Course Description:

“The role and presence of women in early Christianity up to the 3rd century, including women among Jesus’ followers, women with authority in Paul's churches, and the changing role of women as Christianity became a Roman religion.” [Calendar blurb.] This particular section of the course will examine women’s role in the early Church up to the 4th century and will include examples of visual and material culture as part of the primary sources examined.

Conceptual framework for course:

One of the most interesting questions posed about “Women in early Christianity” in recent years suggests a tension between scholars who are interested in reconstructing the lives of women who were part of the Jesus movement, the Pauline missions, and late 1st C. early Christian communities with those scholars who are engaged in the rhetorical analysis and criticism of our historical sources. This tension was discussed in a fascinating article, “Real Women or Objects of Discourse? The Search for Early Christian Women” by L. Stephanie Cobb in *Religion Compass* 3/3 (2009): 379–394. This article will form the conceptual framework for this course. As we probe the limits of our ancient sources (with the aid of contemporary scholarship) to answer contemporary questions about women, questions like: “Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalen?”; “Were there female apostles?” “Were women ever priests in early Christianity?” we will keep the above article and the problems it outlines at the forefront of our investigation.

Required Texts/Readings:

2. This text will be supplemented by articles and book chapters available for free downloading through the ARES electronic reserve via MacOdrum library on the course web-page.
3. For ancient sources, we will consult the following resources:
     (English translation – Gnostic society Library)
   - Earliest Life of the Virgin, ca. 7th C. AD – See article by Shoemaker
   - The Letter of the Churches of Vienna and Lugdunum to the Churches of Asia and Phrygia, ca. 178AD; [http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/viennalyons.html](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/viennalyons.html)


• Women in early Christian Art – various websites supplied by instructor

**Student Evaluation methods:**

1. Annotated bibliography -20%
   The annotated bibliography must be related to the following assignment.

2. In-class participation, preparation and response:
   a. A joint (two students) thirty minute in-class presentation related to course topic of the week – 20%
   b. An individual fifteen minute response to students’ presentation of the week -10%
   c. Note: Adjustments to this assignment might occur depending on course enrolment, e.g. three students for a forty-five minute presentation or three responders for 10 minutes each.

3. November mid-term – 25%

4. Final paper - 25%

**Course Calendar:**

September 10 Problems, questions, themes in the primary sources


17 The women among Jesus’ followers


24 Mary Magdalene vs. Mother of Jesus: Role in the Jesus Movement – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]


October 01 **House Churches (pious assemblies) and Female Authority** – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]


08 **Women and the Politics of [“Mixed”] Marriages** – Annotated bibliography due - 20%. No student presentations or (formal) responses.


15 **Women as Agents of Expansion** – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]


22 **Female Martyrs and Heretics in early Christianity** – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]

**Female Martyrs**


Female Heretics
2b. Epiphanius, Medicine Box 49.2.1-3; Epiphanius, Medicine Box 78.23.2, 79.3.6-79.4.1 in Madigan, Kevin and Carolyn Osiek, eds and trans. Ordained Women in the Early Church: A Documentary History (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005): 164-166. [ARES – reserve online]

29 Reading week – no classes

November 05 Thecla and other women’s stories – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]
Scroll down to Book II on web-site.

12 Midterm – 25% First 2 hours of class. No class after 1:35pm.

19 Ordained women in the early Church – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]

26 Women in early Christian Art – [+students’ presentation and responses (2)]

December 03 The end of female authority in the early Church? – Final paper due – 25%
2. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Conclusion: Discovering A Woman’s Place” in A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 244-250 + notes. [Textbook]

No final scheduled exam.
Course Policies:

- Students are expected to come to class prepared regardless of who is presenting and who is responding in a particular week. (See assignment 2).
- Class attendance will be taken.
- I will not be posting course notes on CULearn nor supplying notes to students who have missed class.
- It is the student’s responsibility to listen actively, to ask questions, and to record important points during each lecture or presentation to use in preparation for assignments and the November midterm.
- Allow up to 48 hours for an email response. I do not respond to emails on the weekend nor will I email you on the weekend.
- Students may also contact Barb Truscott: barb.truscott@carleton.ca concerning administrative matters.
- Check the course web page regularly for updates and before coming to class.

Please respect the following classroom etiquette:

- Do not get up and walk out in the middle of a lecture or presentation. If you must leave due to an emergency, do so quietly and with due consideration of others.
- There will be a 15 minute break after 1.5 hr.
- All cell phones are to be turned off.
- Computer/tablet use is for note-taking only or referring to the course web-site, or a website referred to by the instructor.
- Allow up to 48 hours for an email response. Students may also contact Barb Truscott: barb.truscott@carleton.ca concerning administrative matters.
- Check the course web page regularly for updates and before coming to class.

Late assignments will be penalized 1% of your final mark for the course per day excluding weekends. Assignments must be submitted electronically no later than the time specified.

Students who have difficulty writing are highly recommended to register with the Writing Tutorial Centre, 4th Floor Library. This is a free service. Poorly organized papers, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors will lower your mark by one - two grades depending on the severity of the problem.

All assignment grades will be posted on CULearn when they are marked.

PLEASE NOTE: Extra credit work to raise a low grade will not be accepted. The weight given to assignments and/or exams is fixed both for individuals and the class as a whole. Requests for extensions to assignments will be considered on a case by case basis. Please attach supporting documentation to your request.
REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED
Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Course Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>(11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>(7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>(6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>(5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0.0 grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Absent from final examination, equivalent to F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Official deferral (see &quot;Petitions to Defer&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FND</td>
<td>Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 8, 2014. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 8, 2015.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 7, 2014 for the Fall term and March 6, 2015 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/.

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

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ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library