

LSC Use Only No: LSC Action-Date: UWUCC USE Only No. **03-33a** UWUCC Action-Date: **Appr - 1/20/04** Senate Action Date: **Appr 3/2/04**

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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Proposing Department/Unit Dept. of Religious Studies	Phone 7-1360

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)
- New Course Course Prefix Change Course Deletion
- Course Revision Course Number and/or Title Change Catalog Description Change

RLST 245 Women and Religion

Current Course prefix, number and full title

Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing

2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate
- This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course. Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African) **WOMEN'S STUDIES**
- This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.

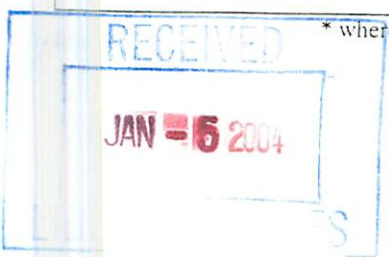
3. Program Proposals
- New Degree Program Program Title Change Other
- New Minor Program New Track
- Catalog Description Change Program Revision

Current program name

Proposed program name, if changing

4. Approvals		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Tawny L Holm	10-08-03
Department Chair(s)	Shel Chadler	10/28/03
College Curriculum Committee Chair	Celny Hentert	12-17-03
College Dean	A. Ann	12-17-03
Director of Liberal Studies *		
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *		
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	Gail Sedquist	1-20-04

* where applicable



I. Catalog Description

RLST 245 Women and Religion

3 credits

3 lecture hours

Prerequisite: RLST 110 or permission of the instructor

0 lab hour

(3c-01-3sh)

This course examines women's roles and experiences within some of the world's major religious traditions, both past and present. We will explore patterns and instances of the empowerment and oppression of women and pay careful attention to feminist critiques.

II. Course Objectives

Students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate sensitivity to the need for attention to and re-evaluation of women's experiences in the context of the study of religion.
2. Understand the commonality of the female as symbol and the ways that diverse religious traditions have defined and valued the notion of womanhood.
3. Examine the ways in which biological fact (sex) and societal construct (gender) impact upon the development of systems of religious belief and practice.
4. Approach religions as multi-dimensional systems which both exhibit and respond to social change and explore how women have responded to and, in many instances, caused such change.
5. Develop their critical skills through exposure to a variety of conflicting interpretations regarding women and religion and articulate their judgments in discussion and writing.
6. Broaden and deepen their appreciation for scholarship in Religious Studies through exposure to the work of female academics.

III. Course Outline

A. Introduction to the Study of Women in Religion (3 hrs.)

1. Sex and gender as they impact religions and Religious Studies: the under representation of women as leaders in religions and as authorities in the academic study of religion
2. Feminist and other methods: a brief history of scholarship concerning women in religion.

B. Archaic Images of the Goddess (6 hrs)

1. The Prehistoric Goddess and the "Myth of the Matriarchy"
2. Goddesses of Greece, Rome and Egypt.
3. Priestesses

C. Women and Monotheism: Mothers, Matriarchs, Virgins, Maidservants (9 hrs)

1. Judaism
2. Christianity
3. Islam

MIDTERM (1 ½ hrs)

D. Women in Asian Traditions: Adepts, Goddesses, Wives, Nuns (9 hrs)

1. Hinduism
2. Buddhism
3. Confucianism and Taoism

E. Women in Primal Traditions: Culture Heroes, Shamans, Priestesses (6 hrs)

1. Native America
2. Africa and the Caribbean

F. Reformation and Revolution (7 ½ hrs)

1. Radical feminist critiques
2. Re-Membering the Goddess: Contemporary feminist spirituality

IV. Evaluation Methods

Students will receive grades based upon the following exercises:

30% Two 2-4 pp. reaction papers (15% each). Students will choose readings from the texts and act as discussion leaders on their chosen articles/chapters.

20% Interpretive essay (4-6 pp) on Beyond God the Father by Mary Daly. Students will take a stand on the merits of Daly's argument and support their conclusion through reference to the text and class materials. These papers will also serve as preparation for an in-class debate on the radical feminist critique of Christianity.

25% Midterm in-class exam: multiple choice, true/false, short answers and essay. This exam helps to determine the extent to which students are reading and understanding course content and establishing a knowledge base.

25% Take home Final exam: This exam will allow students to demonstrate their ability to synthesize, interpret and compare the course material.

