

Religion Gender & Sexuality

GENWS 310 Fall 2017

T/TH: 2:30 -3:4
Sterling 1333
Canvas

Dr. Elaine Swartzentruber
Office: Sterling 3312
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Office Hours: T: 10 - Noon

Course Description

This course engages a variety of disciplines and literature to critically examine the intersections of Religion, Gender and Sexuality in the contemporary context, focusing on the United States and primarily on the Monotheistic Religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Topics covered will include:

- Understanding “Religion”, “Gender” & “Sexuality” as ambiguous, yet powerful discursive formations.
- Constructs of a range of gender identity and sexual expression in religious traditions and faith communities.
- Queer disruptions of religious traditions.
- The working of Religion in public discourse and activism.

Required Readings

Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance,
Pelligrini and Jakobson.

Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States, Su’ad Abdul
Khabeer.

All other course readings and links will be posted on Canvas.

Assignments

1) Class Preparation and Participation

Your preparation for and participation in this class is crucial for all of us. Do your reading. Think about what you’ve read. Come to class with ideas and questions. Participate in class processes.

Attendance will be taken. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. Every unexcused absence beyond that will result in a 2 point reduction in your final

grade. If you need to be excused for any reason, including religious holidays, you MUST clear that with me before the absence.

2) Reaction/Reflection/Response Papers 4 papers at 5 points = 20 points toward final grade

Throughout the Semester (as noted on the schedule) 4 short 3-5 page papers responding to the work we've been doing and a specific question. Due at 11:59 on the appointed date.

3) Discussion Group Leadership – 20 points toward final grade

During Discussion Days, as noted on the schedule of classes, you will work with a group of your classmates to prepare and lead the class session. More information about this assignment is posted on Canvas.

4. Exams - 2 at 15 points each = 30 points toward final grade

Two exams will be given. The first is a "take home" on line exam that you will complete outside of class and submit on the due date. The second is a more traditional in-class exam.

5. Final Research Paper -30 points toward final grade

Your chance to explore a topic related to religion, gender and sexuality and produce a 10-12 page fully researched and carefully written paper. Research topic and initial bibliography are due as noted on schedule. Rubric for the paper and more detailed info is on Canvas.

Course Policies & Conduct

1) Email & Office Hours

I will respond to your emails within 24 hours on weekdays. Weekend emails will receive a response in 48 hours. For complex questions or discussions, or just to chat, I welcome you to office hours on Tuesdays . I am also available for appointment visits at other times during the week. Questions concerning grades will only be discussed in person during office hours, not by email and not in class.

2) Classroom Conduct

Turn your cell phones off. Shut your laptops. Respect your fellow students and your professor. If you want to take notes on your laptop, sit in the front row and log out of your web browser. Laptop privileges can and will be revoked if you abuse this policy. Other electronics can and will be confiscated for the duration of class period. Anyone using unauthorized electronics during class time will have attendance and participation zeroed out for the day.

If you need a device for access purposes, please let me know.

If you need to be available for contact during class time, please keep your device on vibrate and step out to answer. Alert me before class if this is the case.

3) Plagiarism & Cheating

Zero Tolerance for Academic Misconduct. UWS 14.03 defines academic misconduct to include acts in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation. Complete information on academic misconduct is at http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html. Please review this information.

4) Writing Help

For assistance with your writing, please make use of the Writing Center. Stop by 6171 Helen C. White, call for an appointment (263-1992), or consult the Center's resources online at <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/>

5) Accessibility:

All students with disabilities or learning differences will be fully included in this course. Please let me know as soon as you can what accommodations in the curriculum, instruction or evaluation that you need in order to succeed in this class. The McBurney Resource Center (www.mcburney.wisc.edu), 1305 Linden Dr. 263-2741, TTY 263-6393, provides assistance and documentation regarding physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disabilities.

6) Grade Appeals

Questions or concerns about grades should be discussed with me during Office Hours or by appointment. If we cannot resolve the issue, you may speak with the GWS Chair. They will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the Appeals Procedures if no resolution is reached informally

7) Final grades

will be determined according to the following official UW grading scale:

A 93-100;

AB 88-92;

B 83-87;

BC 78-82;

C 70-77;

D 60-69;

F below 60.

8) Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments turned in late will be penalized by ten (10) percentage points for each 24 hour period after the due date.