

SE '02

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Spring Evening
April 1 - June 10, 2002
Camp Smith

COURSE: Religion 35080 Women and Religion

TIME: Thursdays 17:30 - 21:40

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

COMMUNICATIONS: Telephone: 735-4822
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TEXTBOOKS: Carmody, Denise, 2nd. 1989, **WOMEN AND WORLD RELIGIONS**, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Stone, Merlin, 1976, **WHEN GOD WAS A WOMAN**, San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION:

Women have significant roles in major social institutions such as family and religion. This class will explore the interrelation between women's place in society and in religion from the comparative, global and cross-cultural perspectives. The analysis will focus on religion as the impetus of changes in women's roles in different societies. This course also examines and celebrates the women whose lives illustrate choices and commitment based on faith.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- *to survey different roles of women in major religions cross-culturally.
- *to critically review the affect of religion on cultural and social change.
- *to understand and apply different approaches to the study of issues involved in social institutions and women's roles.
- *to analyze factors related to problems and issues in women's status and choices in fulfilling their religious belief.
- *to examine various alternatives and possibilities that women may empower themselves through religious doctrines.

CLASS FORMAT:

This class will be an interactive, cooperative learning experience for the students and the instructor. The format integrates lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, role plays, and debates. Students are encouraged and expected to actively participate in class activities. They are required to come to class with intensive reading to contribute to extensive discussion of the basic textbook and relevant videos.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to be open-minded and courteous in class discussion and to participate regularly in class activities. Each student is expected to carefully read the assigned chapter in the textbook and be prepared to discuss it for the class period of the assignment.

Only registered students are allowed to be in class.

All students will be graded on the following requirements:

- *come to class on time and stay for the whole period.
- *be courteous and professional in class discussions i.e. take turns in speaking, allow others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and non-verbal language.
- *show respect and open mind to different ideas and opinions from class members.
- *turn in assignments on time.
- *be responsible to cooperate and complete class/team projects on time.

GRADING:

The grading will be based on

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| 1. Class attendance and participation | 20 pts. |
| 2. Book chapter reports | 15 pts. |
| 3. Three Reflective journals | 15 pts. |
| 4. Mid-Term Topic Review
(written Review 15 pts.
class presentation 5 pts.) | 20 pts. |
| 5. Research project
(written report 25 pts.
class presentation 5 pts.) | 30 pts. |

90-100 =A, 80-89 =B, 70-79 =C, 60-69 =D, 59 AND BELOW=F

BOOK CHAPTER REPORTS:

Students will be assigned to read chapter(s) from the textbooks and to turn in the following on the day when they present the chapter report and take a leading role in class discussion:

- 1) a 1-2 page (typed double-spaced) summary of the chapter(s) including
- 2) 3 main points from the reading clearly stated in bullet or number format, and
- 3) 3 analytical questions for class discussion.

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL:

Each student is required to keep a one-two page reflective journal at the end of each class. They may select three of their best topics reflecting on the problems and issues discussed in class. This journal should reflect the student's understanding of the issues of women and religions. Each journal must be typed double-spaced. The total number of the journal entries is three. Each entry will be graded for its brief and insightful reflection of the issues of women and religions. The contents of each journal entry should include the following:

- 1) reflective understanding of the chosen topic;
- 2) insightful comments on the topic; and
- 3) 3 analytical questions about the topic.

MID-TERM TOPIC REVIEW AND CLASS PRESENTATION

Each student is expected to demonstrate the knowledge of the important subjects learned about the problems and issues of women and religion by writing a review of these topics. The written review should be within a range of 5-7 pages (typed, double-spaced). The contents of this review should include but not limited to

- 1) the understanding of the interrelation of the chosen topics;
- 2) insightful comments on the topic and its impacts on your life;
- 3) 3 analytical questions about these topics.

RESEARCH PROJECT:

The purpose of the project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from classroom to real life experience. Students

may choose a research topic relating to the problems and issues of women and religions. The research methodology includes survey, interviews, and a literature review.

The written report of the research should be within the range of 7-10 double-spaced typed pages. It will be due on the last day of the class when the oral report is given.

Plagiarized work will lead to failure of the course. Also, it will be reported to the university for disciplinary action.

ORAL REPORT ON RESEARCH PROJECT:

Each student will have 10 minutes to share his or her project with the class. The oral report should be a brief summary of the student's written report. Reading from the written report is discouraged and points will be taken off. The grade will be based on the style of presentation, the ability to deliver information succinctly, and being conscientious about the ten minute-time slots by not going over the time limit for each student.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

All students' work will be evaluated for:

- *Knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class lectures, discussion, videos, resources from research, outside class activities.
- *Ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- *Ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- *Clarity and logical presentation.
- *Demonstration in having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- *Demonstration in achieving the objectives of this class.
- *Ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Students must turn in all class assignments and the exam in class on time. Points will be taken off for turning in assignments late. All work turned in must be typed double-spaced.

ONLY HARD COPY WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXAM AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR FAX.

SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING (Chapter)</u>
April 4	Orientation and Introduction	
11	Carmody	1,2
18	Carmody	3,4,5,6
	<i>Journal # 1</i>	
25	Carmody	7,8,9,10
	<i>Journal # 2</i>	

MAY
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MID-TERM PRESENTATION

9	Stone	1-2,3,4,5,6
	<i>Journal # 3</i>	
16	Visit Palolo Kwannon Temple Rev. Eshin Matsumoto 3326 Paalea St. 737-5177 6:00 - 8:00 PM	

23	Visit Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin Rev. Jan Youth 6:00-8:00 PM	
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30	Stone	7,8,9,10,11
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June
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FINAL CLASS PRESENTATION

The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to the syllabus and the schedule. The changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible to keep up with the class information, assignments and progress if they miss any classes. The instructor will recommend students to withdraw from class when appropriate.