

WOMEN IN WORLD RELIGIONS

RelS U181-001

Spring 2008

TR 11:00 – 12: 15 Bobet 214B

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COURSE OBJECTIVE: To understand the ways women's roles in society and religious beliefs are interrelated and affect one another. This will be accomplished through the historical study of some of the major religions of the world, their scriptures, ideas, myths, practices, and customs, as well as by an examination of the various theories of the origin of patriarchy.

BOOKS: Catherine Wessinger, unpublished chapters on Blackboard. WESSINGER.

Mary Pat Fisher, *Women in Religion* (Pearson/Longman, 2007). FISHER.

T Jan. 8 Introduction

R Jan. 10 Definition of Terms
WESSINGER, "Introduction," 1-19.

T Jan. 15 Women's Religious Experiences
FISHER, 12-34.

R Jan. 17 QUIZ #1: Terms and Women's Religious Experiences
Women in Prehistory and the Origins of Patriarchy
WESSINGER, archaeology, 1-20, source materials, 1-9.

T Jan. 22 The Origins of Patriarchy
WESSINGER, anthropology and history, 20-25; psychology, 25-32,
source materials, 9-16.

R Jan. 24 QUIZ #2: Women in Prehistory and the Origins of Patriarchy
Women in Indigenous Religions
FISHER, 35-63.

T Jan. 29 **TERM PAPER TOPIC MUST BE APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR. 5 pts.
deducted from the grade of the term paper if the topic is not approved by this date.**
Apache
WESSINGER, 1-15, source materials, 1-5.

R Jan. 31 No Class

T Feb. 5 Off – Mardi Gras

R Feb. 7 Off – Mardi Gras break

T Feb. 12 Apache
WESSINGER, 15-25
VIDEO: "Sunrise Dance" (30 min.)

R Feb. 14 QUIZ #3: Women in Indigenous Religions, Apache

- Women in Hinduism
FISHER, 64-95.
- T Feb. 19 Women in Hinduism
Continued discussion.
- R Feb. 21 Women in Hinduism
Continued discussion.
- T Feb. 26 QUIZ #4: Women in Hinduism
Review for Exam #1
- R Feb. 28 EXAM #1: One discussion question and 10 identifications. 75 pts.
- T Mar. 4 Women in Buddhism
FISHER, 96-127.
- R Mar. 6 **OUTLINE & BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TERM PAPER MUST BE TURNED IN. 10
pts. will be deducted from the grade of the paper if these are turned in late.**
Women in Buddhism
Continued discussion.
- [Mar. 7 – Mid-Term Grades due]
- T Mar. 11 Women in Buddhism
VIDEO: “Choice for a Chinese Woman” (30 min.)
- R Mar. 13 QUIZ #5: Women in Buddhism
Women in Judaism
FISHER, 256-87.
- T Mar. 18 Off – Spring Break
- R Mar. 20 Off – Spring Break
- T Mar. 25 Women in Judaism
Continued discussion.
- R Mar. 27 Women in Judaism
VIDEO: “Half the Kingdom” (1 hr.)
- T Apr. 1 QUIZ #6: Women in Judaism
Women in Christianity
FISHER, 188-209.
- R Apr. 3 Women in Christianity
FISHER, 210-33.
- T Apr. 8 Women in Christianity
VIDEO: “Woman Priest” (1 hr.)
- R Apr. 10 QUIZ #7: Women in Christianity
Women in Islam
FISHER, 234-69.
- T Apr. 15 No Class

- R Apr. 17 No Class
- T Apr. 22 Women in Islam
VIDEO: "A Veiled Revolution" (30 min.)
- R Apr. 24 QUIZ #8: Islam
Women in Newer Religions
FISHER, 270-96.
- T Apr. 29 **TERM PAPER IS DUE. TURN IN ONE HARD COPY AND THE ELECTRONIC FILE MUST BE UPLOADED TO THE DIGITAL DROPBOX IN BLACKBOARD. 10 pts. will be deducted from the grade of late papers.**
QUIZ #9: Women in Newer Religions and Beyond Religions
Women Beyond Religions
FISHER, 297-309.
Review for Exam.
- FINAL EXAM: Tues., May 6 11:30 – 1:30
EXAM #2: One discussion question and 10 identifications. 75 pts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two exams (75 pts. each), which will count as one-half of the final grade. The remaining one-half of the final grade will consist of a term paper (50 pts.) and 8 true-false quizzes (counting 5 pts. each for a total of 40 pts.), class discussion and attendance (30 pts.), and participation on the class discussion-board (30 pts.).

