Women in the Bible and Early Church

This course will survey the construction of gender and roles of women in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and early Christian communities. The course will utilize Feminist Reconstruction methodology by examining the historical, cultural and religious settings of the texts, including their subsequent transmission through Western Civilization into the present.

Required Texts


Course Requirements

- There will be three on-line exams taken through Blackboard, each worth 20% of the final grade. Exams will consist of short written responses and an essay. The essay questions will be posted one week prior to the exam. If you miss an exam you will be penalized by a grade drop unless you have documented proof for a legitimate absence.

- For each exam, you will receive a list of 20 words/phrases to define. Each entry should begin with the word/phrase in bold and consist of a complete paragraph, typed, double-spaced. Each of the three definition lists will comprise 10% of the final grade. Due dates are posted on the Blackboard calendar.

- There will be one 8 – 10 page (2,000 – 3,000 words) response paper typed, double-spaced. You will be given several choices for a topic. Paper will be worth 10% of the final grade.

- All essays, definition lists and the response paper must be submitted through turnitin.com.

- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a zero. All incidences of plagiarism will be reported to the Dept. of Religious Studies. A second report during your time at FIU will result in an Academic Affairs request for expulsion. **Plagiarism** is 1) copying any written material without using proper citation – this includes material from the internet; 2) incorporating another person’s ideas without giving proper credit/citation (literary theft).

- Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 5 class periods will result in a reduction of your final grade by 5%.
**Grading:** Grading is on a point system. Each exam is 20 points, each definition list 10 points, and the final response paper is 10 points.

**Grading Scale**

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<th>Score Range</th>
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<td>90 – 93</td>
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Students registered through Disability Services will be accommodated. Students with extended time may take exams in the Disability Service Office.

**Syllabus** (specific dates subject to change)

**Learning Module 1: 1/10 – 1/12**

- Introduction to class. Introduction to Biblical Studies.

**No School: 1/17**

**Learning Module 2: 1/19 – 1/21**


**Learning Module 3: 1/24 – 1/28**

Learning Module 4: 1/31 – 2/4

- Eve, Gender and Creation Stories. Powerful Women: Pre-monarchy

Learning Module 5: 2/7 – 2/11

- The Good, the Bad and the Victims.

EXAM 1 On-Line: No Class 2/14

Learning Module 6: 2/16, 2/18, 2/21


Learning Module 7: 2/23, 2/25, 2/28


Learning Module 8: 3/2, 3/4, 3/7

- Jesus and Women in the Gospels.


- The Gospel Writers and their Communities.

EXAM 2: On-line: No class 3/23

Learning Module 10:  3/25, 3/28, 3/30

- Reconstructing Women in the Pauline Tradition.

Learning Module 11:  4/1, 4/4, 4/6

- Paul and Gender Construction in the Early Church. Early Interpreters on Paul and Gender.

Learning Module 12:  4/8, 4/11, 4/13

- Gender, Women and “Heretical” Christianities; Gnosticism, Montanism

Learning Module 13:  4/15, 4/18, 4/20

- Development of the Early Church: Process of Women’s Elimination. Women as Sources of Redemption and Knowledge: Martyrdom

Extra Day: NO Class 4/22 (“extra day” may be used if schedule is changed during semester)

EXAM 3 On-line week of 4/25