

JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN FEMINIST THOUGHT

Prof. Barbara Meyer
Spring Semester
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3p.m.

Short description:

Feminist Theological Thought deals with gender equality as well as with God's alleged gender in religious texts and liturgies. Apart from this common ground, Jewish and Christian Feminist Theologies have developed as very different discourses with distinct inner discussions. For instance, Orthodox and Reform Jewish feminists have argued about the significance of halakhic versus theological change. Judith Plaskow viewed the improvement of women's status in Jewish law as mere cosmetics while Rahel Adler has reclaimed the halakhic textual tradition as a Jewish language for praxis. In the meanwhile, Protestant and Anglican feminists have focused on Christian approaches to the body, Catholic feminists have developed new views of Mary, and ecology has become a core concern of all feminist theologians.

In class we will study the emergence of both Jewish and Christian feminist theological discourse and discuss current problems and perspectives.

Assessment:

Midterm:

Essay

20% of the final grade

Final requirement:

Paper

70%

Participation:

10%

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Please turn off all electronic apparatuses during class.