



# Women's Studies in Religion

Summer 2022

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM  
(RS-2900) GTU  
(06/13/2022-06/25/2022)

Course Memo:

This course will introduce participants to the foundational texts and central beliefs and practices in Islam. We will focus on various aspects of Islamic tradition and history including the development of religious law, theology, philosophy, mysticism, art, and culture. We will explore the diverse ways in which Muslims practice and interpret their faith, with a focus on narratives of Muslim minorities and the role of women in the establishment of Islamic thought and institutions. This course will also introduce participants to key themes and issues in the study of contemporary Islam, offer resources to counter Islamophobia, and an opportunity to engage with some Muslim organizations and communities in the Bay area. Course meets M-F, 6/13/22-6/17/22, and T-Sat, 6/21/22-6/25/22, from 2:00pm-5:30pm at CDSP.

SPIRITUAL CARE AND SOCIAL WORK  
(RSSC-1000) CDSP  
(06/13/2022-06/25/2022)

Course Memo:

This seminar course will provide students with foundational knowledge of Social Work theory and practice and the application of these principles to spiritual care. The course will utilize readings, media, case studies and accompanying reflection papers grounding learners in the core principles of social work, followed by group discussion and application of a social work text demonstrating a bio-psycho-social-spiritual response to racialized trauma (My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem). This course is appropriate for MDiv, MA/MTS and others with practical interest in the intersection of social work and spiritual care. Course meets M-F, 6/13/22-6/17/22, and T-Sat, 6/21/22-6/25/22, from 2pm-5:30pm at CDSP.

Fall 2022  
(09/06/2022-12/16/2022)

FORGIVENESS AND (ITS) RESISTANCE: TRAUMA, GENDER, AND POWER  
(CERS-5100) GTU

Course Memo:

This course will explore various facets of forgiveness in religious perspective, including considerations of power dynamics, gender, trauma, and collective forgiveness (as in the case of civil or ethnic conflict). The course materials will largely focus on Christian perspective, including scripture, theological reflections, and philosophy of religion, but students are encouraged to incorporate other perspectives into their final papers. The course will be offered in a seminar format and evaluation will be based on participation in weekly discussions, presentations, and papers.

MOTHERHOOD/MOTHERING AND DIFFERENT RELIGIONS  
(IR-8200) GTU

Course Memo:

Mothering is a universal experience found everywhere, yet it is understood and/or experienced differently by various factors including individual and social values and development of reproduction technology. Then what do religious texts say about motherhood/mothering, and how mothering is practiced in different religions? Reading through recent studies on motherhood/ mothering, this course explores various topics and issues of human motherhood as well as motherhood of divine being(s). Subject world religions include Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, and Jewish traditions. This course is appropriate for M.Div, MTS, ThM, & MA students who have academic and/or ministerial interests. - Prior knowledge of world religions is helpful but not required. Format: Online with Synchronous meetings.

MODERN JEWISH THEOLOGY  
(PR-3300) GTU

Course Memo:

The intellectual, social, and political conditions known as "modernity" have transformed how people seek and think about the divine. In this survey course, we will explore major trends in modern Jewish theology, from the mid-eighteenth century through the present. Topics to be considered will include new emphases on individual autonomy and personal experience, tensions between universalism and particularism, navigations of historical relativism, theological perplexities after the Shoah, and the rise of feminism.

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE MAKING OF JEWISH CULTURE  
(HRHS-2001) GTU

Course Memo:

The seminar will examine the role of the household in the making of Jewish culture. We will consider household factors as both generators and enactments of Jewish custom; we will examine the ways in which household custom informed classical Jewish renderings, both Biblical and Talmudic. Our study will proceed chronologically, with a consideration of the household in the context of ancient Israel through medieval and modern times. This course will allow us to appreciate the continuities and discontinuities in Jewish history and to acquire a more nuanced sense of the overall process of cultural production in Judaism. This course satisfies the ancient-medieval survey course required for the M.A. and certificate in Jewish Studies.

