

Instructor: Kristy Slominski
Contact: slominski@umail.ucsb.edu
Office Hours: MW 4:45-5:45 pm or by appt.

Course Time: MTWR 3:30-4:35 pm
Course Location: North Hall 1111
Office Hour Location: HSSB 3055

Religious Studies 192: Women & Religion in America

“Women’s history is American religious history.” -Ann Braude

Course Description and Goals:

This course is a study of how women have influenced American religions and how religions have influenced American women. It surveys both historical and contemporary perspectives, with an emphasis on religious gender roles, religious experiences, leadership, identity, sexuality, and on ways that race and class influence American ideas about gender and religion.

You will analyze primary and secondary sources and evaluate assumptions about religious women. You will test general theories about gender and religion on case studies of women in several traditions. The midterm and final exam will explore your ability to synthesize lecture and reading material and compare case studies. Your final paper allows you to either 1) apply theories of religion and gender to a case study of your choice; 2) historically analyze women in a particular religious tradition or event in America; or 3) compare women’s roles or assumptions about women in two religious traditions.

Course Requirements:

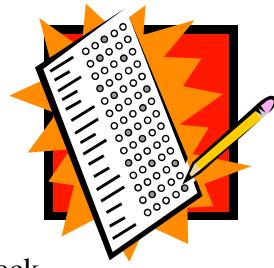
Attendance and participation (20%)
Midterm Exam (20%)
Final Exam (20%)
Weekly Paper Assignments (2% each, 10% total)
Final Paper (30%)

Grade Scale:			
A+	98-100	C+	78-79
A	93-97	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
		F	Below 60

Attendance and participation:

Attendance is especially important for this course because lectures will provide the foundation for course content; there is no general textbook. Participation is also crucial because course content will be developed through group activities and discussions. For these reasons, you will be responsible for signing in at the beginning of each class. Those who arrive late, unprepared, or unwilling to participate will not receive credit for that day. Everyone is allowed two absences before deductions are made. If you miss eight classes or more, you will not pass the course. Full participation includes coming to class with an understanding of the readings and engaging regularly in discussions and activities, in class and occasionally on GauchoSpace. You should be able to summarize the readings for your fellow classmates and contribute questions and opinions about the material if called upon.

The **midterm and final exams** will consist of multiple choice, short answers, and one essay question. Bring a green scantron and full-size blue book. Make-up exams are available only for those with documented emergencies.



The **final project** requires you to write a research paper using primary and secondary sources on a topic pertaining to women and religion in America. Weekly assignments, due each Thursday, have been assigned to keep you on track and provide feedback along the way (see Research Paper handout).

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Neglecting to cite sources is a type of plagiarism. Familiarize yourself with the student's guide to academic integrity at UCSB: <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/pdf/academicintegflyer.pdf>.

No cell-phone or internet use in the classroom, so that we can focus during our time together.

Disagreement about your final grade should be addressed with a 1-2 page formal complaint, submitted no later than 4 weeks after grades are posted with a copy of the assignment(s) in dispute. If your petition is accepted, your grade will be raised. However, if a second review of your work reveals problems initially overlooked, the final grade may also be lowered.

Required Readings:

Course Reader (available at Campus Bookstore)

*Additional readings will be posted on our GauchoSpace page.

Note about Readings: Readings for this course vary in difficulty. You may need to read some several times before you understand their content and are *comfortable* discussing them. To focus your reading, utilize the guiding questions provided for each reading on GauchoSpace.

Course Topics:

Week 1: Women's Roles among Native Americans and Protestants

Aug. 1st	<i>Why create a "Women and Religion" course?</i> Kilde, "Women" (14 pg.) – This reading may help you choose your paper topic!
Aug. 2 nd	<i>Native American Women and "Berdache"</i> Roscoe, "Strange Country" (19 pg.); Talamantez, "Seeing Red" (4 pg.)
Aug. 3 rd	<i>Protestant Women I</i> Lindley, "Hutchinson," "Quakers," "Puritanism" (26 pg.)
Aug. 4 th	Protestant Women II. Paper Topic Ideas due. Ryan, "Woman's Awakening" (22 pg.), LeHaye, "What Lovemaking" (14 pg.)

Week 2: Women's Roles among Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus

Aug. 8th *Catholic Women*
Orsi, "The Many Names" (22 pg.)

Aug. 9th *Jewish Women*
Joselit, "Kitchen Judaism" (21 pg.); Ashton, "The Legend" (18 pg.)

Aug. 10th *Muslim Women*
Haddad, "Setting the Scene," (18 pg.); Wadud, "Rights and Roles" (14 pg.)

Aug. 11th ***Buddhist and Hindu Women. Paper Proposals Due.***
Tsomo, "Living as a Nun" (24 pg.)

Week 3: Affecting Change from Within Christianity

Aug. 15th *Working Together: Christian Women's Groups (WCTU, Missionaries, Green Sisters, Womenpriest movement)*
Taylor, "From Bioneering Nuns" (26 pg.)

Aug. 16th *"Loud Women": Stanton, McPherson, Daly, Ruiz*
Sutton, "Marketing" (24 pg.)

Aug. 17th *Religious Women and Racism: KKK and Black Churches*
Blee, *Women of the Klan*, pg. 1-4 and Chapter 4 (Link on GAUCHOSPACE)

Aug. 18th ***MIDTERM EXAM. Bibliography Due.***

Week 4: Female-led Religions Outside of the Mainstream

Aug. 22nd *Spiritualism, Christian Science, Theosophical Society*
Braude, "The Perils of Passivity" (11 pg.); Ellwood, "The Feminism" (9 pg.)

Aug. 23rd *African American Hoodoo, Conjure, and Folk Healing*
Mitchem, "Hoodoo" (22 pg.); OPTIONAL: Brown, "The Power" (16 pg.)

Aug. 24th *Neopaganism*
Starhawk, "Witchcraft" (14 pg.); Pike, "Serious Playing" (26 pg.)

Aug. 25th *Channelers and other New Age women. Paper Outline & Revised Biblio. Due.*
Bender, "Shamans" (34 pg.)

Week 5: Reasons for Female Religious Participation

Aug. 29th *Religious Women & Healing*
Bednarowski, "Healing" (34 pg.)

Aug. 30th *Alternative Families & Sexual Patterns: Shakers, Oneida, Mormons*
Foster, “Radical Products” & “Appendix” (29 pg.)

Aug. 31st *Why Convert?: Orthodox Judaism and Rajneesh*
Davidman, “A Day in the Life” (25 pg.);
Rajneesh Video (9 min. – Link on GAUCHOSPACE)

Sept. 1st **Small-Group Paper Presentations (5 min. each + discussion)**

Week 6:

Sept. 5th **NO CLASS—Labor Day Holiday**

Sept. 6th *Transgender and Lesbian Women and American religions. PAPER DUE.*
Wilcox, “When Sheila’s a Lesbian” (17 pg. – PDF on GAUCHOSPACE)

Sept. 7th *Review and Evaluations.*

Sept. 8th **IN-CLASS FINAL.**