REQUIRED TEXTS¹

1. Young, An Anthology of Sacred Texts by and about Women (AST)
2. Anderson and Young, Women and Religious Traditions (W&RT)
3. Mr. Kopy Course Reader (R)

¹ Books available at the AS Bookstore; reader available at Mr. Kopy (119 Main St.)
Historically, women have taken the back seat within many of the major world religions. This does not mean that women have not played important roles in the development of religious thought and ritual. However, traditionally we have seldom heard the voices of women featured front and center in discussions about worship, doctrine and leadership. This course attempts to rectify this by offering a woman-centered analysis of some of the major world religions. Though we will read many feminist writers, this will not be a course on feminism - for being a woman is not a sufficient condition for being a feminist. Ultimately, we will aim to comprehend how religious women live, understand, challenge and reconstruct their faiths. After completing this course, you should have acquired:

- an understanding of some of the major world religions and women’s roles in them;
- an understanding of the relationship between male hegemony and religion;
- a recognition and appreciation for the diversity of thought among female religious scholars;
- an appreciation for the field of women studies in religion;
- the ability to make clear, well organized, and substantive written presentations.
How to Succeed in This Class

Readings: this course features both easier to comprehend and more challenging material. So, allot the necessary time before class to read and understand the material I assigned. I don’t expect you to master the material on your own, but merely running your eyes over the page will not get you anywhere. Also, always bring your text to class.

Attendance: you’re all adults, and it is your choice to take this class. So, I will not take attendance. However, the quizzes will indirectly track your attendance; you may miss two class sessions/quizzes without penalty. When you choose to come to class, please save your meals and private conversations for later in the day. No one wants to smell your enchilada or cares about what Becky did last night at The Bear.

Participation: the style of this class will be participatory. I may take a portion of the class to lecture. However, we will run this course like a readings group; you will be expected to come to class prepared to offer an informed opinion on the ideas portrayed in the readings. Learning is not a spectator sport. If you miss more than six class sessions, your participation score will be zero. If you are having difficulty coming to class, come talk to me ASAP.

Quizzes: The aim of the quizzes is to get you to extract the most important ideas and arguments from the readings. NO MAKE-UPS ON YOUR QUIZZES (that is why you get two freebies). ALL QUIZZES WILL BE SUBMITTED ON 3 X 5 index cards. GET A STACK ASAP!

Papers: this is a writing intensive class, which means that you will be writing and revising your writing multiple times. You will be graded on both the form and content of your papers. You must meet with me before submitting a revision. You must turn in your original paper with your revision. The themes explored in class will give you an idea of what I will be looking for in the papers.

Office Hours: I will be available in my office at least twice a week. The state pays me to be there to answer your questions or concerns. So, don’t be shy and come by if you need help, or if you just want to chat. If you feel that you are not keeping up with the class, the right time to talk to me is early in the semester — not on week 15. No compassion shall be extended to those who severely procrastinate.

Extra Credit Policy: focus on the credit assignments and you won’t need extra credit. There are no extra credit opportunities.
Respect

Religion is a sensitive topics. We will ask difficult questions - and the answers we come up with may shake some of us to the core. So, be prepared to be uncomfortable. Although I want everyone to feel free to express his/her perspective on any issues, no one will ever launch a personal attack on a fellow classmate (or instructor), and no one will ever use hurtful, vulgar or inflammatory language against a peer. Still, if you are deeply bothered by something that is said in class, or you feel that your voice is not heard, please speak up (or come talk to me after class).

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of University policy. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of academic integrity and have serious consequences. Violating standards of academic honesty will result in zero points for that work and, depending upon the severity, an “F” in the course. A report will also be sent to Student Judicial Affairs for further action. Please review the standards of conduct at http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/

Use of Technology

I have a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive uses of technology. Every time I spot someone using his/her phone/computer/tablet in a way that hinders the learning process, I will give the whole class a 3-point penalty. If you decide to repeatedly interact with your phone/computer, you will be asked to leave the class and your participation grade will be zero.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who require special arrangements must document that through the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) located in the Student Services building. Once I have documentation from ARC, we can arrange necessary accommodations. I cannot give individual students special treatment without documentation from ARC.

Adding and Dropping

It is your responsibility. Follow university policies and deadlines to avoid surprises.

Other Things You May Want To Know

1. Grading Scale
90% gets you an “A,” 80% gets you a “B,” 70% gets you a “C,” and so on...

2. Behavior
I will treat you with respect and I expect you to reciprocate. Rude, violent and/or disruptive behavior will lower your participation score and may result in disciplinary action.

3. Dictionary
If you don’t understand a word, look it up. The dictionary is an amazing tool; get an old-school paper one or download one into your smartphone or computer.

