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.


Robin Darling Young, “Martyrdom as Exaltation.” Hereafter Young.

Elizabeth A. Clark, “Asceticism, Class, and Gender.” Hereafter Clark.


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
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
Images of Women in American Catholicism
MACHAFFIE, pp. 233-37.
American Women in Religious Orders

R June 21 Women and Sectarian Christianity

M June 25 QUIZ #7
The Move Toward Full Participation in Mainstream Protestant Denominations
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, 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
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.