



# Women's Studies in Religion

Fall 2021

## FEMINIST THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

JST (CEST-3261)

(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

### Course Description:

A consideration of major voices in feminist theology and ethics. Will treat both constructive and ethical questions, emphasizing the dialogue between sex and gender studies and theology. Format is seminar with minimal lecture. Student evaluation to be based on participation, weekly reading response papers, and a final project. [15 max enrollment; Auditors with faculty permission]

## HINDU ECOWOMANISM AND THE BLACK MOTHER GODDESS

SKSM (ST-3330)

(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

### Course Description:

Drawing on Hindu Goddess' traditional lore, this synchronous online course explores the relationship of identity between ecology, women, and the Goddess as not symbolic or representational, but substantive and real. This indigenous non-dual epistemology stands in contrast to dominant dualistic epistemologies that tend to contain fragmented perspectives of reality. The symbiotic, porous, interdependent nature of reality is an embodied realization that takes place when the Black Goddess Kali dissolves the solipsism, the subject-object dichotomy that is part of the human condition. This course intertwines the three strands of Hindu Goddess ecowomanism: 1) Hindu Cosmology and the feminine principle; 2) the theology of the Black Mother Goddess 3) the voice of activists, scholars, and grassroots organizers in the face of environmental degradation and earth justice. This course will use a lecture & discussion format. Requirements include class participation, reading of required texts, and the submission of a final 20-page paper. This is an Online Synchronous Course suitable for MDiv, MA/MTS, DMin, PhD/ThD students. No prior knowledge of Hindu studies is required. Relates to Threshold/s # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and to MFC competency # 3, 4, 6, 7. [20 max enrollment; Auditors excluded]

LIBERATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, BIBLE  
SKSM (BSHR-8200)  
(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

Course Description:

What does the Bible actually say about slavery, homosexuality, abortion, immigration, women's roles, and more? In this course, we will discuss the ways in which the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament have been used to support movements of liberation and social justice as well as to support and justify oppressive and violent systems such as slavery, income disparity, sexism, homophobia, racism, and xenophobia. By situating biblical verses within their literary, cultural, and historical context, we will dismantle oppressive and kyriarchal readings. The overarching ethic of both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament is liberation and social justice. However, this ethic has been obscured by oppressive readings which fail to account for context. The course will equip students with tools for countering systems of oppression through critical contextual readings of the sources, as well as by introducing intersectional feminist, postcolonial, queer, and ecological methodologies to "de-weaponize" Scripture. Students will use these hermeneutical tools to develop "flipped scripts" that speak to their own contexts. This approach will provide students with the ability to use the Hebrew Bible and New Testament to breathe strength, life, and love into those who have been the target of judgment, marginalization, and violence as well as to reclaim these sacred texts as a resource for liberation and social justice. This is an online Zoom synchronous 3000 level course. Zoom session participation is mandatory and will be primarily for group discussion of the lecture and the readings. [20 max enrollment; Auditors excluded]

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEXUAL ETHICS  
DSPT (CE-2003)  
(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

Course Description:

This seminar course will examine human sexuality from the perspective of the Roman Catholic tradition as experienced in various cultural contexts and in dialogue with other religious traditions. The investigation includes an examination of the Church teachings and studies by leading theologians that explore topics such as marriage, family life, single life, and celibacy. The interreligious component seeks to foster a dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and other faith communities concerning the core topics of the course. Method of evaluation consists of two 8-10 page papers (mid-term and final), weekly moodle posts, and group presentations. The course is intended for MA/MTS, MDiv students. PHD and DMin students are welcome but must register for a

course upgrade and complete a 20 pages research paper for their final paper. [20 max enrollment; Auditors excluded]

CHILDREN OF SARAH, HAGAR & MARY  
JST (OTRS-4050)  
(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

Course Description:

This course explores scriptural stories, histories, and inter-religious issues concerning women across the three great traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It considers common and distinctive topics that characterize these religious cultures and how they might be addressed in the context of dialogue among the women of these communities. Finally, it offers a two week immersion experience in Jerusalem, Israel during January 2022 whereby students visit the significant religious sites associated with their study. During this time they will participate in learning opportunities with Jewish, Moslem and Christian women living there. (A minimum number of students is required for the immersion component with a maximum of 12 students). Estimated Cost of Immersion TBA Interview with the professor required for registration. Course satisfies either either a Biblical Studies or Interreligious Cs Requirement [Foundation course in OT and NT; Faculty Consent required; 12 max enrollment; Interview required]

MARIAN ART  
GTU (RAHS-5311)  
(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

Course Description:

QUEEN OF HEAVEN, MOTHER, ADVOCATE, OUR LADY OF VICTORY, STAR OF THE SEA - From the early Christian centuries to today, representations of the Virgin Mary have evolved and changed, and are as diverse as her many titles. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, this course will examine the making, meaning, and reception of Marian images within the various social, religious, and cultural milieus from which they emerged. For example, we will consider Greek icons depicting Mary as Theotokos, or God-bearer, Italian Renaissance imagery of the Virgin and Child, nineteenth-century portrayals of Mary as the Immaculate Conception, the miraculous Black Madonnas the world over, images of Mary in non-Christian contexts (for example, in the Quran) and vernacular Marian shrines. We will meet synchronously (via Zoom) 1x per week and the course will have a dedicated Slack workspace for asynchronous posting and sharing. Students will be evaluated through final research papers on an original topic of their choice, class participation, and an oral presentation. Intended audience: any advanced graduate student interested in the art and material culture of religion.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: PUBLIC JUSTICE PARADIGMS  
BST (RSCE-4500)  
(09/07/2021-12/17/2021)

Course Description:

Restorative justice, as a conceptual framework, is rooted in ethical constructs of mutually reflective engagement and interactive accountability. Used in the criminal justice system and educational conflict resolution process, can restorative justice be re-envisioned as a public practice ethos with practical application for public justice work of communal tables of accountability? Our class will explore the principles and intersectional possibilities for adaptive change. A womanist / feminist theoethic examines transformational strategies. Students examine justice theories to probe ethical justice issues. Theological discourse and research projects contextualize theory to specific public or ecclesial settings. Class will meet 5 Saturdays: 9/4, 10/2, 10/23, 11/6, 12/4 from 9:30am to 4pm. Master and Doctoral students welcome

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.