

IPT5/720 (3 credits) Gender and Sexuality in Religious Traditions

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan

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Office hours during term: T,W, Th 1:00-6:00 pm & by appointment

Purpose: Today's spiritual leaders will confront questions about gender and sexuality. These affect our experience of our own traditions as well as our perception of other traditions. In this introductory course, we will focus on three issues common to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Indigenous traditions. (1) Origin stories of the first human beings and their implication for gender norms. (2) Scriptural traditions used to condemn and support same-sex relationships. (3) Women's religious roles, including religious clothing.

As we explore the issues using theological language, we will be mindful of each tradition's unique history, view of God, and reliance on religious law. Students will also consider their own leadership roles in addressing these issues within their communities of faith.

Competence Objectives: Students will be expected to learn and demonstrate the ability to:

- Define basic concepts in gender studies (e.g., human rights, sex vs. gender, stereotypes, intersectionality, feminisms, equality vs. equity)
- Explain questions about gender raised in human origin stories from Torah, Quran, and Haida traditions, along with selected multiple answers offered in the traditions
- Summarize key debates about LGBTQ identity as expressed in the particular language and contemporary social context of the four traditions
- Understand some contemporary discussions about religious roles of women in the four traditions, with sensitivity to multicultural contexts
- Integrate the knowledge into one's own leadership approach

Format: Tuesdays, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Identification of the levels at which the course can be taken: Audit, Certificate, Basic (Diploma/MA/M.Div) or Advanced (Th.M).

Required text: Available in kindle or paperback at Amazon.ca; paperback at chapters.indigo.ca or abebooks.com

Pui-lan, Kwok. *Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding: The Future of Interfaith Dialogue*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2012.

Required texts: A selected chapter from each will be posted on Canvas

Anderson, Kim. *Life Stages and Native Women: Memory, Teachings, and Story Medicine*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press 2012.

Biale, Rachel. *Women and Jewish Law: The Essential Texts, Their History, and Their Relevance for Today*. New York: Schocken Books, 1995.

Cheng, Patrick S. *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*. Plano, TX: Seabury Books, 2011.

Greenberg, Steven. *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality and the Jewish Tradition*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

Jewett, Paul. *The Ordination of Women*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1980.

Kugle, Scott Siraj al-Haqq. *Homosexuality in Islam: Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims*. London: OneWorld Publications, 2010.

Lang, Sabine. "Native American Men-Women, Lesbians, Two-Spirits: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives." *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 20:3-4, (2016) 299-323.

Mir-Hosseini, Ziba, Mulki al-Sharmani and Jana Rumminger, eds. *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition*. London: OneWorld Publications, 2015.

Pardes, Ilana. *Countertraditions in the Bible: A Feminist Approach* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press), 1993.

Reid, Bill and Robert Bringhurst. *The Raven Steals the Light*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1988.

Wadud, Amina. *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Recommended text: If you are new to Judaism, Islam, or Christianity, please read the relevant chapters in this book.

Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One* (New York: HarperOne), 2011.

Recommended reading: Additional short readings may be posted on Canvas during the term.

Assignments: For all students:

- Attendance in accordance with VST policies
- Thoughtful, engaged participation in class discussion and activities
- Completion of assigned readings
- Current events in-class presentation: One five-minute in-class oral presentation on a relevant recent short news or opinion article. Suggested sites will be listed in class. Your presentation should (1) present the main point of the article; (2) Offer your response to it; (3) Close with a thought-provoking question to the class; (4) Last no more than five minutes. (If you write it out in advance, that's 500 words.) Each week where no guest speaker is scheduled, one or more students will present. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at the first class.

Additional for Certificate-level, Basic-level, and Advanced-level students:

- Book Review: One 750-1000 word book review of a book on the course bibliography. Your book review should (1) summarize the main points of the book; (2) explain how the book contributes to your growing knowledge of the field; (3) note something you appreciated; (3) note something you disagreed with, or thought could use more development. Book reviews will be made available to fellow students in class.

Additional for Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIS, Diploma):

- Research Paper: A 3000-word research paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating two or more of the course competencies, and involving research (5 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M., Graduate Diploma):

- Research Paper: A 5000-word research paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating two or more of the course competencies, and involving significant research (10 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Prerequisites: None.

