

HUM 224: WOMEN AND WORLD RELIGIONS [STUDY ABROAD] COURSE SYLLABUS

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Green River College, Spring 2018
 Section 4731, 5 credits
 University of Shih Chien, Taiwan
[CANVAS](#)
[Instructor Site](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores feminine perspectives of religion and spirituality in classical and indigenous religions today and throughout history. We will examine images of the divine, mythological presentations, as well as roles and practices of women in each tradition through the study of traditional writings, feminist themes and feminist theologies. In doing so, we will address questions such as: What do sacred sources in traditional religions say about women and issues of gender; and how both men and women in society have used oral and written sacred narratives.

Prerequisites: Eligible for ENGL 100 or instructor's permission. ***Please be aware that this course is reading and writing intensive.*** If you do not have the basic skills necessary to complete such a course, or if you feel uncomfortable reading and writing at the college level, either discuss your situation with the instructor or consider taking another class. GE Designation: Satisfies a Humanities/Fine Arts/English and the diversity course requirement for AA degree.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will:

- Become familiar with major themes within various religious traditions, such as those of gender, divinity, as well as the differences between institutional and personal religion;
- Understand problems within individual religious traditions, and the methods of dealing with them;
- Gain a historical as well as thematic understanding of the intellectual and social developments within these traditions;
- Be introduced to important classical and contemporary theological concepts, and develop an understanding of how those concepts shape and affect the female gender;
- Learn how to read and interpret theological and academic texts while acquiring a command of philosophical and religious language; and
- Demonstrate what it means to adopt a "philosophical attitude" towards various world views.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **REQUIRED TEXT:** Leona M. Anderson & Pamela Dickey Young, *Women and Religious Traditions*. 3rd ed. (Oxford, 2015) ISBN: 9780199006199
- All students must purchase a **1-Subject, College Ruled, Notebook** [approximately 8" x 10.5"] which is to be used exclusively for this class and will be collected at the end of the quarter.
- Additional materials and course information will be posted on [CANVAS](#)*

GRADING

Reading Annotations	100 points
Weekly Quizzes (10)	100 points (10 points each)
Journal + Video	100 points
Writing Assignments (135 points total)	Topic Selection (5 points) Present (5 points) Peer Reviews (5 points each x 4 = 20 points) Present/Explain (10 points) Objections (15 points) Interview (20 points) Present/Explain/Evaluate: Rough Draft (25 points) Final Draft/Reflection (35 points)
Total for the Course	460 points

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage Scale	Point Value
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	86-89	3.5
B	80-85	3.0
C+	76-79	2.5
C	70-75	2.0
D+	66-69	1.5
D	60-65	1.0*
F	0-59	0.0**

*1.0 – Lowest passing grade

**0.0-0.9 – Failure or unofficial withdrawal (no credit given)

Grades in the range of 0.1-0.9 may NOT be assigned

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Reading Annotations: At the beginning of each class, students will submit at least ONE full page worth of notes in their course notebook based on the assigned reading for that day. These are designed to motivate and incentivize student's reading prior to class lecture for optimal class discussion. At the end of the quarter, these notebooks will be collected, recorded, and then returned. **NOTES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN-CLASS ON THE DAY THE ASSIGNED READING IS DISCUSSED.**

Quizzes: A quiz of true/false and multiple-choice questions will be assigned each week of the quarter on CANVAS. These quizzes will require you to read and complete the questions by **11:59 p.m. each Friday**. Points will only be awarded for a correct answer. **NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE PERMITTED. Please do not use a wireless connection to the internet or the Canvas app on a mobile device when taking quizzes. It can cause you to lose your connection and there are no retakes.**

Journal and Video: In order to include the elements of the course content that are specific to the location in Taipei, Taiwan, students will keep a journal of their experiences during class field trips and end the term by creating a short video about their time abroad. Guidelines and submission deadlines for these assignments will be provided on Canvas.