Exams

Each exam will consist of one discussion question counting 25 pts. and ten identifications counting five points each. Therefore, each exam counts a total of 75 pts.

There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of severe illness or a family emergency, in which case the instructor should be notified at once.

Quizzes

The quizzes will consist of 10 true-false statements counting 1/2 pt. each, so that each quiz is worth 5 pts. Eight quizzes are worth 40 pts. A total of 9 quizzes will be given during the semester.

There will be no make-up true-false quizzes. A total of 9 true-false quizzes will be given during the semester. At the end of the semester, the lowest true-false quiz score will be dropped. If you miss a class during which a true-false quiz was administered, that quiz will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss more than one true-false quiz, your grade will be diminished accordingly.

For your convenience, the approximate dates for the quizzes are given on the syllabus. However, if these dates are changed by the instructor, you are responsible for being prepared to take the quiz, even if you missed the previous class in which the quiz date was announced.

Class Discussion

Students need to attend every class and are encouraged to participate in class discussion. Up to 30 pts. can be earned by participating regularly in class discussion. Regular attendance is part of the discussion grade.

Term Paper

The term paper will consist of 8-10 pages typewritten and double-spaced on a topic selected by the student that has been approved by the instructor.

The term paper topic must be approved by **January 29** by the instructor. **5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper if the topic is not approved by this date.**

March 6 is the deadline for turning in the bibliography and outline for the term paper. **If the bibliography and outline are turned in late, 10 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper.**

Term papers are due **April 29**. **Ten points will be deducted from the grade of a late term paper. To be counted on time, the hard copy must be turned in and the electronic file uploaded to the digital dropbox in Blackboard on this date.**

It is strongly recommended that you take your term paper to the Writing Across the Curriculum Lab in Bobet, and have one of the tutors read it and make suggestions for its improvement. See the Term Paper Check List for the criteria for a good term paper.

The term paper should contain no typographical errors or misspelled words. The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected if these are present.

Plagiarism

The student should note Loyola's policy on plagiarism in the Undergraduate Bulletin. A student who is found to have committed plagiarism in a term paper may be given a failing grade for that course, and the plagiarism will be reported to the dean. A second instance of plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the university.

The Undergraduate Bulletin defines plagiarism as "the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind, and presenting it as one's own." "Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another's sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own, or even presenting someone else's line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own."

Students should not copy sentences from a book directly into their term papers. The only exception is when such sentences are properly identified as quotations and the proper references are given. Direct quotations and extended block quotations should be a minimal part of your term paper. In writing the term paper for this or any other Loyola course, plagiarism should be carefully avoided.

Gender Inclusive Language

It is important that the student remember to use gender inclusive language when writing her or his term paper. The student should make the effort to use terms such as humans, human beings, persons, etc., in place of the generic "man." The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected by the use of sexist language.

Discussion Board

30 pts. may be earned by participating regularly on the class discussion-board. The instructor will post questions there for consideration and make announcements on the discussion board. Students should feel free to post their own questions, observations, and news items on the discussion-board. To participate fully on the discussion-board, students should log in and leave a message twice a week. The instructor will read the postings and note which ones indicate that the student is thinking deeply about the topics being studied in the class.

Policy on Laptops in the Classroom

It has become evident that with the introduction of wireless access to the Internet, laptops have often been used as distractions in the classroom. Therefore, any student wishing to use a laptop to take notes must sit in the front of the classroom. If the instructor becomes aware that the student is using the laptop to surf the Web or check email, the student will lose the privilege of using the laptop in the classroom for the rest of the semester. Laptops must be closed when movies are shown