Selected Bibliography:

Adler, Rachel. *Engendering Judaism: An Inclusive Theology and Ethics*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998.

Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.

Allen, Paula Gunn. *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Allen, Paula Gunn. *Grandmothers of The Light: A Medicine Woman's Sourcebook*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Althaus-Reid, Marcella. *Indecent Theology: Theological Perversions in Sex, Gender, and Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2002.

Anderson, Kim. *Life Stages and Native Women: Memory, Teachings, and Story Medicine*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press 2012.

Aslan, Ednan, Marcia K. Hermansen and Elif Medeni, eds. *Muslima Theology: The Voices of Muslim Women Theologians*. New York: Peter Lang, 2013.

Barlas, Asma. *"Believing Women" in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2002.

Baskin, Judith R. *Midrashic Women: Formations of the Feminine in Rabbinic Literature*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, 2002).

Biale, Rachel. *Women and Jewish Law: The Essential Texts, Their History, and Their Relevance for Today*. New York: Schocken Books, 1995.

Browne, Kath, Sally R. Munt, and Andrew K.T. Yip, eds. *Queer Spiritual Spaces: Sexuality and Sacred Places*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2010.

Cannon, Katie Geneva, Emilie M. Townes, and Angela D. Sims, eds. *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press 2011.

- Chaudhry, Ayesha S. *Domestic Violence and the Islamic Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Cheng, Patrick S. *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*. Plano, TX: Seabury Books, 2011.
- Clark-King, Ellen. *Theology by Heart: Women, the Church and God*. London: Epworth, 2004.
- Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality, and the Self: An Essay 'On the Trinity.'* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Coakley, Sarah. *The New Asceticism: Sexuality, Gender and the Quest for God*. London: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2015.
- Comstock, Gary David and Susan E. Henking, eds. *Que(e)rying Religion: A Critical Anthology*. New York: Continuum, 1997.
- Daly, Mary. *Beyond God the Father*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1973.
- Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent: A Novel*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2005.
- Drinkwater, Gregg, Joshua Lesser, and David Shneer. *Torah Queeries*. New York: NYU Press, 2009.
- Driskill, Qwo-Li. *Asegi Stories: Cherokee Queer and Two-Spirit Memory*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2016.
- Driskill, Qwo-Li, Daniel Heath Justice, Deborah Miranda, and Lisa Tatonetti, eds. *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011.
- Driskill, Qwo Li, Chris Finley, Brian Joseph Gilley, and Scott Lauria Morgensen, eds. *Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*. Tucson: University of Arizona, 2011.
- Dykstra, Laurel A. *Set Them Free; The Other Side of Exodus*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.
- Eskinazi, Tamara Cohen and Andrea L. Weiss. *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. Springfield, NJ: URJ Press and Women of Reform Judaism, 2007.
- Fiorenza, Elizabeth Schussler. *Bread Not Stone: The Challenge of Feminist Biblical Interpretation*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983.
- Frymer-Kensky, Tikvah. *Reading the Women of the Bible*. New York: Schocken Books, 2002.
- Frymer-Kensky, Tikvah. *Studies in Bible and Feminist Criticism*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2006.
- Goldstein, Elyse, ed. *The Women's Torah Commentary*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2000.

Greenberg, Steven. *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality and the Jewish Tradition*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

Guest, Derryn, Robert Goss, and Mona West, eds. *The Queer Bible Commentary*. London: SCM Press, 2015.

Hauptman, Judith. *Rereading the Rabbis: A Woman's Voice*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1998.

Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck and John L. Esposito, eds. *Daughters of Abraham: Feminist Thought in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2002.

Hassan, Rifat. "Equal Before Allah? Woman-man equality in the Islamic tradition." *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Volume WVII, No. 2, 1987. [Also at <http://www.wluml.org/node/253>]

Heath, Rachel A. "Lessons in Multifaith Chaplaincy and Feminist Thought: Making Room for Multiple Religious Belonging in Interfaith Praxis." *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*, March 2017.

Isasi-Diaz, Anna Maria. *Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the Twenty-First Century*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.

Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, Wesley Thomas, and Sabine Long, eds. *Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997, pp. 223-227.

Jewett, Paul. *The Ordination of Women*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1980.

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. New York: Crossroad, 1982.

Klapheck, Elisa. *Fraulein Rabbiner Jonas: The Story of the First Woman Rabbi*. Trans. Toby Axelrad. Toronto: Jossey-Bass, 2004.

Klein, Linda Kay. *Pure: Inside the Evangelical Movement That Shamed a Generation of Young Women and How I Broke Free*. New York: Touchstone, 2018.

Kugle, Scott Siraj al-Haqq. *Homosexuality in Islam: Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims*. London: OneWorld Publications, 2010.

Kugle, Scott Siraj al-Haqq. *Living Out Islam: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims*. New York: NYU Press, 2013.

Lang, Sabine. "Native American Men-Women, Lesbians, Two-Spirits: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives." *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 20:3-4, (2016) 299-323.

Lamphey, Jerusha Tanner. "Thinking Differently about Difference: Muslima Theology and Religious Pluralism." *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*, Winter 2014, 34-43.

Landsdowne, Carmen. "A Spirituality that Stabs Salmon." *Quest for Respect: The Church and Indigenous Spirituality*, Intotemak Magazine special issue, Spring 2017.

- Lerner, Anne Lapidus. *Eternally Eve: Images of Eve in the Hebrew Bible, Midrash, and Modern Jewish Poetry*. Lebanon, NH: Brandeis University Press, 2007.
- Loughlin, Gerard, ed. *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- McFague, Sallie and David Lott. *Sallie McFague: Collected Readings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.
- Mernissi, Fatima. *The Veil and The Male Elite: A Feminist Interpretation of Women's Rights in Islam*. Trans. Mary Jo Lakeland. New York: Basic Books, 1992.
- Messina-Dysert, Gina, Jennifer Zobair and Amy Levin, eds. *Faithfully Feminist: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Feminists on Why We Stay*. Ashland, OR: White Cloud Press, 2015.
- Mir-Hosseini, Ziba, Mulki al-Sharmani and Jana Rumminger, eds. *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition*. London: OneWorld Publications, 2015.
- Morgensen, Scott Lauria. *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2011.
- Morton, Nelle. *The Journey is Home*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1985.
- Murata, Sachiko, ed. *The Tao of Islam: A Sourcebook on Gender Relationships in Islamic Thought*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1992.
- Pardes, Ilana. *Countertraditions in the Bible: A Feminist Approach*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Pennington, Sylvia. *But Lord, They're Gay: A Christian Pilgrimage*. Hawthorne, CA: Lambda Christian Fellowship, 1983.
- Pilcher, Jane and Imelda Whelehan. *Key Concepts in Gender Studies*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2015.
- Plaskow, Judith. *The Coming of Lilith: Essays on Feminism, Judaism, and Sexual Ethics 1972-2005*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2005.
- Plaskow, Judith. *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*. New York: HarperOne, 1991.
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- Pui-lan, Kwok. *Postcolonial Imagination and Feminist Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.
- Ramer, Andrew. *Queering the Text: Biblical, Medieval and Modern Jewish Stories*. White Crane Books, 2010.

- Reid, Bill and Robert Bringhurst. *The Raven Steals the Light*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1988.
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1981.
- Safi, Omid, ed. *Progressive Muslims on Justice, Gender and Pluralism*. London: OneWorld Publications, 2003.
- Schorr, Rebecca Einstein and Alyssa Mendelson Graf, eds. *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*. New York: CCAR Press, 2016.
- Soelle, Dorothee. *The Strength of the Weak: Toward a Christian Feminist Identity*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.
- Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. *The Woman's Bible*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1993. Originally published 1895.
- Stowasser, Barbara Fryer. *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Knudtson, Peter and David Suzuki. *Wisdom of the Elders: Native and Scientific Ways of Knowing about Nature*. Greystone Books, 2008.
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- Trible, Phyllis. *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.
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- Wilson, Alex. *N'tacimowin inna nah': Our Coming In Stories*. Canadian Woman Studies, Vol. 26, No. 3-4, 2008.
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- Yee, Gale A., ed. *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press: 2018.