

PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

By Phillips Theological Seminary copyright policy, the syllabus is the intellectual property of the individual faculty member, with usage rights granted to PTS. Please contact the copyright owner if you seek to use the syllabus, for other than your personal enrichment.

Final Syllabus
HS 522 Women in Religion in the U.S.A.
Phillips Theological Seminary
Dr. Ellen Blue - Spring, 2011
(Revised after two snow days)

Class Meetings: Wednesdays, 1:15-4:00 pm Email: ellen.blue@ptstulsa.edu
Office Hours: Wed., 10:00-11:30 am or by appointment Office Phone: 918-270-6443
Class Website: <http://fishersnet.blackboard.com>

This course is a survey of the history of women and religion in the U.S. from the colonial period to the present. The primary focus is on women who practice the Christian faith, but some attention is given to women in other religions. Students will explore the contributions of women to the development and expression of religions. Students will gain deeper understanding of the complex relationships among society, religion, culture. They will acquire greater ability to articulate ways that these relationships have impacted, and been impacted by, the lives of women.

Required Texts: (Materials are on reserve in the PTS library)

Susan Hill Lindley, *You Have Stept Out of Your Place: A History of Women and Religion in America*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. ISBN 0-664-25799-2

Beverly Zink-Sawyer, *From Preachers to Suffragists*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. ISBN 0-664-22615-9

Mary Farrell Bednarowski, *The Religious Imagination of American Women*. Indiana University Press, 1999. 0-253-21338-X

Other Required Reading: (Materials are on reserve in the PTS library)

Catherine Wessinger, "Introduction - Going Beyond and Retaining Charisma: Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions," in *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*, Catherine Wessinger, ed. Urbana: University of Chicago Press, 1993, pp. 1-19.

"True Methodist Women: Reflections on the Community at St. Mark's, 1895-1939." Chapter in *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, Janet Allured and Judith F. Gentry, eds., (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 215-36.

Valerie Saiving, "The Human Situation: A Feminine View," in *Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion*, Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow, eds., San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1992, pp. 25-42. This anthology was first published in 1979. The

essay was first published in *The Journal of Religion* (April 1960).

Susan Faludi, Chapter 9, “The Politics of Resentment: The New Right’s War on Women,” in *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against America Women*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1991, pp. 229-256.

Some Suggested Additional Reading:

John J. Fialka, *Sisters: Catholic Nuns and the Making of America*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2003.

Dana L. Robert, *American Women in Mission: A Social History of Their Thought and Practice*. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1997.

Catherine Wessinger, ed., *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership: New Roles Inside the Mainstream*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Phillips Theological Seminary policy states that any student who misses as much as 20 percent of the contact hours cannot receive a passing grade for the course. Thus, a student with three absences will fail.

Academic Honesty:

Every student is bound by the policies of the seminary regarding academic honesty, as expressed in the PTS Student Handbook. They will be enforced with regard to both exams and writing assignments. Any student who is not absolutely certain how to distinguish between appropriate use of sources and plagiarism should rectify that at once. Paraphrasing another author's work does not necessarily negate an obligation to cite that author as the source of an idea, viewpoint, or piece of information. On the other hand, citing a source does not relieve you of the responsibility to include all quotations within quotation marks. If you are in doubt as to whether you are plagiarizing, find out. I am available at the stated office hours or by appointment, and will respond to specific queries. My default penalty for any act of plagiarism is failure for the entire course.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities:

Should you have any disability which requires that special accommodation be made, notify me during the first week of classes. Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities.

The seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in seminary programs. For details, see "Disabilities Policies and Procedures" in the Student Handbook. (The Student Handbook is also located on the PTS website, www.ptstulsa.edu Go to the **Worship & Community** tab in the far left column; select **Student Handbook**.) Please contact Belva Brown Jordan, the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, for consultation.

Class Requirements:

Each student will write and read in class a paper on the assigned reading for one session, with dates listed in the "Reading Assignments" section of the final syllabus. Each paper should be at least four pages and no more than five pages in length; it should be typed, double-spaced in a 12-point font, on paper with regular margins.