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: FAITH, PRACTICE, HISTORY  
(HRPR-1100) GTU

Course Memo:

This course will introduce participants to the foundational texts and central beliefs and practices in Islam and important theories and methods in the academic study of Islam as a religion. We will focus on various aspects of Islamic tradition and history including the development of religious law, theology, philosophy, mysticism, art, and culture. We will explore the diverse ways in which Muslims practice and interpret their faith, with a focus on the role of women in the establishment of Islamic thought and institutions. This course will also introduce participants to key themes and issues in the study of contemporary Islam, offer resources to counter Islamophobia, and an opportunity to engage with some Muslim organizations and communities in the Bay area. Participants will be expected to begin formulating various nuanced, internally consistent, and suitable conceptual categories for talking about Islam in its various manifestations. This is a seminar course offered remotely on Zoom and is open to MA, MDiv, MTS, as well as PhD students (with added research).

RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY  
(EDHR-8250) GTU

Course Memo:

This course is an introduction to the intersecting disciplines of Religious Studies, and Science and Technology Studies. We will focus on various theoretical and methodological approaches to studying these disciplines, as well as applications of those theories and methods in the context of a variety of religious traditions. We will

also explore ethical concerns around the integration of religion and technology in areas including, but not limited to, disability, bodily autonomy, transhumanism, gender and sexuality expression, ownership of religious and spiritual practices, and religious and spiritual authority. This course is taught in a synchronous, remote manner; students will meet with the instructor via Zoom for 1.5 hours per week and utilize a variety of other resources independently. This course is appropriate for all MA and MDiv students. This course will be taught by PhD student Victoria Price with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Dr. Rita Sherma.

### SONG OF SONGS IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY (SPHS-8423) GTU

#### Course Memo:

The biblical Song of Songs is a collection of love poems with no mention of God, but generations of Jews and Christians have interpreted it as an allegory of the divine/human relationship. This seminar on Christian reception of the Song in the ancient, medieval, and modern periods will read selections from Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Bede, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Jeanne Guyon, and Jonathan Edwards, and others, as well as some more recent commentators. Attention will also be given to the influence of the Song in literature, art, music, liturgy, and interreligious dialogue.

### TPCS IN BUDDHISM IN THE WEST (HRHS-5526) IBS

#### Course Memo:

Topics In Buddhism In The West: Centering And Decentering Identity. This course will explore the intersections of identity in the context of American Buddhism. How have different Buddhist thinkers foregrounded social or cultural identities and their embodied challenges in the American context? How have Buddhist drawn from doctrinal positions such as "no-self" to engage or dis-engage with racism, sexism, trans- and homophobia both within and outside the sangha? Over the course of the semester, we will look at specific case studies, do close reading of contemporary Buddhist writing, and engage larger theoretical issues in the inter-related fields of critical race theory, post-colonial theory, and feminist/womanist theory. We examine key Buddhist concepts such as dukkha, anatta, anitya, and sunyata as they related to the discussion of Buddhism, practice, and the understanding of the sangha. This course is co-taught by PhD student Angela Lintz Small with a Newhall Award and Scott Mitchell.

REVELATION IN CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES  
(NT-2271) PLTS

Course Memo:

This course will read the canonical John's Revelation in the narrative and historical context of ancient Jewish apocalypses. For the second half of the class, the students will engage with monographs and articles that read the Apocalypse with queer, feminist, Black, and ecological lenses.

PAUL: ANCIENT CNTXTS, PRSNT CO  
(NT-8275) PLTS

Course Memo:

Paul: Ancient Contexts, Present Consequences. This course is an introduction to the field of Pauline Studies, providing a representative view of the various components within the contemporary study of the discipline, its texts and contexts. First, we will explore "traditional" approaches within Pauline Studies, focusing on the texts and contexts of the past, and how recent scholarship has defined some of the main topics (Law, Grace, Israel, etc.) Second, using more recent developments in the discipline, we will attend to different trajectories of interpretation that pay close attention to the way different communities understand, represent, and re-appropriate Paul for different theological and ideological purposes (Imperial and Postcolonial Studies, Feminist and Queer Approaches, Liberationist Readings).

