

HEBI 75970/85970/95970 (Fall 2021) *Special Topics in Hebrew Bible:*
Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics
Three Credit Hours

Instructor: Gafney

Prerequisites: Introduction to Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Deuterocanonical Writings or, Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament

Description of Content:

This course will introduce womanist and black feminist biblical hermeneutics, tracing the arc of their development focusing on Hebrew biblical studies.

Class Procedures:

The class will be largely seminar style with smaller group discussion, peer-to-peer learning and student facilitation.

M.Div. Requirements & Grading Procedures:

1. Readings and Exegesis journal (weekly and cumulative), 25%
2. Oral presentation, 15%
3. Exegetical Paper or Project (12-15 pages), 50%
4. Active Presence and Informed Participation, 10%

D.Min. Requirements & Grading Procedures:

1. Readings and Exegesis journal (weekly and cumulative), 25%
2. Oral presentation, 15%
3. Exegetical Paper or Project (15-20 pages), 50%
4. Active Presence and Informed Participation, 10%

Th.M./Ph.D. Requirements & Grading Procedures:

1. Readings, Translation and Exegesis journal (weekly and cumulative), 25%
2. Oral presentation, 15%
3. Exegetical Paper (20-25 pages), 50%
4. Active Presence and Informed Participation, 10%

Required Texts:

1. The CEB Women's Bible, ISBN: 1609261887, \$36
2. The Inclusive Bible, ISBN: 580512135, \$24

3. Byron, Gay L., and Vanessa Lovelace. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. Atlanta, GA: Society for Biblical Literature, 2016. ISBN: 1628371528, \$50
4. Davis, Valerie Jean Bridgeman. *A Womanist Reading of the Book of Micah*. Thesis (Ph. D.)--Baylor University, 2002. Unpublished, provided by instructor.
5. Dickerson, Febbie. *Luke, Widows, Judges, and Stereotypes. Womanist readings of Scripture*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019. ISBN 9781978701236, \$64 TCU Holding BS2595.6.W43 D54 2019.
6. Gafney, Wilda C. *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017. ISBN: 066423903X, \$35
7. Smith, Mitzi J. *I Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015. ISBN: 162564745X, \$30
8. Smith, Mitzi. *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)justice, Intersectionality, and Biblical Interpretation*. Eugene: Cascade, 2018. ISBN 1498288863, \$15
9. Weems, Renita J. *Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible*. San Diego, CA: LuraMedia, 1988. ISBN: 0931055520, \$10
10. Weems, Renita J. *I Asked for Intimacy: Stories of Blessings, Betrayals, and Birthings*. San Diego, CA: LuraMedia, 1993. ISBN: 0931055806, \$10

Recommended Texts:

1. Anderson, Cheryl B. *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN: 0195305507, \$28
2. Dube Shomanah, Musa W. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000. ISBN: 0827229631, \$30
3. Dube Shomanah, Musa W. *Other Ways of Reading: African Women and the Bible*. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001. ISBN: 1589830091, \$12
4. Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl. *Pregnant Passion: Gender, Sex, & Violence in the Bible*. Semeia Studies. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003. ISBN 1589830741, \$30
5. Lightsey, Pamela R. *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2015. ISBN: 1498206646, \$18

6. Page, Hugh R., and Randall C. Bailey. *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN: 0800621255, \$50
7. Smith, Mitzi J., and Powell, Mark Allen. *Insights from African American Interpretation*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017. ISBN: 1506400175, \$20
8. Walker, Alice. *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. ISBN: 0151445257, \$10
9. Williams, Delores S. *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2013. ISBN: 1626980381, \$20

Assigned Journal Articles:

Blair, Yvette. "Womanish and Sassy: Remembrance, Retelling, and Liberation of Her (Matthew 26:6-13)." *Review and Expositor (Berne)* 117(1):2020, 131-139.

Bridgeman, Valerie. "Interpreting the Bible in the Age of #blacklivesmatter: the Gideon Story and Scholarly Commitments." *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible* 93 (2019): 311.

Parker, Angela. "One Womanist's View of Racial Reconciliation in Galatians." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 34(2):2018, 23-40.

Reaves, Jayme. "Sarah as Victim and Perpetrator: Whiteness, Power, and Memory in the Patriarchal Narrative." *Review and Expositor (Berne)* 115(4):2018, 483-499.

Santovec, Mary Lou. "Interpreting Biblical Figures Through a Womanist Lens." *Women in Higher Education* 27(1):2018.

Smith, Mitzi. "Paul, Timothy, and the Respectability Politics of Race: A Womanist Inter(con)textual Reading of Acts 16:1-5." *Religions* 10(3): 2019.