

WOMEN IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION
Rels 143-001
MTWR 12:00 – 1:50 p.m. Bobet 214B
SPRING II 2006

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OBJECTIVE: An understanding in historical terms of the tension between the significant religious opportunities available to women in the Christian tradition, and the subordination of women in Christian institutions. An understanding of the history of women in the Christian tradition will contribute to an understanding of women's roles in contemporary American society and in American Christian churches.

Texts: Barbara J. MacHaffie, Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986). Hereafter MacHAFFIE

Barbara J. MacHaffie, Readings in Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992). Hereafter READINGS.

The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.

E-Reserves: Barbara R. Rossing, "Prophets, Prophetic Movements, and the Voices of Women." Hereafter ROSSING.

Robin Darling Young, "Martyrdom as Exaltation." Hereafter YOUNG.

Elizabeth A. Clark, "Asceticism, Class, and Gender." Hereafter CLARK.

M May 8 Introduction
Definition of terms; general discussion; Genesis 2-3 Adam & Eve & the serpent.
READINGS, pp. 3-6

T May 9 Status of Women in Hebrew Society: The Old Testament Critique of Patriarchy
MACHAFFIE, pp. 5-14; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.
READINGS, pp. 1-3, 6-11.
ROSSING, pp. 261-67.

W May 10 QUIZ #1
The New Testament Picture
MACHAFFIE, pp. 14-18; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.
READINGS, pp. 11-13.

R May 11 Pauline Writings
MACHAFFIE, pp. 18-21; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.
READINGS, pp. 13-16.
ROSSING, pp. 267-74.

M May 15 QUIZ #2

- Women in the New Testament Churches
MACHAFFIE, pp. 23-27; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.
READINGS, pp. 17.
ROSSING, pp. 274-80.
- T MAY 16 Ministries of Women in the Post-Biblical Churches
MACHAFFIE, pp. 28-32.
READINGS, pp. 17-20.
VIDEO: "Women's Ordination: The Hidden Tradition" (60 min.)
- W May 17 Martyrdom
MACHAFFIE, pp. 34-36.
READINGS, 24-27.
YOUNG, 70-92.
Women Outside the Orthodox Mainstream - Gnosticism
MACHAFFIE, pp. 32-34.
READINGS, pp. 20-23.
ROSSING, pp. 280-85.
- R May 18 QUIZ #3
Patristic Attitudes Toward Women
MACHAFFIE, pp. 36-41.
READINGS, pp. 27-43.
Review for Exam
- M May 22 QUIZ #4
EXAM (10 identifications; 2 discussion questions)
- T May 23 VIDEO: "Battle for the Minds" (60 min.); followed by discussion.
- W May 24 The Life of Virginity and Chastity in the Medieval Period
MACHAFFIE, pp. 43-51.
READINGS, pp. 44-53.
CLARK, pp. 27-45.
- R May 25 Medieval Mariology
MACHAFFIE, pp. 51-54; read all referenced biblical passages.
Woman as Witch
MACHAFFIE, pp. 54-57.
READINGS, 53-57.
- M May 29 QUIZ #5
Medieval Women in Prayer and Protest
MACHAFFIE, pp. 57-60.
READINGS, pp. 57-67.
Women in an Era of Reformation
MACHAFFIE, pp. 61-73.
READINGS, pp. 68-91.
- T May 30 19th century America: Women Organizing for Mission and Reform
MACHAFFIE, pp. 93-100.

READINGS, pp. 115-23, 130-38.
Organized Feminism, Women's Rights, and the Christian Community
MACHAFFIE, pp. 100-06.
READINGS, pp. 123-130.
The Woman's Bible
MACHAFFIE, pp. 113-16.
READINGS, pp. 157-62.

- W May 31 QUIZ #6
19th Century Women Preachers
MACHAFFIE, pp. 107-13.
READINGS, pp. 139-57.
Images of Women in American Catholicism
MACHAFFIE, pp. 117-19.
READINGS, pp. 163-66.
American Women in Religious Orders
MACHAFFIE, pp. 120-22.
READINGS, pp. 166-77.
- R June 1 Women and Sectarian Christianity
MACHAFFIE, pp. 123-28, also pp. 88-91.
READINGS, pp. 177-90, also pp. 109-14.
- M June 5 QUIZ #7
The Move Toward Full Participation in Mainstream Protestant Denominations
MACHAFFIE, pp. 129-37, 141-43, 144-48.
READINGS, pp. 191-210, 223-38.
VIDEO: "Woman Priest" (60 min.)
- T June 6 Recent Developments in the Roman Catholic Church
MACHAFFIE, pp. 139-41, 143-44, 149-55.
READINGS, pp. 210-23.
HAND-OUT, Catherine Wessinger, excerpt from "Women's Religious Leadership in America," in Wessinger, *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership*, 21-29.
HAND-OUT, Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Reflections on Joan Chittester's Decision to Speak," *New Woman, New Church*, 8.
- W June 7 QUIZ #8
Recent Developments in the Roman Catholic Church
HAND-OUT, Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Women-Church Movement in Contemporary Christianity," in Wessinger, *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership*, 196-210.
HAND-OUT, Gail Grossman Freyne, "Women in Exile: Devout Dissent," *Studies* 86, no. 341 (Spring 1997): 7-14.
- R June 8 FINAL EXAM

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two exams will be given each consisting of 10 Identifications and 2 Discussion Questions. The two exams will constitute two-thirds of the Final Grade. Each Exam will count 100 pts. There will be no

make-up exams, except in the case of severe illness or a family emergency and the instructor should be notified at once.

The final third of the grade will consist of 7 true-false quizzes counting a total of 70 pts., the discussion grade of 20 pts., and 10 pts. for participation on the class discussion board on Blackboard.

A total of 8 true-false quizzes will be given in the term. At the end of the term, the quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped. Each quiz will count 10 pts.

No make-ups will be given for the quizzes. If you miss a quiz, that quiz will be the grade that will be dropped at the end of the term. If you miss more than one quiz, your grade will be diminished by 10 pts. for each quiz you miss.

Although the approximate dates are given on the syllabus for each quiz, the instructor may change the dates of the quizzes and the student is responsible for knowing about the next quiz even if the student has missed the class on which it was announced.

Attendance is very important to being successful in this course, and your discussion grade will take attendance into account. The discussion grade is worth 20 pts.

Participation on the class discussion board on Blackboard counts 10 points of the final grade . Every student must log into the discussion board and leave an initial message as proof that one has succeeded in logging on. After that, students can participate in the board's discussion as they see fit, responding to questions or articles posted there by the instructor, raising their own questions, making observations, posting news articles. Students are encouraged to initiate their own threads. To participate fully on the discussion board, students should post a message there at least 3 times each week.