

J. J. J.

**Chaminade University of Honolulu**  
**Fall Evening Program**  
**October 5 - December 17, 1998**  
**Pearl Harbor**

COURSE: Religion 35060 Women and Religion

TIME: Thursdays 16:45 - 20:55

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

COMMUNICATIONS: Telephone: 735-4822  
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TEXTBOOKS: Brink, Judy, and Joan Mencher, eds. 1997, **MIXED BLESSINGS: Gender and Religious Fundamentalism Cross Culturally**, New York, NY: Routledge.

Young, Serinity., ed. 1993, **AN ANTHOLOGY OF SACRED TEXTS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN**, New York, NY: Crossroad Publishing Company.

ORIENTATION:

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 of fulfilling their religious belief.
- \*to examine various alternatives and possibilities for women to 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, seminars, 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 textbooks, articles, and relevant videos.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students are required to be open-minded 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.

The grading will be based on

- 1. class attendance 10 pts.
- 2. class participation (including chapter report) 10 pts.
- 3. class project 10 pts.  
select 1 of these 3 choices:  
3.1) written interview report (3-5 pages)  
3.2) written service learning activity report (3-5 pages)  
3.3) research paper (7-10 pages)

**DUE ON THE DAY OF CLASS PROJECT PRESENTATION (12/17/98)**

- 4. class project (#3) presentation on 12/17/98 10 pts.
- 5. reflection journal (on 5 selected topics) 10 pts.
- 4. mid-term exam 25 pts.
- 5. final exam 25 pts.

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



RE 35060 ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS

**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:

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

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

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

- 1) a 1-2 page (typed double spaced) summary of the chapter(s) including
- 2) 5 main points from the reading clearly stated in bullet or number format, and
- 3) 5 analytical questions for class discussion.

**CLASS PROJECT:**

The purpose of the class project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from classroom to real life experience. Students may choose to work on one of these three projects:

1) To interview a woman who is actively involved with gender problems and issues in religious organizations. The short report should include the background of the person being interviewed, the reason for interviewing this person, the list of interview questions, and student's insights from the information gained from the interview.

2) To participate in the Service Learning Program at Chaminade. Students may volunteer their time (at least one day) to work for a non-profit organization that would provide them with an opportunity to apply their knowledge to assist with the needs of people in that organization. In the process, the student will learn about the gender roles and problems and issues that women are dealing with in society. The short report of this experience should include the student's insightful reflection on the situation.

3) To write a short research paper on the topic of women roles in religions. The topic may include the gender problems and issues in religious organizations, and the celebration of women's work in this area. The paper must demonstrate the student's original ideas in critically analyzing the problems and issues in the particular topic. The bibliography for references cited must be included.

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

**CLASS PRESENTATION:**

Each student will have 10 minutes to share their 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 10 minutes time slot by not going over the time limit for each student.



**REFLECTION JOURNAL:**

Each student is required to select five specific topics of interest and write a reflection on each of these topics in the journal. Each journal must be typed double space. The total number of the journal entries is five. Each stage of the journal is due on the day specified in the syllabus class schedule. Each entry will be graded for its brief and insightful information and also for the fulfillment of the contents requirement. The contents of each entry should include:

- 1) reflective understanding of the chosen topics ;
- 2) insightful comment on the topics; and
- 3) 1-2 analytical question(s) about each topic.

**All students' work will be graded 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 of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- \*demonstration of 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 works turned in must be typed double spaced.

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

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING (Chapter)</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
8	Orientation and Introduction	
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15	Women benefit from fundamentalism	Brink/Mencher 1,2,3
	Women struggle against fundamentalism	Brink/Mencher 4,5
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22	Women struggle against fundamentalism (continued)	Brink/Mencher 6,7,8,9,10
<b>DEBATE</b>		
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29	Women oppressed by fundamentalism	Brink/Mencher 11,12,13
	<b>JOURNAL #1,#2 DUE</b>	
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<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
5	<b>MID TERM EXAM</b>	
	Introduction: Women and sacred texts	Young
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12	Judaism, Christianity, Islam	pp.1-125
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19	Ancient beliefs, paganism, tribal religions	pp.126-264
	<b>JOURNAL #3,4,5 DUE</b>	
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26	<b>HOLIDAY: THANKSGIVING NO CLASS</b>	
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<b>DECEMBER</b>		
3	<b>INDIVIDUAL WORK ON CLASS PROJECT</b>	
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10	Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism	pp.266-401
	<b>ROLE PLAY</b>	
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17	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	
	<b>CLASS PRESENTATION ON PROJECTS</b>	
	<b>CLASS PROJECT REPORT DUE</b>	

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