

**Feminism and Theology**

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Spring 2019 Wed. 9:30-12:00pm

**Prerequisite: None**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Radicals and reformers have regarded institutionalized religion such as Christianity as a bastion of conservatism. Religion seems to represent *unchanging* stability; it derives legitimacy from ancient tradition and custom and lends support to the preservation of old familiar patterns of belief and behavior. Many active feminists who hope to bring about radical change in a given society are often directly opposed to religious beliefs, organization, and practices because of deep-seated patriarchal value systems and practices. Yet, feminist leadership has also come from within religious institutions: Some feminists cherish aspects of their religious experience and beliefs. In this context, feminists have had a complex, often paradoxical, and changing relation to Christianity as an institutionalized religion. Feminist theological discourse and movement, emerged in the 1960s in the context of the so-called Second Wave feminism, take gender issues to the Christian tradition and community. This course will give attention to the major themes and intersections of how feminism has addressed the institution of Christian religion and re/constructed theological discourses and practices in more egalitarian and just ways.

The primary goals of this course are:

- To familiarize with the current themes in feminist theological discourses and practices;
- To acquire, integrate, and apply knowledge relating to the Christian religious tradition and feminist philosophy and theology;
- To respond to the complexities of the enduring problem of sexism in Christianity religion by using the resources of feminist critical analysis;
- To understand and share how insights of feminist theologies inform and intersect with our own life experiences and how our own life experiences also inform feminist theological discourses and practices.

1) This course meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Contextualization* requirement for the MDiv program and the *Cultural/Global Context* requirement for the MTS and the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Cultural/Global Context* requirement for MATM.

2) This course is included in the TCU WGST(Women and Gender Studies) course for the *Women's Studies Certificate* course.

**COURSE PROCEDURES**

In-class presentations, lectures and in-depth discussion of the issues

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Critical Reading Journal:	20 points
Presentation:	20 points
Group Project:	20 points
Take-Home Exam Paper:	40 points

- 4,000 words for M.Div/MTS/MACS;
- 5,000 words for D.Min/Th.M/ Ph.D.
- *This requirement is subject to change depending on the size and pedagogical need of the class.*

## COURSE TEXTS

Genz, Stephanie and Benjamin A. Brabon. Postfeminism: Cultural Texts and Theories. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1474411233. \$ 29.95

- *Note that this book is **the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, published in 2018*

Kang, Namsoon. Diasporic Feminist Theology. Fortress, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1451472981. \$39.00

McCann, Carole and Seung-kyung Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Routledge, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1138930216. \$48.71

- *Note that this book is **the 4<sup>th</sup> edition**, published in 2017.*

Ruether, Rosemary. Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology. 1983; Boston: Beacon Press, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0807012055. \$ 26.00

Tong, Rosemarie. Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Westview, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0813349954 \$45.22.

- *Note that this book is **the 5<sup>th</sup> edition**, published in 2017.*

Young, Pamela. Feminist Theology/Christian Theology: In Search of Method. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2000. ISBN-13: 978-1579104283. \$ 17.00

## Course Resources Available Online

Cady Stanton, Elizabeth. "Introduction." The Woman's Bible. 1895

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Swidler, Leonard. "Jesus was a Feminist." Catholic World. 212 (1971): 177-83.