Writing Assignment: The "Present/Explain/Evaluate" writing assignment is one large assignment broken up into smaller parts, with peer reviews and an interactive dialogue, in order to cultivate skills of critical engagement with the course material in the form of brief well-reasoned arguments. Guidelines for the each portion of the writing assignment can be found [here](#), as well as on Canvas. Submission deadlines are provided in the calendar at the end of this document, as well as on Canvas.

Inclusive and Charitable Language: Students should strive to use inclusive and charitable language in their writing. What is meant by **INCLUSIVE** is language that is not gender or first person specific and which attempts to include as many people as possible while avoiding stereotypic bias. **CHARITY** in one's writing refers to a reading of the material that does not assume that the author or subjects one may be arguing against are irrational in their thought process or argumentation. Although we may disagree with something or someone, it would be a fallacy to disregard them without adequate consideration of their position. Even a great argument can come undone when one's logic is unsatisfactory.

Plagiarism: All work submitted for the course must be your own. Plagiarism, at the most basic level, is representing someone else's work as your own. **THIS INCLUDES PASSING OFF THE INSTRUCTOR'S MATERIALS AS YOUR OWN.** Academic dishonesty on any assignment will, at the very least, result in an zero for the assignment, and a second infraction will result in an 0.0 for the course. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the appropriate authority. This course will also utilize plagiarism detection software on all writing assignments. **Any quotations or citations on course assignments should be kept to a minimum or, preferably, avoided altogether unless otherwise specified.** The aim of the aforementioned assignments is to be sure that YOU understand the material. When the occasion demands it, citation should be done using MLA formatting: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

LATE WORK POLICIES

- ✓ There are **NO extensions or make-ups** for reading annotations or Weekly Quizzes since these are only worth doing at the time the readings are assigned and when there is an opportunity for dialogue.
- ✓ **Initial posts** in Weekly Discussions can be made anytime while the forum is open, but will be docked points if made after posted deadline.

- ✓ Writing Assignments and accompanying peer reviews will NOT be accepted after the due date **except in cases of documented emergency or prior arrangement with the instructor**, i.e., **if you do not speak with the instructor BEFOREHAND, no extension will be granted**. At most, students can be granted a one day extension for all writing assignments.

LEAVING THE COURSE

Should a student be unable/unwilling to complete the coursework for this class, they should note the [drop, credit/no credit, and withdrawal deadlines](#) for the quarter or speak with the instructor about an incomplete. See the following link for the college's [GRADING](#) definitions and policies.

If you have questions or concerns about this class or my instruction, please speak with me about them. If we are unable to resolve your concerns, you may speak next with Will Scott, Chair of the Humanities Division. The Chair can assist with information about additional steps, if needed. Their phone number is ext. 4281 and their email is wscott@greenriver.edu.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS IN THE CLASS

Attendance/Participation: Although attendance will NOT be recorded, **NO LATE WORK** will be accepted [see policy above]. BE PUNCTUAL. In order to avoid disrupting the class, please inform the instructor beforehand if you need to arrive late or leave early. **Should anything require you to miss more than ONE WEEK of class, it is advisable to retake the course at a more convenient time since too much of the material will be missed to adequately grasp course content or meet learning expectations.** Please note that it is the students' responsibility to drop/withdraw from the course [see information and deadlines above].

Respect the classroom as a learning environment. Do not speak or otherwise distract the class when the instructor or other students are speaking. This includes the disruptive use of cell phones, laptops, music, and other electronic devices. See here for more information about how [students learn less when using laptops in the classroom](#).

Computer and Course Management System Skills: This course relies heavily on the college's online course management system, Canvas. As such, you are wholly responsible for having or acquiring the basic computer skills, including those needed for Canvas, BEFORE you begin the course. **Lack of an internet connection for any reason including power outages, computer problems, or problems using Canvas will NOT excuse you from the deadlines.** It is your responsibility to allow yourself enough time to complete all assignments. That includes finding an alternate working computer/internet connection and troubleshooting problems with canvas if any. See the following links for assistance with using [computers](#) and [canvas](#), contact eLearning at ext. 3354 or elearning@greenriver.edu, or visit the [library Help Desk](#) for more personalized assistance.

