

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE: TUESDAY, November 27, 2012
(turned in on paper & in class ONLY)

FINAL PAPER DUE: MONDAY, December 17, 2012
(uploaded to TURNITIN.COM ONLY & we will NOT meet during our final exam period)

Final Integrative Research Paper (20%)

As the capstone project for our course, you will complete a 5-10 page paper that demonstrates your ability to accurately understand, describe, and apply the theories and other material studied to an issue (either historical or contemporary) concerning the intersections of *women, gender, sexuality, and religion*, putting these issues in historical, cultural, and theoretical context.

These papers will be integrative, in that you will be expected to draw on the breadth of material studied in this course. This means you will need to utilize & cite material from Rita Gross, as well as from at least one essay in the Anderson & Young book. This assignment also requires additional library research, which means will also need to utilize & cite material from at least two academic/peer-reviewed sources from the library.

Some suggestions for possible topics to explore could include critical & descriptive analyses of:

- contemporary/recent political/cultural/social issues & events that intersect with women/gender/religion
- women's experiences in a particular religious tradition (including internal diversity & cultural change)
- the meanings of religious symbols, rituals, &/or ideologies that concern women &/or gender &/or sexuality
- the roles of women (or a particular woman) in a particular sacred text
- the life history of a particular figure from women's religious history (using feminist theory/insights to analyze & think about)
- narratives concerning a sacred female figure (i.e., a Goddess, Bodhisattva, or other female/feminine spirit)
- other issues concerning gender/sexuality (i.e. LGBT issues, or constructions of masculinity) in a particular religious tradition (again, including internal diversity & cultural change)
- other ideas, in consultation with your professor

Research Proposal + Annotated Bibliography (5%)

To get you started and give you the opportunity to get feedback from me, you will also turn in a research proposal **DUE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**. The proposal and bibliography combined should be between 2-3 pages (please double space both).

These proposals should do the following:

- state the general topic and define the problem you will focus on for your Final Integrative Papers.
- discuss how is this issue appropriate to the themes of our course and why has it caught your interest?
- consider what questions you will address in your research and final write-up
- describe what you hope to demonstrate through this project
- define terms and concepts as needed
- **draft a thesis statement**
 - (a suggested template for your thesis statement: "This paper will argue/examine/investigate A and B in order to argue/demonstrate/show/conclude C. In so doing, I will consider/examine/illustrate X, Y, And Z.")

These proposals must also include an annotated bibliography with a **minimum** of two peer-reviewed sources (2-5 is a good ballpark for the final draft of the paper). Each annotation should:

- briefly summarize the basic subject matter, theoretical perspectives, and methodologies applied
- state how and why this source provides information and context relevant to the site you choose
- be approximately 100-200 words each