



FIU Religious Studies Department - Course Syllabus Spring 2011

REL 3145 Women and Religion
Religious Studies Dept.: 305. 348 2186

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Office Hours: M, W, F 3-4 & by appointment

No wickedness comes anywhere near the wickedness of a woman – Ecclesiasticus 25:19

Women can destroy pure precepts. They retreat from doing merits and honor. Preventing others from rebirth in heaven, they are the source of hell” – Maharatnakuta

Course Description:

In this course we will explore the various experiences of women throughout the world’s religious traditions. We will approach this study through intensive reading of both the listed text and other chosen material. Discussion is an integral part of exploring the readings and is expected. This course includes an exploration of the religions and the rules, rituals, and views that have developed concerning women’s lives, bodies, and their acceptable roles in both society and religion. We will look at how women have confronted, ignored, or found alternate paths in which to grow in their spiritual lives despite such views as quoted above. This is a reading and discussion based class with web-assisted quizzes.

Texts:

1. Falk, Nancy Auer & Gross, Rita. Unspoken Worlds: Women’s Religious Lives. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2001. ISBN 0-534-51570-3 (from \$8.83 used online)
2. Goodwin, Jan. The Price of Honor. ISBN: 0452283779/ 13-9780452283770 (from \$4.49 used online)

Percentages:

9 (graded) Quizzes = 60%

Midterm = 20%

Final = 20%

Quizzes = 60%

There are 10 short quizzes with only 11 questions (1 extra credit question). They are based on the reading and lecture. You will get 3 attempts at each quiz and only the highest score will be saved. You may use your text and notes during the quiz. The quizzes are timed (10 minutes) so you will need to have studied as there will not be time to look up every answer. The lowest quiz score will be dropped (only 9 quizzes will be counted toward your final grade). I will not re-open quizzes for forgetfulness so please check the calendar and take the quiz on the date it is available and within the allotted time.

Midterm & Final = 40% (20% each)

The midterm and final will be based on the previous quizzes which will be available for you to print out and review in preparation for each exam. The final is not cumulative and will only cover the material from the midterm on. The exams will be same format as the quizzes only with more questions and time allowed. There will also be an essay component to the exams. You will be required to answer two questions which you will be able to choose. The essay questions should each be answered in 2 pages double spaced (a total of 4 pages) and brought to class on the date of the midterm and assigned date for the final. The essay questions will be released a week before the exam giving you ample time to prepare your essay.

Academic dishonesty policy

Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Cheating includes falsifying reports and documents.

Attendance

You are allowed 3 absences. Every absence after 3 will result in your final grade being lowered by a third of a grade point (ex. from an A to an A-). Only those roll sheets that have your signature on them will count. If you leave early and do not sign the roll sheet your attendance will not be counted for that day, likewise, if you come late and miss the roll sheet your attendance will not be counted for that day.

Incomplete Grades

CAS reports skyrocketing grades of Incomplete! Due to an increase in incompletes being given, it will be harder to obtain an incomplete. You must have completed at least 60% of the class work and been attending class regularly. There will need to be proof of your hospitalization or other such trauma. A death certificate will need to be presented in the case of immediate relatives (parents, siblings). Incompletes are not offered for events effecting cousins, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.

Here is the policy concerning incomplete grades:

1. Students are only eligible of IN grades if they have completed 60% of the work in the course and if they request the IN in advance (not during exam week). Professors are still under no obligation to grant requests for IN grades, even if the students meet the above criteria.
2. Students given IN grades **MUST NOT** re-register for the course. They must submit the missing work, at which time the faculty will change the IN grade to a regular letter grade.
3. Faculty who give IN grades are urged to make the due dates as short as possible, since the longer the delay in submitting the work, the lower the completion rate and the lower the grades on work that is handed in. Generally, the due date should be the date the student plans on beginning his/her next classes.