological Method

   Sept 18 Postcolonial Discourse

2. African Feminist Theologies
3. Latin American Feminist Theologies

Oct 16 Latin American Contexts

(Slides shown of women in Central America by Yale Divinity School students who participated in a travel seminar to Central America)

Oct 23 Elsa Tamez

Oct 30 Ivone Gebara and Maria Clara Bingemer

4. Asian Feminist Theologies

Nov 6 Asian Contexts

Nov 13 Chung Hyun Kyung

(A video on prostitution and militarism in Korea was shown)

Nov 14 "Grapes and Figs Are in Season: A Palestinian Woman's Story," a one-woman performance on Palestinian issues.

Nov 20 Kwok Pui-lan

5. Concluding Remarks

Dec 4 Third World Feminist Theology and the U.S. Context

Closing ritual

Course Requirements

1. Participate in class and small group discussions

2. Attend a racism workshop led by Andrea Ayvazian and Beverly Daniel Tatum (October 24-25).

3. 6 books, plus articles

4. A short introductory statement (2-3 pages) **Due: Sept 11**

5. 2 short papers of approximately 5-7 pages. **Due: Oct 16 and Nov 13.**

6. A final paper of 12-15 pages or a project approved by the instructors. **Due: Dec 13**

Required Readings

Mananzan, Mary John, et al., eds. Women Resisting Violence: Spirituality for Life. Maryknoll: Orbis,


Other required articles will be made available.

**Some Recommended Readings**


**Weekly Readings**

Sept 11 Social Location and Theological Method


Russell, Letty M. "From Garden to Table," in *Inheriting Our Mothers' Gardens*, 143-55.

Tolbert, Mary Ann. "The Politics and Poetics of Location," in *Reading from This Place*, vol. 1, ed.
Fernando F. Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995), 305-17.

Brock, Rita Nakashima. "Interstitial Integrity: Reflections Toward an Asian American Woman's Theology"


Sept 18 Postcolonial Discourse


Sept 25 African Contexts


Hinga, Teresa H. "Jesus Christ and the Liberation of Women in Africa," in The Will to Arise, 183-94.


Oct 2 Mercy Amba Oduyoye

Oduyoye, Mercy Amba. Daughters of Anowa.


Oct 16 Latin American Contexts


Oct 23 Elsa Tamez

Tamez, Elsa. *The Amnesty of Grace*, ch. 1,2,6,7,8,9.

Oct 30 Ivone Gebara and Maria Clara Bingemer

Gebara, Ivone. "The Face of Transcendence as a Challenge to the Reading of the Bible in Latin America," in *Searching the Scripture*, vol. 1, 172-86.


Nov 6 Asian Contexts


Nov 13 Chung Hyun Kyung

Chung, Hyun Kyung. *Struggle to Be the Sun Again*.

Nov 20 Kwok Pui-lan
Dec 4 Third World Feminist Theology and the U.S. Context


Selected Bibliography

**POSTCOLONIAL DISCOURSE**


FEMINIST THEOLOGY FROM THE TWO-THIRDS WORLD

Anthologies from Third World Perspective


African


Asian


We Dare to Dream: Doing Theology as Asian Women. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.


In God's Image. Quarterly journal published by AWRC, Seoul.


**Latin American**


____. **Bible of the Oppressed**. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1982.


**Pacific**


**Minorities in the USA: Asian American**


Minorities in the USA: Mujerista Theology (Hispanic women's theology in the USA)


Minorities in the USA: Womanist Theology (African American women's theology)


Pedagogical Reflections

The purpose in teaching this course was to open up the horizon of women and men to the riches of theological perspectives available from women whose voices are not ordinarily heard in white feminist discourse. These voices from women of color both in the US and abroad provide a rich cross-cultural, national, and racial mix from which to learn about global solidarity among women. Having an interracial, cross-cultural team doing the teaching modeled the possibility of dialogue and cross cultural learning for the class. The work load was reasonable and most could do the reading assignments. Some needed guidance in entering the frameworks of
other religious worlds. Particularly important was the unpacking of white privilege as part of the class, so that white students could own their own privilege while being in a context where all students were encouraged to risk dialogue about difference and its impact on theological perspectives.