

WOMEN IN RELIGIONS AND CULTURES, Rels 417-01
SPRING 2009
TR 2:00 – 3:15
Communications/Music 301

Dr. Catherine Wessinger
Bobet 406
Office: 865-3182

wessing@loyno.edu
<http://www.loyno.edu/~wessing>

OBJECTIVES: To investigate and discover the mutual interaction between religious beliefs and gender roles: how religion shapes and justifies gender roles, and changing gender roles shape religion. Special topics for investigation include: the origins of patriarchy, women's religious and social lives in patriarchal cultures, women shamans and other roles of religious leadership for women, the changing roles of women in cultures and religions, the role of feminism in effecting changes in religions and cultures, and women creating women-friendly religions.

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Catherine Wessinger, currently unpublished monographs for the forthcoming *Women in Religions and Cultures* series. WESSINGER

Nancy Auer Falk and Rita M. Gross, *Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives* (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth, 2001). FALK&GROSS.

Selected articles, many coming from Catherine Wessinger, ed., *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream* (University of Illinois Press, 1993); and Catherine Wessinger, ed., *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership: New Roles Inside the Mainstream* (University of South Carolina Press, 1996). HAND-OUT.

- T Jan. 13 Introduction and Course Requirements
- R Jan. 15 Introduction to Studying Women in Religions and Cultures
WESSINGER, "Introduction," 1-19.
- T Jan. 20 QUIZ #1: Introduction and Terms.
Women in Prehistory
WESSINGER, "Women in Prehistory and the Origins of Patriarchy," 1-14; "Source Materials," 1-9.
- R Jan. 22 Theories on the Origins of Patriarchy
WESSINGER, "Women in Prehistory and the Origins of Patriarchy," 14-33; "Source Materials," 9-16.
- T Jan. 27 QUIZ #2: Women in Prehistory and the Origins of Patriarchy.
Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache Religions and Cultures
WESSINGER, "Women in Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache Religions and Cultures," 1-16.

- R Jan. 29 Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache Religions and Cultures
WESSINGER, "Women in Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache Religions and Cultures," 16-26; "Source Materials," 1-5.
DVD: "Sunrise Dance" (30 min.) DVD-000803
TERM PAPER TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR. 10 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADE OF PAPERS IF THE TOPIC IS NOT APPROVED BY THIS DATE.
- T Feb. 3 QUIZ #3: Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache
Australian Aboriginal Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Rita M. Gross, "Menstruation and Childbirth as Ritual and Religious Experience among Native Americans," 301-10.
- R Feb. 5 QUIZ #4: Australian Aborigines
Traditional African Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Martha B. Binford, "Julia: An East African Diviner," 3-14; Robert M. Baum, "Alinesitoué: A Diola Woman Prophet in West Africa," 179-95.
- T Feb. 10 Diaspora African-Based Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Karen McCarthy Brown, "Mama Lola and the Ezilis: Themes of Mothering and Loving in Haitian Vodou," 279-89.
HAND-OUT: Ina Johanna Fandrich, "Vodou in the United States: The Case of New Orleans," 125-47.
- R Feb. 12 QUIZ #4: Traditional African and Diaspora African-Based Religions and Cultures
Review for Exam
- T Feb. 17 EXAM #1 (1 discussion question for 25 pts.; 10 identifications for 5 pts. each; total 75 pts.)
- R Feb. 19 East Asian Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Randall L. Nadeau, "Harmonizing Family and Cosmos: Shamanic Women in Chinese Religions," 66-79; Youngsook Kim Harvey, "Possession Sickness and Women Shamans in Korea," 59-65; Kyoko Motomochi Nakamura, "No Women's Liberation: The Heritage of a Woman Prophet in Modern Japan," 168-78.
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE DUE FOR THE TERM PAPER. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL TERM PAPER IF THESE ARE LATE.
- T Feb. 24 OFF MARDI GRAS
- R Feb. 26 NO CLASS
- T Mar. 3 QUIZ #5: East Asian Religions and Cultures
Hindu Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Doranne Jacobson, "Golden Handprints and Red-Painted Feet: Hindu Childbirth Rituals in Central India, 83-102; Susan S. Wadley, "Hindu Women's Family and Household Rites in a North Indian Village," 103-13; James M. Freeman, "The Ladies of Lord Krishna: Rituals of Middle-Aged Women in Eastern India," 114-24.
- R Mar. 5 Hindu Religions and Cultures
FALK&GROSS: Charles S. J. White, "Mother Guru: Jnanananda of Madras, India," 43-58.

- HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, "Woman Guru, Woman Roshi: The Legitimation of Female Religious Leadership in Hindu and Buddhist Groups in America," 125-36, 139-446.
- T Mar. 10 QUIZ #6 Hindu Religions and Cultures
Buddhist Religions and Cultures
 FALK&GROSS: Nancy Auer Falk, "The Case of the Vanishing Nuns: The Fruits of Ambivalence in Ancient India Buddhism," 196-206; Reginald A. Ray, "Accomplished Women in Tantric Buddhism of Medieval India and Tibet," 233-42.
- R Mar. 12 Buddhist Religions and Cultures
 HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, Catherine Wessinger, "Woman Guru, Woman Roshi: The Legitimation of Female Religious Leadership in Hindu and Buddhist Groups in America," 136-40; Karma Lekshe Tsomo, "Sakyadhita Pilgrimage: On the Trail of the Buddhist Women's Network," 102-16.
- T Mar. 17 Buddhist Religions and Cultures
 VIDEO: "Choice for a Chinese Woman," (30 min.) MV-001135
 Continued discussion of Buddhism.
- R Mar. 19 QUIZ #7: Buddhist Religions and Cultures
Jewish Religions and Cultures
 HAND-OUT: Sue Levi Elwell, "Women's Voices: The Challenge of Feminism to Judaism," 331-43; Debra Renee Kaufman, "Patriarchal Women: A Case of Newly Orthodox Jewish Women," 299-314; Blu Greenberg, "Judaism and Feminism," 179-92.
- T Mar. 24 Jewish Religions and Cultures
 HAND-OUT: Janet R. Marder, "Are Women Changing the Rabbinate? A Reform Perspective," 271-90; Rebecca Alpert and Goldie Milgram, "Women in the Reconstructionist Rabbinate," 291-310; Sydele Ruth Schulman, "Faithful Daughters and Ultimate Rebels: The First Class of Conservative Jewish Women Rabbis," 311-30.
- R Mar. 26 Jewish Religions and Cultures
 VIDEO: "Half the Kingdom" (60 min.) MV-001744
 FALK&GROSS: Marian Henriquez Neudel, "Innovation and Tradition in a Contemporary Midwestern Jewish Congregation," 221-30.
ROUGH DRAFT OF TERM PAPER IS DUE. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL PAPER IF THE ROUGH DRAFT IS LATE.
- T Mar. 31 QUIZ #8: Jewish Religions and Cultures
Muslim Religions and Cultures
 FALK&GROSS: Fatima Mernissi, "Women, Saints, and Sanctuaries in Morocco," 144-53.
 HAND-OUT: Anour Majid, "The Politics of Feminism in Islam."
 VIDEO: "A Veiled Revolution" (30 min.) MV-000476
- R Apr. 2 Muslim Religions and Cultures
 FALK&GROSS: Anne H. Betteridge, "The Controversial Vows of Urban Muslim Women in Iran," 134-43; Erika Friedl, "Islam and Tribal Women in a Village in Iran," 157-67.
- T Apr. 7 OFF – SPRING BREAK
- R Apr. 9 OFF – SPRING BREAK

- T Apr. 14 QUIZ #9: Muslim Religions and Cultures
Christian Religions and Cultures
 HAND-OUT: Key Bible Passages for Women in Christianity. Look up and read the passages.
 VIDEO: “The Hidden Tradition” (60 min)
- R Apr. 16 Christian Religions and Cultures
 FALK&GROSS: Ulrike Strasser, “Bones of Contention: Catholic Nuns Resist Their Enclosure,” 207-120.
 HAND-OUT: Marie Augusta Neal, “Ministry of American Catholic Sisters: The Vowed Life in Church Renewal,” 231-43.
 HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, “Women’s Religious Leadership in the United States,” 3-36.
- T Apr. 21 Christian Religions and Cultures
 VIDEO: “Woman Priest” (60 min.)
 HAND-OUT: Suzanne Radley Hiatt, “Women’s Ordination in the Anglican Communion: Can This Church Be Saved?” 211-27.
 HAND-OUT: Virginia Sullivan Finn, “Ministerial Attitudes and Aspirations of Catholic Laywomen in the United States,” 244-68.
- R Apr. 23 QUIZ 10: Christian Religions and Cultures
Religions Created by Women
 HAND-OUT: Cynthia Eller, “Twentieth-Century Women’s Religion as Seen in the Feminist Spirituality Movement,” 172-95; Rosemary Radford Ruether, “The Women-Church Movement in Contemporary Christianity,” 196-210.
- T Apr. 28 QUIZ 11: Religions Created by Women
 Review for Final Exam
TERM PAPERS ARE DUE ON THIS DATE. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADES OF PAPERS THAT ARE TURNED IN LATE. TO BE COUNTED ON TIME, THE STUDENT SHOULD TURN IN ONE HARD COPY AND UPLOAD THE FILE TO THE DIGITAL DROP-BOX.

