

Course Title	: GENDER AND RELIGION IN HISTORY
Course Code	: HST3010
Recommended Study Year	: 2, 3, 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective Category 4: Comparative and Transnational
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

### **Brief Course Description**

This course examines major gender concepts and how different religions have interpreted gender issues in both pre-modern and modern times. Some specific questions that may be explored include: Is gender biologically or socially determined, accordingly to various religious perspectives? How did classical religious texts define the differences and relationships between male and female? How have religions established moral and natural principles on which their gender ideas are based? How have monotheistic and polytheistic religions interpreted gender differently? How have religions faced the modern challenges of feminism and transgenderism? How has gender modernization intersected with other modern ideologies, such as nationalism, communism, and imperialism?

### **Aims**

This course guides students to analyze the intersection of gender and religion in history, and to apply this knowledge to research a particular historical case of such intersection.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) explain and evaluate core concepts from various religions concerning gender;
- 2) analyze and synthesize primary religious texts and relevant secondary sources on religion and gender, and to explain them within their historical and historiographic contexts;
- 3) conduct a research project on a particular historical case concerning the intersection of religion and gender; and
- 4) effectively communicate on the subject matter in both oral and written forms.

### **Indicative Content**

- 1) Religious Constructions of Gender
- 2) Origins and Adaptations: Monotheisms, Polytheisms, Secularisms
- 3) Social Modernizations and Religious Traditions: Cross-cultural Comparisons

- 4) Gender, Religion, and Power: Nationalism, Imperialism, and Modernity
- 5) Religion and Sexuality: Post-modern Constructions of the Body

### Teaching Method

The course employs lectures to ensure student understanding of major relevant concepts, guiding students to explain and analyze key readings of primary and secondary sources. Discussion sessions will solidify student understanding and prompt critical evaluation of the sources, to help students construct original historical arguments on the relevant themes. Both in class and through individual consultations, students will be taught step-by-step how to construct and write a research paper on a topic of their choice.

### Measurement of Learning Outcomes

	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4
Source reviews		X		X
Presentations	X	X		X
Research Paper			X	X
Discussion participation	X	X		X

### Assessment

100% Continuous Assessment:

- Source reviews 30%  
Short reviews of selected primary and secondary texts will be used to evaluate students' comprehension of course themes and concepts.
- Presentations 20%  
Students will present readings and their own research during the semester, explaining their approach and argument.
- Research paper 30%  
A research paper will prompt students to integrate primary and secondary sources to support an original argument that connects religion and gender, analyzing the connection in its historical context.
- Discussion participation 20%  
Students will be expected to participate actively in all class discussions.

### Required Readings

Required readings will include primary religious and philosophical texts, which may vary from term to term depending on the particular focus on the class. Texts may include:

*Bible*

*Quran*

*Confucian Analects*

Origin stories from various cultures

### Supplementary Readings

- Ambros, Barbara. *Women in Japanese religions*. New York: New York University Press , 2015.
- Badran, Margot. *Feminism in Islam: Secular and Religious Convergences*. Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 2009.
- Beattie, Tina. *New Catholic Feminism: Theology and Theory*. London: Routledge, 2006.
- Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. *The inner quarters: marriage and the lives of Chinese women in the Sung period*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.
- Gross, Rita M. *A Garland of Feminist Reflections: Forty Years of Religious Exploration*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009.
- King, Ursula. *Religion and gender*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers , 1995.
- Kvam, Kristen E; Linda S Schearing; Valarie H. Ziegler. *Eve & Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim readings on Genesis and gender*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999.
- Plaskow, Judith. *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco , 1990.
- Pomfret, David. *Youth and Empire Trans-Colonial Childhoods in British and French Asia*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press , 2016.
- Yenor, Scott. *Family politics: the idea of marriage in modern political thought*. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press , 2011
- Wing, Sherin. "Gendering Buddhism: The Miaoshan Legend Reconsidered." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. Spring2011, Vol. 27 Issue 1, p5-31. 27p.

### Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.