

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Religious Studies 381 L01 - Women and Religion
Course Outline Fall 2004

04/08/24

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| INSTRUCTOR | Sarah Haynes |
| CLASS TIME | MWF 11:00-11:50 am |
| OFFICE / HOURS | SS 1323 / T 2:00-3:00/by appointment |
| TELEPHONE | 220-7906 |
| EMAIL | sfhaynes@ucalgary.ca |

Required Textbooks:

Leona M. Anderson and Pamela Dickey Young, *Women and Religious Traditions*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Nancy Auer Falk and Rita M. Gross, *Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives*. 3rd Edition. Toronto: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

Course Description:

An examination of the views on and participation of women in selected religious traditions.

Course Contents:

This course will focus on women in various religious traditions. We will undertake an investigation into the place of women in Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. The investigation will include both a historical survey of the way women have been regarded within these traditions and an examination of their contemporary situations. The last section of the course will be devoted to women in religious traditions that are not considered to be major world religions. In addition, the special contribution that women have made and continue to make to religious traditions and practices will be assessed.

Core Competencies:

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a wide range of critical and practical skills necessary for reflective thinking and the communication of ideas. It challenges students to identify and to call into question the presuppositions, central concepts, agendas, and cultural biases of both the scholar and the subjects of inquiry. As part of the course requirements, students will learn to write a short research paper based upon thorough investigation and documentation. A topic of interest that is related to the subject matter of the course will be selected in consultation with the instructor. Because the content of the course is women and religion, this course will offer the students an opportunity to participate in the investigation of not only the role of women in the major religious traditions, but also the ritual practice of women in religious traditions other than those listed above.

Course Requirements:

I. Tests

- (a) Mid-term exam on October 27th, **30 points**
- (b) Final test on December 8th, **10 points**

NOTE: If a student is ill (with a doctor's note) or has a death in the family (obituary) permission will be granted to write the test on another day. Contact the instructor before the day of the exam. Otherwise a missed exam will result in a grade of zero.

II. Research Paper - 35 points

The required research paper should be on a topic related to the contents of the course (ie., the role of women in a religious tradition). It should have a clear introduction in which the purpose and scope of the paper is stated. Proper documentation of sources, both quoted and used for reference, should be given in the footnotes and bibliography. Plagiarism (See explanation below) is a serious matter and will automatically result in an F for the paper. It should be noted that a series of quotations does not comprise a research paper. The purpose of the research paper is to investigate a topic and report the result of the investigation in **one's own words**. It should be clear in pointing out in the notes which parts of the composition are a paraphrase of the sources and which parts constitute the student's own contribution. The Paper proposal must be attached to your final paper.

(a) Research paper 10-12 pages double-spaced (3000 words max.).

Due: December 6th by 4:30 in the Department of Religious Studies (SS 1301).

PLEASE HAVE PAPER DATE-STAMPED.

(b) Students should consult a reference book on how to compose a research paper before attempting to write the paper. The *Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Sheet* are highly recommended.

(c) Late papers will be disadvantaged by deducting a grade point for each day late after the Due Date. That is, an A paper will become an A- paper if it is one day late, a B+ paper if it is late two days, and so on.

(d) PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION WHEN THIS CLASS HANDOUT WAS EXPLAINED ON THE FIRST DAY OF LECTURES. Students often have tests in other courses on the day that this assignment is due, contract a cold or other illness on that day, or find that there are no books in the library a week before the deadline; consequently, it is highly recommended that you begin to work on this research paper early in the term so that you will not be pressured at the last minute. The paper proposal must be attached to the final paper for this assignment to be complete.

III. Paper Proposal - 5 points

Outline to indicate contents, methodology, and proposed bibliography.

Please note that the proposal should state the thesis (as distinct from methodology, ie., to compare ideas does not constitute a thesis statement, but does constitute a methodology), the methodology that will be employed, and the anticipated conclusion. A proposed annotated bibliography of 5-7 sources (both journal articles and books) should be given.

Due: November 1st

IV. Reflection Papers - 2 @ 10 points each

Students are required to **write two 3 page (750 words) reflection papers**. The reflection paper should be written in response to the readings in the second half of the term (after the mid-term on October 27th). The reflection papers are not research papers, but are meant to focus on the readings from *Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives*. Each paper should discuss at least two of the following areas:

- summary of the main ideas presented in the reading
- academic analysis and critique
- questions which the material raised for you

- insights you gleaned from the reading
- connection you are making with other areas of study
- anything that particularly struck you
- personal thoughts

Students should choose one reading upon which to focus one reflection paper and another reading for the second paper. No outside research is required. **Papers are due on the day the article/chapter is to be discussed in class.** A reading schedule will be handed out.

Note: All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content (including written portions of tests).

THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRAR SCHEDULED EXAM.

Grading:

A letter grade will be assigned on the basis of the following points and letter grade scheme.

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| A+ | 100 - 96 | A | 95 - 90 | A- | 89 - 85 |
| B+ | 84 - 80 | B | 79 - 75 | B- | 74 - 70 |
| C+ | 69 - 65 | C | 64 - 60 | C- | 59 - 55 |
| D+ | 54 - 53 | D | 52-50 | F | Under 50 |

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.