Time Management: Courses with online components are convenient in that they allow you to complete the course material at any time prior to each class meeting or deadline. As such, they **demand a lot of self-discipline**. For example, you will need to **read the**

material assigned before coming to class on the day it is to be discussed in order to make meaningful contributions to the in-class discussions. In other words, if you want to do well in this course, schedule your time wisely throughout the week.

Policy on Inclusive and Respectful Communication: Because this class will deal with topics that are, by any stretch, controversial, students are encouraged to consider opposing views and alternative perspectives. Intellectual development, when done well, requires us to consider beliefs and arguments other than our own and to defend our own beliefs and arguments with reasons. Consequently, please be respectful and open-minded when an author, or another student, expresses a view with which you disagree. **Absolutely no personal attacks, disrespectful or uncharitable comments will be tolerated.** This does not, by any means, imply that you have to agree with the opposing view. Rather, we analyze the arguments themselves; say why we do not accept a particular premise or conclusion, and thus, why our own argument(s) should be accepted by giving reasons or evidence.

Writing to the Instructor: Please keep your emails **polite and respectful**. Correspondence that is rude or insubordinate facilitates neither a fruitful learning experience nor environment, and is thus not welcome. Remember, I am here to help you with the course in any way that I can. Also, **when emailing the instructor, please be sure to include your full name and the course number** for more expedient and efficient replies. I will do my very best to respond to your email in a timely manner, however emails sent over the weekend, or at night during the week, will not be responded to until the following business day. So, for work that is due on Friday or over the weekend, please plan accordingly so that I can answer your questions in a productive manner.

Student Email: BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR GREEN RIVER EMAIL. The only means of communication available for this class is through the email you have registered with the college (or the one connected to your CANVAS account). As such, **students will be held responsible for any information related to the course which is disseminated by this means.** For convenience, you might consider forwarding your Green River email to a personal account, or updating your notification settings on CANVAS.

Learning Assistance: Students who require assistance with reading and/or writing are more than welcome to set up an appointment with the instructor at their earliest convenience. I would be more than happy to help with any and all questions about the reading materials, lectures, assignments, and anything else mentioned in class.

Students with Disabilities: ADA Statement: If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Disability Support Services Coordinator in the LSC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition through the GRC [Disability Support Services](#) Office, which would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs that I should know about, **please notify me before classes begin so that accommodations can be made before we leave.**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

<u>Campus-wide Learning Outcomes</u>	<u>Program-level Learning Outcomes</u>	<u>Course Content Learning Outcomes</u>
<p>Critical Thinking finds expression in all disciplines and everyday life. It is characterized by an ability to reflect upon thinking patterns, including the role of emotions on thoughts, and to rigorously assess the quality of thought through its work products. Critical thinkers routinely evaluate thinking processes and alter them, as necessary, to facilitate an improvement in their thinking and potentially foster certain dispositions or intellectual traits over time.</p>	<p>[1] Demonstrate knowledge of significant classical and contemporary philosophical themes. [2] Systematically formulate, develop, and defend non-trivial answers to philosophical questions by applying rational standards. [3] Form and defend beliefs while demonstrating intellectual humility and respect towards the beliefs of others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn about a range of gender issues involved in world religions throughout history. ● Learn to critically examine these issues. ● Learn to articulate and write clearly on these issues, and respond to them in creative expression.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to the Nature of Religion	Week 7: Ch. 4 Women in the Chinese Traditions
Week 2: Ch. 5 Women in Indigenous Traditions	Week 8: Ch. 7 Women in Islam
Week 3: Ch. 1 Women in Hindu Traditions	Week 9: Select from <i>Chinese Philosophy and Gender</i>
Week 4: Ch. 2 Women in Judaism	Week 10: Ch. 8 Women in Sikhism
Week 5: Ch. 3 Women in the Buddhist Traditions	Week 11: Ch. 9 Women in New Age Traditions
Week 6: Ch. 6 Women in Christianity	Week 12: STUDENT BREAK WEEK