

RELS 131: Gender, Religion & Sexuality / Fall 2012: Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice
Any changes will be announced in class and posted to the website.

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	THURS Aug 23	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go over syllabus & explain assignments • introduce course goals and basic concepts
2	TUE Aug 28	READ: Myhre, “What is Religion” (<i>Introduction to Religious Studies</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131)
	THURS Aug 30	READ: Shaw & Lee, “Women’s Studies: Perspectives and Practices” (<i>Women’s Voices, Feminist Visions</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131)
3	TUE Sept 4	READ: Gross, “Introduction” & Ch1: “Defining Feminism, Religion, and the Study of Religion” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 1-16)
	THURS Sept 6	READ: Gross, Ch1: “Defining Feminism, Religion, and the Study of Religion” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 16-28)
4	TUE Sept 11	READ: Gross, Ch2: “Feminism’s Impact on Religion and Religious Studies: A Brief History” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 29-49)
	THURS Sept 13	READ: Gross, Ch2: “Feminism’s Impact on Religion and Religious Studies: A Brief History” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 49-64)
5	TUE Sept 18	READ: Gross, Ch3: “Where Have All the Women Been? The Challenge of Feminist Study of Religion” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 65-88) DUE: <u>Cultural, Religious, and Gendered Location Essay</u>
	THURS Sept 20	READ: Gross, Ch3: “Where Have All the Women Been? The Challenge of Feminist Study of Religion” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 88-104)
6	TUE Sept 25	READ: Gross, Ch4: “No Girls Allowed? Are the World’s Religions Inevitably Sexist?” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 105-132)
	THURS Sept 27	READ: Gross, Ch4: “Where Have All the Women Been? The Challenge of Feminist Study of Religion” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 133-148)
7	TUE Oct 2	READ: Gross, Ch5: “Has It Always Been That Way? Rereading the Past” (<i>Feminism & Religion</i> , 149-180)

	THURS Oct 4	READ: Gross, Ch5: “Has It Always Been That Way? Rereading the Past” <i>(Feminism & Religion, 180-197)</i>
8	TUE Oct 9	READ: Gross, Ch6: “What Next? Postpatriarchal Religion” <i>(Feminism & Religion, 198-227)</i>
	THURS Oct 11	READ: Gross, Ch6: “What Next? Postpatriarchal Religion” <i>(Feminism & Religion, 228-247)</i>
9	TUE Oct 16	NO NEW READING: MOP UP & DISCUSSION
	THURS Oct 18	READ: TBD DUE: <u>Real World Relevance Essay</u>
10	TUE Oct 23	READ: Anderson, Ch1: “Women in Hindu Traditions” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 2-37)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group One</u>
	THURS Oct 25	READ: Kuikamn, Ch2: “Women in Judaism” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 44-71)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Two</u>
11	TUE Oct 30	READ: Neumaier, Ch3: “Women in the Buddhist Traditions” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 76-103)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Three</u>
	THURS Nov 1	READ: Martin-Hill, Ch5: “Women in Indigenous Traditions” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 138-160)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Four</u>
12	TUE Nov 6	READ: Young, Ch6: “Women in Christianity” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 164-189)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Five</u>
	THURS Nov 8	READ: Clarke, Ch7: “Women in Islam” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 194-221)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Six</u>
13	TUE Nov 13	READ: Jakobsh, Ch 8: “Women in Sikhism” <i>(Women & Religious Traditions, 226-255)</i> PRESENTATION: <u>Group Seven</u>

	THURS Nov 15	READ: Anderson & Young, Ch 9: “Women in New Age Traditions” (<i>Women & Religious Traditions</i> , 260-284) PRESENTATION: <u>Group Eight</u>
14	TUE Nov 20	NO CLASS: (Instructor at American Academy of Religion meeting in Chicago) READ: Plaskow, “The Academy as Real Life: New Participants and Paradigms in the Study of Religion” (<i>Women, Gender & Religion</i>) • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131) ACTIVITY/EXERCISE, TBD
	THURS Nov 22	NO CLASS: (Thanksgiving)
15	TUE Nov 27	READ: Gloria Anzaldúa, “now let us shift ... the path of concimientos ... inner work, public acts.” (<i>this bridge we call home</i>) • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131)
	THURS Nov 29	READ: Christ, “Why Women Need the Goddess” (<i>Woman Spirit Rising</i>) • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131)
16	TUE Dec 4	READ: Peskowitz & Christ exchange (<i>Women, Gender & Religion</i>) • (available as pdf from: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore/courses/rels131)
	THURS Dec 6	LAST DAY: NO NEW READING (MOP UP & DISCUSSION)
	MON Dec 17 9:45 am - 12:00 pm	<u>NO FINAL EXAM</u> DUE: FINAL PAPER ---> SUBMIT VIA turnitin.com ONLY (no meeting)

SOME DEFINITIONS OF & STATEMENTS ABOUT RELIGION

“(Religion is) belief in Spiritual Beings.” — Edward B. Tylor (1871)

“The belief that there is an unseen order, and that our supreme good lies in harmoniously adjusting ourselves thereto.” — William James (1905)

“Religion is (1) a system of symbols which acts to (2) establish powerful, persuasive, and long-lasting moods and motivations in [people] by (3) formulating conceptions of a general order of existence and (4) clothing these conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic.”
— Clifford Geertz (1966)

“If God is male, then male is God.” — Mary Daly (1973)

“Religious traditions are far more like rivers than stones.” — Diana Eck (1993)

“The meaning of the term religion is determined by usage. ... *something is doing religious work if it is engaged in what it means to be human.* ... Not merely a given, the sacred is produced through the religious labor of interpretation and ritualization.” — David Chidester (2005)