4. Failing this Course
The grade that you get is the grade that you earn. In order to pass this class, you have to do the work and do it reasonably well. Merely warming up a chair two times a week will earn you an “F.”

5. Missing Class
If you must miss class, I’d appreciate it if you could let me know ahead of time. It is your responsibility to find out from a classmate what was covered while you were gone.

6. Lateness
If you arrive more than 2 minutes late to class, you will miss the quiz. If you turn in your work late, you will not get credit for it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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</table>
| 1  | Introduction | bell hooks, “Understanding Patriarchy” (R)  
Walters, “Feminism” (Intro and Chapter 1) (R);  
Renfro, “Defining Feminism” (R);  
Jelks, “Hey, Religion...” (R) | Quiz #1 | Introduction |
| 2  | Sharma & Young, “Definitions” (R)  
Plaskow, “We Are Also Your Sisters” (R)  
Plaskow, “The Coming of Lilith” (R) | Barstow, “The Prehistoric Goddess” (R)  
Stuckey, “Ancient Mother Goddess and Fertility Cults” (R)  
AST 136-138 | Quiz #2-3 | Searching For The Goddess |
| 3  | W&RT Ch. 9  
“How to Write a Crap Philosophy Essay” (R) | W&RT Ch. 5  
Gutierrez, “When Jesus Came...” (R)  
Bengay, “Document 1: An Apache...” (R) | Quiz #4-5  
Paper prompt released T | Women In Native American Religions |
| 4  | Paper #1 Due | AST 225-226; 228-231; 233-235  
Tohe, “There Is No Word for Feminism in My Language” (R)  
Johnston-Robledo, “The Menstrual Mark...” (R) | Quiz #6  
Paper #1 due T | Women In Native American Religions |
| 5  | W&RT Ch. 2  
Docs. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 (R) | Plaskow, “Towards a New Theology of Sexuality” (R) | Quiz #7-8  
Paper #1 returned T | Judaism: The Female Body And The Sacred |
| 6  | Docs. 10, 11 (R)  
Berner, “A Ritual for Healing from Sexual Abuse” (R) | AST 157-159; 161-162; 169-171  
Plato, “Timaeus” (excerpts) (R)  
Ruether, “Three Classical Creation Stories” (R) | Quiz #9-10  
Paper Prompt released T | Origins Of Western Patriarchy |
| 7  | W&RT Ch. 6  
Borg, “Association with Women” (R)  
AST 48-49, 68-69 | Ruether, “Ecofeminism - The Challenge to Theology” (R)  
White, “the historical roots...”(R) | Quiz #11-12  
Revision #1 due R | Christianity And Ecofeminism |
| 8  | W&RT Ch. 7  
AST 95-102 | Paper #2 Due | Quiz #13  
Paper #2 Due T | Islam |
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break!</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Cesar Chavez Day</strong></td>
<td>Boxall, “Delicate Birds in Cages” (R) “Muslim Women, France, and the Headscarf Ban” (R)</td>
<td>Quiz #16 Paper proposal due R</td>
<td>Islam, Agency and Multiculturalism</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>W&amp;RT Ch. 1 AST 266-268; 277-279; 299-300</td>
<td>Ahmed-Ghosh, “Writing the Nation on the Beauty Queen’s Body” (R) (Movie Part 1)</td>
<td>Quiz #17-18 Prompt released R</td>
<td>Hinduism: Between Beauty And Militancy</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Movie Part 2 (prompt discussion)</td>
<td><strong>In-class writing assignment: BRING A SMALL GREEN BOOK</strong></td>
<td>Quiz #19 Revision #2 due T In-class essay on R</td>
<td>Hinduism: Between Beauty And Militancy</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>McCarthy Brown, “Fundamentalism and the Control of Women” (R)</td>
<td>Blaydes and Linzer, “The Political Economy of Women’s Support for Fundamentalist Islam” (R)</td>
<td>Quiz #20-21</td>
<td>Women in Fundamentalist Movements</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>(Movie Part 1)</td>
<td>Movie Part 2</td>
<td>Quiz #24-25 Movie Worksheet Released T</td>
<td>Fundamentalism and Homophobia</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam: Thursday 2-3:50 PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Paper due</strong></td>
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**Grading Breakdown**

- **Quizzes** (15%) 3 pts X 23 = 69 pts.
- **Participation** (10%) 46 pts.
- **Paper 1** (15%) 69 pts.
- **Paper 2** (20%) 92 pts.
- **Paper 3** (20%) 92 pts.
- **Paper 4 + Proposal** (20%) 92 pts.

**Fine Print**

The instructor reserves the right to make minor amendments to this syllabus throughout the course of the semester.