MARK FROM THE MARGINS  
(NT-4150) JST-SC

Course Memo:

In this upper-level seminar, students will explore and practice critical approaches to reading the Gospel according to Mark, focusing on insights from postcolonial, feminist, and queer theory. The seminar will be structured around three pedagogical goals: (1) Students will engage pivotal critical frameworks by reading key works of postcolonial, feminist, and queer theory. (2) Students will read Mark in conversation with exemplary deployments of these critical approaches, and will critically analyze how these insights shape understandings of Mark. (3) Students will practice their own critical readings of Mark, drawing from the critical resources introduced in the seminar, from their historical and contextual study of Mark, and from their own contexts and experiences. The course will emphasize careful analysis of challenging texts; while the overall volume of reading will not be high, students should expect to devote substantial time to engaging course materials. Student learning will be assessed on the basis of participation, reading responses, a short presentation, and a major project. Prerequisites: An introduction to the New Testament or an introduction to the Gospels. Knowledge of ancient Greek is not required. An optional Greek reading section will be offered; participation is strongly encouraged for students with previous study of the Greek language.

EMBODIMENT IN THE BIBLE  
(OT-8680) SFTS

Course Memo:

The Hebrew Bible and New Testament present an understanding of embodied life, including how bodies are formed and operate, how our bodies should act, and matters of health and sexuality. In contrast to readings of the Bible as promoting a normative approach and a singular or restrictive ethic for bodies, we will experience the Bible's acceptance of a range of bodies, abilities, orientations, expressions, and performances of human embodiment. This course explores how ancient texts provide both positive and problematic understandings of the human body, and also utilizes contemporary theologies of embodiment to expand our understanding of the Bible.

QUEERING SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP & CARE  
(HRPS-3300) PSR

Course Memo:

This course offers an overview and survey of past and present models of spiritual leadership and pastoral care as practiced by LGBTQ spiritual/religious leaders and care givers. Several key figures, texts, and movements will be considered and analyzed with a view toward understanding and interpreting their impact on contemporary debates. Seminar format; final collaborative creative project; and two (2) in-class presentations are required. NB: This course will run for the first 7 weeks of the semester and conclude the week before Fall Reading Week. [Faculty Consent required; Interview required]

MORALITY IN SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SPHERES

(RSCE-2261) BST

Course Memo: This course examines issues of morality in society with ethical questions as well as biblical/theological frames that provide a moral basis for public policy. Interactive dialogue and use of audio-visual tools to look at past and present moral challenges will facilitate students' leadership skill development to assess the ramifications upon those least able to protect and defend their own interests. Project theme: How do issues of faith and beliefs in God's sovereignty get used or abused in public/religious spheres? Students will explore public advocacy groups and "watch dog" agencies, secular and faith-based practitioners. Class dialogue / assigned sharing, readings, and final critical analysis presentations. master and doctoral students welcome.

## READING CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN CONTEXT

(HSST - 8126) PLTS

This course is a broad introduction to the main developments of the central Christian teachings and religious life, and to an illustrative selection of works from influential and original theologians over the centuries; intentional attention is given to women's roles and voices in the Christian story. While providing the main historical framework to appreciate the roots and richness, and challenges, of the Christian expression of faith over several centuries, from the time of Jesus till the eve of modern era (2<sup>nd</sup> century - 19<sup>th</sup> century), the historical- theological journey promises both intellectual and spiritual insights, and hermeneutical discoveries. Participation involves critical inquiry and personal engagement with diverse sources and theological questions. The foundational course is an amalgamation of History of Christianity and Historical Theology and aims for inclusivity in terms of the voices and perspectives engaged.

### WSR CERTIFICATE STUDENT COURSE REQUIREMENT REMINDER:

In addition to completing the WSR Seminar that is offered once an academic year, students are required to successfully complete three additional 3.0 unit courses (total of 9.0 units) at the GTU or UC Berkeley in which the experiences of women, women-centered theologies, or feminist theories form a significant component. Two of these courses must also emphasize religious studies or theology. Special reading courses that cover these topics may also be counted toward the certificate. Course requirements should be tailored to the student's degree level. A course may also be acceptable if the student's final paper/project is on a gender topic. If a student decides to take advantage of this option, they have to submit the paper with their requirements checklist.