RELIGIOUS STUDIES 373  
Women and the Bible  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00-10:50 a.m.  
M 218

Professor Molly Vetter  
Adams Humanities 4109  
Tel. 297-4366 x131  
email: mvetter@mail.sdsu.edu  
Office Hours: W 9:00-10:00 a.m. or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

How are women depicted in the texts of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament scriptures? What might these texts have meant in their original context, what have they meant in other historical contexts, and what do they mean for us today? Using biblical scholarship and study of the Ancient Near East, as well as the work of a wide variety of contemporary feminist biblical scholars, we will explore these questions together. This course is designed to acquaint participants with what the Bible, literally, says about women, as well as how those words have been used, historically, and cross-culturally.

READINGS

The following texts are required for this course and are available for purchase in the University bookstore:
1. An NRSV Study Bible with apocryphal/deuterocanonical books (Harper Collins Study Bible, New Oxford Annotated Study Bible, or New Interpreter’s Study Bible).
2. Carol Newsom and Sharon Ringe, eds., The Women’s Bible Commentary, 2nd ed.

Additional readings are on reserve in the library; they have been submitted for Electronic Course Reserves, and will be available as soon as possible. Please read the assignment in the texts BEFORE you come to class. Bring your Bible and Journal to every class, we will discuss and analyze this material in the lecture.

YOUR GRADE

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Journal: You are expected to keep a continual journal, recording your reactions to the readings (both from the scripture and secondary sources). Questions for reaction for each week will be distributed by email or on the course website by class time on Wednesdays prior. You may either keep your journal in a notebook, or electronically; journals will be collected (or should be emailed to me) as noted in the class schedule.

Short Paper: Visit a worship service in San Diego—Jewish or Christian—that is not your usual religious community. Write a one-page paper describing how scripture is used in the worship—
February 8  Women's Bodies—the Levite’s Concubine: Judges 19-21
   “Judges,” pp. 80-82
February 10 Sources of Authority
   SJs: “Anna Julia Cooper and Sojourner Truth,” pp. 41-51

WEEK 5
February 13 New Testament Women: 1 Timothy
   WBC: “1 Timothy,” pp. 444-449
February 15 Setting the Canon and Editing It
   SJs: “Politicizing the Sacred Texts,” pp. 52-63
   http://gbiunm-um.org/umw/corinthians/thecla.stm)
   JOURNAL DUE

WEEK 6
   WBC: “Matthew,” pp. 339-349
February 22 An African Perspective
   SJs: “Feminist Interpretations in Africa,” pp. 76-85
February 24 Women in the Gospel—Matthew 9:18-26; 16:24-28; 26:26-30; 27:57-
   28:10
   WBC: “Matthew,” pp. 339-349

WEEK 7
February 27 Some empowered women—Deborah, Jael: Judges 4-5; 11
   WBC: “Judges,” pp. 73-78.
March 1 Some empowered women—Judith: Judith
March 3 MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 8
March 6 Mothers and Daughters: Genesis 18-19; 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21
   WBC: “1-2 Samuel,” pp. 95-96
March 8 SJs: “Feminist Theological Hermeneutics: Canon and Christian Identity,”
   pp. 154-171
March 10 Mothers and Daughters: Mark 6:14-29
   WBC: “Mark,” pp. 350-354; 359-60

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9
March 20 Mothers of Jesus and John: Luke 1
March 22 SJs: “Reconstruction of Women’s Early Christian History,” pp. 290-310
March 24 Mothers of Jesus and John: Matthew 1-2
   JOURNAL DUE

WEEK 10
March 27 Women in David’s Court: 1 Samuel 18-19 (Michal); 1 Samuel 25 (Abigail
   and Ahinoam); 2 Samuel 2:1-4 (other wives)
   WBC: “1 and 2 Samuel,” pp. 91-101