All assignments will be graded on a numerical basis to be translated into final letter grades using the following schedule:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F

V. Attendance Policy

Much of our class time will involve discussion and so it is important that students keep up with the readings and attend class regularly. Students serving as discussion leaders are, clearly, required to attend on their assigned days. Otherwise, there is no formal attendance requirement. However, in the case of borderline grades (within 2 percentage points), attendance and participation will be taken into account. In short, conscientious involvement will be rewarded. Exam and paper due dates are FIRM and make ups will be given only if there is a valid medical or personal emergency. Any papers handed in late, without instructor's consent, will be graded down 5 points per day.

VI. Required textbooks, supplemental books and readings

Beyond God the Father, Mary Daly, Beacon Press, 1973
Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives, Nancy Falk, Rita Gross, eds., Wadsworth, 2000
Women in World Religions, Lucinda Joy Peach. Prentice Hall, 2001
The Book of the Goddess, Carl Olson, ed., Crossroad, 1990

VII. Special Resource Requirements

There are no special resource requirements.

VIII. Bibliography

Eller, Cynthia. *Living in the Lap of the Goddess: The Feminist Spirituality Movement in America*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.
Gross, Rita. *Feminism and Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.
Haddad, Yvonne and Findly, Ellison, eds. *Women, Religion and Social Change*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1985.
King, Ursula. *Women and Spirituality: Voices of Protest and Promise*. University Park, PA: Penn State U. Press, 1989.
Kinsley, David. *The Goddesses' Mirror: Visions of the Divine from East and West*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1989.
Kraemer, Ross Shepard. *Her Share of the Blessings*. N.Y. : Oxford University Press, 1992.
Paper, Jordan. *Through the Earth Darkly: Female Spirituality in Comparative Perspective*. N.Y.: Continuum, 1997.
Ruether, Rosemary Radford and Keller, Rosemary Skinner. *In Our Own Voices: Four Centuries of American Women's Religious Writing*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1995.
Sered, Susan Starr. *Priestess, Mother, Sacred Sister: Religions Dominated by Women*. N. Y. : Oxford University Press, 1994.
Sharma, Arvind and Young, Katherine. *Feminism and World Religions*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.
Young, Serenity. *Anthology of Sacred Texts By and About Women*. N.Y.: Crossroad, 1993.

Course Analysis Questionnaire

A. Details of the Course

A1. This course is one of the controlled electives for students in the BA in Religious Studies and for students in the Women's Studies program. This course is not intended to be a Liberal Studies course.

A2. This course does not require changes in any other course in the department. A program revision of the BA in Religious Studies will include this course among the controlled electives.

A3. This course has been offered as Special Topics 481 in Fall 2000 and in Fall 2002. 19 students were enrolled in Fall 2000, and 25 students are currently enrolled in Fall 2002.

A4. This course is not intended to be dual level.

A5. This course is not to be taken for variable credit.

A6. Similar courses are offered at the following institutions, among others:

Marquette University: Women in the Bible

DePaul University: Women in the Bible

Wake Forest University: Feminist Approaches to the Bible

Cornell University: Women in the Hebrew Bible

University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh: Women and the New Testament

A7. No professional society, accrediting authority, law or other external agency recommends or requires the content or skills of this proposed course.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

B1. This course will be taught by one instructor.

B2. The content of this course does not overlap with any other at the University.

B3. This course is cross-listed with Women's Studies.

C. Implementation

C1. No new faculty member is required to teach this course. This course will be counted as one preparation and three hours of equated workload. Teaching this course will not negatively impact the teaching schedule of the Religious Studies department or its ability to offer the other courses in the Religious Studies program because this course has already become part of the department's regular offerings. It has been offered as a Special Topics course every other year for the past four years.

C2. Other resources:

- a. Current space allocations are adequate to offer this course.
- b. No special equipment is needed for this course.
- c. No laboratory supplies are necessary for this course.
- d. Library holdings are adequate.
- e. No travel funds are necessary.

C3. The resources for this course are not funded by any grant.

C4. This course will be offered every fourth semester.

C5. One section will be offered at a time.

C6. Up to 25 students can be accommodated in this class in which students do a considerable amount of participating verbally and in writing.

C7. No professional society recommends enrollment limits or parameters for this course.

C8. This course does not involve the use of telecourses or the use of interactive technologies.

D. Miscellaneous

No additional information is necessary.