There will be a final exam which will be a take-home test. It will be based on lectures, classroom presentations and assigned readings (even if these readings are not directly discussed in class). A portion of the writing for this document will draw upon your reflections about the class. You may therefore choose to keep an informal journal during the course of the semester which could assist you in the production of your exam. A way of focusing this journal which might prove to be helpful would be to think periodically about this portion of the course objectives: "Students will gain deeper understanding of the complex relationships among society, religion, culture. They will acquire greater ability to articulate ways that these relationships have impacted, and been impacted by, the lives of women."

The third learning measurement tool, the written paper or presented project, will be discussed and decided upon at the first class session.

This formula will be used for determining your final grade:

- Attendance/Participation in Discussion Sessions - 10%
- Paper on Readings - 30%
- Paper/Project - 30%
- Take-Home Exam - 30%

Reading Assignments:

These assignments are always subject to change as the semester progresses. It is very important that you obtain assignments if you have missed a class.

January 26 - Introductory Session

4 - Second Draft Syllabus – Women and Religion in the USA – E. Blue – Spring 2011

February 2 – OUT FOR SNOW

ASSIGNMENT: Lindley, Introduction;
Ch. 1: Anne Hutchinson;
Ch. 2: Quakers in Colonial America;
Ch. 3: Puritanism in America;
Ch. 4: Religious Diversity in Colonial America
Bednarowski, Ch. 1: American Women as Religious Thinkers

February 9 – OUT FOR SNOW

ASSIGNMENT: Lindley, Ch. 5: The Great Awakening
Ch. 6: The Ideal American Woman
Ch. 7: The Second Great Awakening

February 16

ASSIGNMENT: Watch *Iron Jawed Angels*, reflection papers (snow makeup)

February 23

Paper on the texts – Student 1

ASSIGNMENT: Lindley, Ch. 9: Reform Movements
Ch. 11: The Social Gospel
Blue, “True Methodist Women”

Continue discussion of *Iron Jawed Angels* on Facebook group of that name

March 2

Paper on the texts – Student 2

Lindley, Ch. 10: Women’s Religious Leadership in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries
Ch. 17: A 19th Century Feminist Critique of Religion
Zink-Sawyer, Entire Book, From Preachers to Suffragists

March 9

Paper on the texts – Student 3; Project – Student 4

Lindley, Ch. 13: African-America Women and Religion in 19th Century America
Ch. 16: Alternative Religions in 19th Century America
Wessinger, “Going Beyond and Retaining Charisma: Women’s Leadership in Marginal Religions”

March 16 and 23 – No Class, Reading & Concentrated Course Weeks

5 - Second Draft Syllabus – Women and Religion in the USA – E. Blue – Spring 2011

March 30

Paper on the texts – Student 4; Project – Student 7
Lindley, Ch. 8: The Foreign Missionary Movement
Ch. 15 Jewish Women in 19th Century America

April 6

Paper on the texts – Student 5; Project – Student 9
Lindley, Ch. 12: Native American Woman and Religion in 19th Century America

April 13

Paper on the texts – Student 6; Project – Student 8
Lindley, Ch. 18: Women’s Religious Leadership in the 20th Century: Movement in the Mainstream
Saiving, “The Human Situation: A Feminine View”

April 23 – No Class, Holy Week

April 27

Paper on the texts – Student 7; Projects – Student 3 & Student 5
Lindley, Ch. 14: Roman Catholic Women in 19 Century America
Ch. 19: Women’s Religious Leadership in the 20th Century: Ambiguity among Evangelicals and Mormons
Ch. 20: Women’s Religious Leadership in the 20th Century: Affirming Traditional Roles
Faludi, “The Politics of Resentment: The New Right’s War on Women”

May 4

Paper on the texts – Student 8; Project – Student 2
Lindley, Ch. 21: Women, Religion, and Reform in the 20th Century
Bednarowski, Ch. 2: Ambivalence as a New Religion Virtue
Ch. 3: The Immanence of the Sacred
Ch. 4: The Revelatory Power of the Ordinary and the Ordinarity of the Sacred

May 11 - TAKE HOME EXAM DUE

Paper on the texts – Student 9
Lindley, Ch. 22: Women and Religion in America: Looking toward the 21st Century
Bednarowski, Ch. 5: “Relationship” and Its Complexities
Ch. 6: Healing and Women’s Theological Creativity
Epilogue: What’s Next