

WOMEN IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION  
Rels 143-001  
MTWR 3:15 – 5:15 p.m. Bobet 216  
SUMMER I 2007

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OBJECTIVE: An understanding in historical terms of the tension between the significant religious opportunities available to women in the Christian tradition, and the subordination of women in Christian institutions. An understanding of the history of women in the Christian tradition will contribute to an understanding of women's roles in contemporary American society and in American Christian churches.

Texts: Barbara J. MacHaffie, Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition 2d ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006). Hereafter MacHAFFIE

The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.

Blackboard: James Tabor, "Introduction: A Tale of Two Tombs," 6-33; "Epilogue: The Discovery of the Jesus Family Tomb," 319-31. Hereafter TABOR.

Robin Darling Young, "Martyrdom as Exaltation." Hereafter YOUNG.

Elizabeth A. Clark, "Asceticism, Class, and Gender." Hereafter CLARK.

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, "Women and Men, Together and Apart." (Reformation period.) Hereafter WIESNER-HANKS.

- T May 29     Introduction  
Course requirements; definition of terms; discussion of Genesis 1:27, and Genesis 2-3.
- W May 30     Women in Jesus' Ministry  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 1-6; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.
- R May 31     TABOR, pp. 6-33; 319-31.  
DVD: "Lost Tomb of Jesus" (2 hrs.)
- M June 4     QUIZ #1  
Discussion of Jesus Tomb thesis and the roles of women.

Pauline Writings

MACHAFFIE, pp. 6-9, 14-17, 45-48; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.

- T June 5      QUIZ #2  
Women in the New Testament Churches  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 9-13, 17-20, 32; all biblical passages referenced in these pages.  
Ministries of Women in the Post-Biblical Churches  
VIDEO: "Women's Ordination: The Hidden Tradition" (60 min.); discussion.
- W June 6      Martyrdom  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 26-27, 33-37.  
YOUNG, pp. 70-92.  
Women Outside the Orthodox Mainstream - Gnosticism  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 20-22.
- R June 7      QUIZ #3  
Patristic Attitudes Toward Women  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 22-25, 36-42.  
Review for Exam
- M June 11     QUIZ #4  
EXAM (10 identifications; 2 discussion questions)
- T June 12     VIDEO: "Battle for the Minds" (60 min.); followed by discussion.
- W June 13     The Life of Virginity and Chastity in the Medieval Period  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 49-60, 75-78.  
CLARK, pp. 27-45.  
Medieval Mariology  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 61-65; read all referenced biblical passages.
- R June 14     Woman as Witch in Medieval Period  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 65-68, 79-82.  
Medieval Women in Prayer and Protest  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 68-74, 82-88.
- M June 18     QUIZ #5  
Women in an Era of Reformation  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 89-125.  
WIESNER-HANKS, pp. 143-67.
- T June 19     QUIZ #6  
19th Century America: Women Organizing for Mission and Reform  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 159-93.  
Organized Feminism, Women's Rights, and the Christian Community  
MACHAFFIE, pp.  
The Woman's Bible

MACHAFFIE, pp. 207-11, 227-31.

- W June 20     19th Century Women Preachers  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 195-207, 212-27.  
Images of Women in American Catholicism  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 233-37.  
American Women in Religious Orders  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 237-41, 251-62.
- R June 21     Women and Sectarian Christianity  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 241-50, 262-71.
- M June 25     QUIZ #7  
The Move Toward Full Participation in Mainstream Protestant Denominations  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 273-303, 305, 308-12, 314-330, 333-44.  
VIDEO: "Woman Priest" (60 min.)
- T June 26     Recent Developments in the Roman Catholic Church  
MACHAFFIE, pp. 305-08, 312-14, 331-33.  
HAND-OUT, Catherine Wessinger, excerpt from "Women's Religious Leadership in America," in Wessinger, *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership*, 21-29.  
HAND-OUT, Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Reflections on Joan Chittester's Decision to Speak," *New Woman, New Church*, 8.
- W June 27     QUIZ #8  
Recent Developments in the Roman Catholic Church  
HAND-OUT, Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Women-Church Movement in Contemporary Christianity," in Wessinger, *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership*, 196-210.  
HAND-OUT, Gail Grossman Freyne, "Women in Exile: Devout Dissent," *Studies* 86, no. 341 (Spring 1997): 7-14.  
Review for Final Exam.
- R June 28     Final Exam

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two exams will be given each consisting of 10 Identifications and 2 Discussion Questions. The two exams will constitute two-thirds of the Final Grade. Each Exam will count 100 pts. There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of severe illness or a family emergency and the instructor should be notified at once.

The final third of the grade will consist of 7 true-false quizzes counting a total of 70 pts., the discussion grade of 20 pts., and 10 pts. for participation on the class discussion board on Blackboard.

A total of 8 true-false quizzes will be given in the term. At the end of the term, the quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped. Each quiz will count 10 pts.

No make-ups will be given for the quizzes. If you miss a quiz, that quiz will be the grade that will be dropped at the end of the term. If you miss more than one quiz, your grade will be diminished by 10 pts. for each quiz you miss.

Although the approximate dates are given on the syllabus for each quiz, the instructor may change the dates of the quizzes and the student is responsible for knowing about the next quiz even if the student has missed the class on which it was announced.

Attendance is very important to being successful in this course, and your discussion grade will take attendance into account. The discussion grade is worth 20 pts.

Participation on the class discussion board on Blackboard counts 10 points of the final grade. Every student must log into the discussion board and leave an initial message as proof that one has succeeded in logging on. After that, students can participate in the board's discussion as they see fit, responding to questions or articles posted there by the instructor, raising their own questions, making observations, posting news articles. Students are encouraged to initiate their own threads. To participate fully on the discussion board, students should post a message there at least 3 times each week.