

Introduction to Feminist/Womanist Theology

Spring 2021

Instructor: Anne Joh, PhD

Teaching Assistant, Toar Hutagalung

Office Hours: By Appt.

(Subject to changes as necessary and warranted by the instructor. This is a provisional working document.)

This course explores introductory contours to theology and praxis of feminist and womanist theology. Course content allows for provisional and contingent conversation on and at the intersection of gender, race, sexuality, class, migrations, militarism, representation, colonialism, and forms of domination and violation. The course is designed as an introduction to feminist discourse and is therefore limited in scope. The aim of the course is to introduce language and resources to students for beginning conversations around what it means to live a feminist life grounded on feminist and womanist theologies.

Course Requirement:

Class Participation: This is a weekend intensive course which means any absence will be detrimental to the final evaluation. Come prepared with well thought out questions and reflections to share with the class. Focusing our discussions around these three dimensions allows for a constructive engagement with materials covered during our weekly sessions. Each participant must sign up to facilitate a weekly session. Facilitator comes prepared with questions to be raised and discussed during our class. One time: 75% of final course grade.

- 1) **Clarification** - seeking greater clarity about the nature of a given writer's position, about connections between readings, or about issues that continue from seminar to seminar.
- 2) **Critique** - identifying and briefly developing weaknesses you perceive in an assigned text.
- 3) **Implication** - exploring the implications for cultural critique, theology or something else, which you see generated by the assigned reading of the week.

Final Project/Paper/Creative project:

Topic for the final paper or project shall be decided in consultation with the instructor. 25% of the final course grade.

Readings: Available as PDF on Course Moodle.

Office Hours:

Part of my job is to offer office hours to advisees and students enrolled in my courses. Appoints are scheduled individually as I do not hold set office hours. Do not be shy about requesting office hours. You can do so by sending me an email request. I prefer phone conversation rather than video meetings. We want to be sure that our time is used fruitful. Meetings should have a clear so think about what you want to discuss/accomplish during the meeting. Learning to set

clear agenda for a meeting is part of professionalization. When you request a meeting let me know in few words what the purpose of the meeting is. Do not beat around the bush. Be clear and transparent. The day before our scheduled meeting, send me another email with no more than a one page of clear purpose and content of what you want to discuss. You do not have to craft a perfect email to me. It does not have to have the perfect narrative. Even bullet-point agenda of issues/topics to discuss is fine. This will help orient our meeting and also gives me a heads-up. This also helps to take the pressure off having to feel you have to perform during our meeting of your brilliance. If you need to cancel, I need an email from you that you need to reschedule or cancel.

*Shame spiral: If you are having difficulty with the course it's a good idea to reach out sooner than later. Many of us grapple with shame and fall into the trap of, "I'll get in touch when I have everything together." Please avoid this and just reach out and not wait.

Drafts/Papers:

If you want feedback at the meeting a good rule of thumb is the number of pages to be read divided by 2 is the number of days in advance it should be sent to me.

Post Meeting follow-up:

I highly recommend you send me a follow-up email highlighting our conversation's important points and resolutions, and especially important decisions or agreements that both of have made. E.g., deadlines. If we continue with conversations and emails, keep everything in one single thread of emails so I can keep a track of our conversations' evolution.

Letter of Recommendation:

It's fine to request LORs via email. Include all information as necessary in order for me to write a specific and helpful letter on your behalf. This may include any paper you wrote for me, your CV, and any statement, letter or essay you will submit with your application. I do not take LORs lightly and need all relevant information 4 weeks advance in order to craft a letter I am willing to sign off on.

Course Sessions

Feb. 4th Introductions
What is Feminism? On Patriarchy...

Feb. 11th:
+Feminist Theory Introduction
+Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing Intersection of Race and Sex"
+Hill Collins, "Defining Black Feminist Thought"

Feb. 18th:
+bell hooks, Chapter 3, "Imperialism of Patriarchy"
+Mohanty, "Sisterhood, Coalition and Politics of Experience"

+Angela Davis, "Gender and Prisons"

Feb. 25th:

+Lorraine Code, Chapters 1-2, "What Can She Know?"

March 14th:

No session

Watch Butler's "Philosophical Encounters"

March 11th:

+Briggs, "What is Feminist Theology?"

+Townes, "Womanist Theology"

+Joh, "race, Class, Gender and Sexuality"

+Smith, "Heteropatriarchy and 3 Pillars of White Supremacy"

March 18th:

+Jones, "Feminist Theology and Global Imagination" "Women's Experience Between a Rock and a Hard Place"

+Kwok, "Postcolonial Feminist Vision"

+Rueher, "Feminist Theology in Theological Education"

March 25th:

+Clifford, "Feminist Theology" Chapters 1, 3, 6

April 8th:

+Smith, "Native American Feminism"

+JFSR, "Roundtable on First Nation Theology"

April 15th:

+Joh, "Postcolonialism in Fugue"

+Kwok, "Fishing Asia Pacific"

+Kim, "Indigestible Asian"

April 22nd:

+Schussler Fiorenza, Chapters 4, 5, 6

April 29th:

+Pinedad-Madrid, "Latina Feminist Theology"

+Bedford, "The World Palpitates"

+Anzaldua, "Borderlands"

May 6th:

Joh, "Loves Multiplicity"

Hooks, "Sisterhood"

Hamner, "The Work of Love"