Final Exam: Thursday, May 7, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two exams (Mid-Term and Final) counting 75 pts. each, constituting one-half of the final grade. The remaining one-half of the final grade will consist of a term paper (40 pts); ten true-false quizzes (counting 5 pts. each, for a total of 50 pts.), class attendance and discussion (30 pts.), and participation on the discussion board (30 pts.). The final grade will be based on 300 possible pts.

GRADING SCALE: A - 92%; B - 83%; C - 71%; D- 65%.

Exams

Each exam will consist of one discussion question counting 25 pts. and ten identifications counting five points each. Therefore, each exam counts a total of 75 pts.

There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of severe illness or a family emergency, in which case the instructor should be notified at once.

Quizzes

The quizzes will consist of 10 true-false statements counting 1/2 pt. each, so that each quiz is worth 5 pts. Ten quizzes are worth 50 pts. A total of 11 quizzes will be given during the semester.

There will be no make-up quizzes. A total of 11 true-false quizzes will be given during the semester. At the end of the semester, the lowest true-false quiz score will be dropped. If you miss a class during which a true-false quiz was administered, that missed quiz will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss more than one true-false quiz, your grade will be diminished accordingly.

For your convenience, the approximate dates for the quizzes are given on the syllabus. However, if these dates are changed by the instructor, you are responsible for being prepared to take the quiz, even if you missed the previous class in which the quiz date was announced.

Class Discussion

Women in Religions and Cultures is a seminar for advanced undergraduate credit. Therefore, class attendance and participation in discussion is crucial. This is *not* a lecture-format course. Class participation and discussion will be graded on a scale of 30 pts. (15 pts. first half of semester; 15 pts. second half of semester). In order to participate in class discussion, it is crucial that the reading assignments be completed *prior* to attending class. Regular attendance is part of the discussion grade.

Term Paper

The term paper, counting 40 pts., will consist of 8-10 pages typewritten and double-spaced on a topic selected by the student that has been approved by the instructor.

The term paper topic must be approved by January 29 by the instructor. 5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper if the topic is not approved by this date.

February 19 is the deadline for turning in the bibliography and outline for the term paper. If the bibliography and outline are turned in late, 5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper.

A rough draft of the term paper is due on March 26. 5 pts. will be deducted from the final grade of the term paper if the rough draft is turned in late. The rough draft will not be graded. The instructor will read the rough draft, provide comments on how it can be improved, and then return the paper to the student.

Term papers are due April 28. 5 points will be deducted from the grade of late term papers. Turn in one hard copy of the term paper, and upload the electronic file to the digital drop box in Blackboard to be counted on time.

It is strongly recommended that you take your term paper to the Writing Across the Curriculum Lab in Bobet, and have one of the tutors read it and make suggestions for its improvement. See the Term Paper Check List for the criteria for a good term paper.

The term paper should contain no typographical errors or misspelled words. The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected if these are present.

Plagiarism

The student should note Loyola's policy on plagiarism in the Undergraduate Bulletin. A student who is found to have committed plagiarism in a term paper may be given a failing grade for that course. A second instance of plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the university.

The Undergraduate Bulletin defines plagiarism as “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own.” “Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own.”

Students should not copy sentences from a book directly into their term papers. The only exception is when such sentences are properly identified as quotations and the proper references are given. Direct quotations and extended block quotations should be a minimal part of your term paper. In writing the term paper for this or any other Loyola course, plagiarism should be carefully avoided.

Gender Inclusive Language

It is important that the student remember to use gender inclusive language when writing her or his term paper. The student should make the effort to use terms such as humans, human beings, persons, etc., in place of the generic “man.” The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected by the use of sexist language.

Discussion Board

30 pts. may be earned by participating regularly on the course discussion-board. The instructor will post questions there for consideration and make announcements on the discussion-board. Students should feel free to post their own questions, observations, and news items on the discussion-board. To participate fully on the discussion-board, students should log in and leave a thoughtful message twice a week. The instructor will read the postings and note which ones indicate that the student is thinking deeply about the topics being studied in the class.

Policy on Laptops in the Classroom

It has become evident that with the introduction of wireless access to the Internet, laptops have been used as distractions in the classroom. If the instructor becomes aware that the student is using the laptop to surf the Web or check email, the student will lose the privilege of using the laptop in the classroom for the rest of the semester. Laptops must be closed when movies are shown.

Policy on Cell Phones and Text-Messaging

The student should make every effort to turn off his or her cell phone before entering the classroom. Any student observed text-messaging in class will be counted absent for that class period.

Disability Services

A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive text accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.