

Feminism and Theology

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Fall 2021 Wed. 9:30-12:00pm

Prerequisite: None

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 *Cultural/Global Context* requirement for the MTS and the 2nd *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

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, 4th edition. Routledge, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1138930216. \$48.71

- *Note that this book is **the 4th 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 and Tina Fernandes Botts. Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction. 5th Edition. New York: Westview, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0813349954. \$45.22.

- *Note that this book is **the 5th 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

_____. "The Solitude of Self." January 18, 1892.

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