

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Christine Gudorf	Emergency Contact: 786-269-8424
Office Hours: Online	E-mail: Please use Blackboard Course Mail 48 hour response time (Excluding weekends)

PROFESSOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Gudorf received her MA, MPhil, and Phd from Columbia University in New York. She has authored 8 books in the area of religious ethics, most notably *Body, Sex and Pleasure: Reconstructing Christian Sexual Ethics*, as well as books in comparative ethics, environmental ethics, and religious social ethics. She is past-president of the Society of Christian Ethics, and has served on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Religious Ethics and the Journal of the American Academy of Religion.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

Upon successful completion of this course, 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.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

For information about prerequisites, [click here](#).

This online section does not require an on-campus meeting and/or exam.

TEXTBOOK

Unspoken Worlds (3rd Edition)

Nancy Falk and Rita Gross
Wadsworth (2001)

ISBN-10: 0534515703

ISBN-13: 978-0534515706

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

Required Reading: Selected articles in course content.

EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE

Students are expected to:

- **Review the Start Here folder** located in the course content.
- **Review the Policies Page** as it is important to the quality of your education.
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum under the Start Here folder.
- **Take the practice quiz** under the Start Here folder to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers and keep up with all assignments.
- **Review** and follow the course calendar

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weights
Midterm (Exam 1)	30%
Final (Exam 2)	30%
13 Quizzes (Averaged)	25%

Three Assignments (Averaged)	15%
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

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 that Unit only. You have only 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, almost all of which are taken from the quiz database. The objective section is closely timed, like the quizzes. The essay section allows 1-2 hours per essay, so that you may either write it online, or cut and paste from pre-written essays. The list of essay questions from which the exam essays will be chosen will be distributed a few days in advance of the exam. 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, following which a make-up may be allowed.

QUIZZES

Quizzes (25% of final grade)

Each student has two attempts at quizzes. The availability period for each quiz is a week. Each quiz has 11pts, and 10 pts = 100%. There are more questions in each quiz database than the 11 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. Do not ask for a reset unless my tracking will confirm that you were ejected from both of your attempts.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments (15% of final grade)

During the course of the semester, each student should answer the three assignment questions posted on the Course Content page. These are short essays of 500-600 words, which must be submitted to www.turnitin.com (click on the turnitin button under Course Content). 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 these essays 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.

DISCUSSION

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post. If you need to send a private message to an instructor or student, please use email. Instructor will review discussion forums and reply to students as needed. **Omit this section and do not have Discussion Forum show.**

RULES & 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 with a passing grade. 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 midterm all the previous quizzes will be open from 3 pm to midnight. Two days before the final exam, all the quizzes since the midterm will be similarly open from 3 pm to midnight. Immediately after these makeup windows close, 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.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topic & Assignments
<p>Week 1 January 10-16</p>	<p>Women in Ancient Religions I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View "Goddesses in the Ancient Near East" PowerPoint; • Read Beverly Moon ("Inanna: The Star Who Became Queen") and Marija Gimbutas ("Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe") in Course Content. <p>Quiz #1</p>
<p>Week 2 January 17-23</p>	<p>Women in Ancient Religions II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View "Goddesses in Egypt", and "Goddesses in Greece and Crete" PowerPoints; • View "Ancient Crete: The Minoans" and "Ancient Egypt" (Course Content: Films) • Read Rita Gross ("Feminism's Impact on Religion and Religious Studies") in Course Content. <p>Quiz #2</p>
<p>Week 3 January 24-30</p>	<p>Women's Religious Roles in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 4, 7, 8, 9

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View “Women in Hinduism” and “Motherhood” PowerPoints <p>Assignment 1 Due: January 26, 2010 by 11:59 pm through turnitin link in course content</p> <p>Quiz #3</p>
<p>Week 4 January 31- February 6</p>	<p>Women Leaders in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View “Trajectory of World Religions” PowerPoint • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 1, 15, 23 <p>Quiz #4</p>
<p>Week 5 February 7-13</p>	<p>Women in Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View “Women in Buddhism” PowerPoint • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 16, 19 <p>Quiz #5</p>
<p>Week 6 February 14-20</p>	<p>Women in Local Asian Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View “Patriarchy” PowerPoint • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 5, 6 <p>Quiz #6</p>
<p>Week 7 February 21-27</p>	<p>Women in Islam I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View “Women in Islam” PowerPoint • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 11, 12, 13 <p>Assignment 2 Due: February 24 by 11:59 pm through turnitin link in course content</p> <p>Quiz #7</p>
<p>Week 8 February 28- March 6</p>	<p>Midterm (Exam 1) Available from February 28, 12:00 am - March 6, 11:59 pm</p>

<p>Week 9 March 7-13</p>	<p>Women in Islam II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weiss (“The Slow Yet Steady Path to Women's Empowerment in Pakistan”) Course Content • Read Mir Hosseini (“The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought and Strategies for Change”) Course Content • View “Iran Behind the Veil” (Course Content: Films) <p>Quiz #8</p>
<p>Week 10 March 21-27</p>	<p>Women in Australian and North American Indigenous Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 24, 25 • View “Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime” (Course Content: Films) <p>Quiz #9</p>
<p>Week 11 March 28-April 3</p>	<p>Women In Contemporary Japanese New Religions / Sexist Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Rosemary Ruether (“Sexism and God Talk”) in Course Content • View "The Power of Language" • Read: Falk and Gross, Chapter 14 <p>Assignment 3 Due: March 30, 2010 by 11:59 pm through turnitin link in Course Content</p> <p>Quiz #10</p>
<p>Week 12 April 4-10</p>	<p>Women in Christian Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View "Women in Christianity" PowerPoint • Read Susan Thistlethwaite (“Every Two Minutes: Battered Women and Feminist Interpretation”) Course Content • Read: Falk and Gross, Chapter 2, 3, 17, 22 <p>Quiz #11</p>
<p>Week 13 April 11-17</p>	<p>Women in Latin American Religions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Readings: Falk and Gross, Chapters 10, 20, 21• View "In A Just World: Contraception, Abortion and World Religions" (Course Content: Films)• View: "Maria Lionza: Mother, Queen, and Goddess" (Course Content: Films) <p>Quiz #12</p>
<p>Week 14 April 18-24</p>	<p>Women in Judaism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Judith Plaskow ("Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective") Course Content• View "Women in Judaism" PowerPoint• Read: Falk and Gross, Chapter 18 <p>Quiz #13</p> <p>Final (Exam 2) April 25, 12:00 am - April 28, 11:59 pm</p>