

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program
RELI 3222A Women in Early Christianity

Prof. Janet H. Tulloch
 Office: Paterson 3A60
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Credit: 0.5
 Office Hours: Wed. 9:00-11:30AM
 Electronic Web-page: CULearn
 Place: River Bldg. 1200

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:

1. Osiek, Carolyn, Margaret Y. MacDonald with Janet H. Tulloch. *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
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:
 - New Testament and Apocrypha; <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/>
 - Gospel of Mary; <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/gospelmary.html> (English translation – Gnostic society Library)
 - Earliest Life of the Virgin, ca. 7th C. AD – See article by Shoemaker
 - “The Gospel of Jesus' Wife” Introduction, Imaging, Scientific reports and translation provided by Harvard Divinity School; <http://gospelofjesuswife.hds.harvard.edu/>
 - The Passion of the Holy Martyrs: Perpetua and Felicitas, ca. 200AD; <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian24.html>
 - 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>

- 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]
- Acts of Paul and Thecla, ca. 150-200 AD; <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actspaul.html>
- “Women Presbyters: In the East”; “In the West” from *Ordained Women in the Early Church: A Documentary History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005): 163-193. [ARES – Reserve online]
- 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 | <p>Problems, questions, themes in the primary sources</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cobb, L. Stephanie. “Real Women or objects of discourse? The search for early Christian Women.” <i>Religion Compass</i> 3/3 (2009): 379-94. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8171.2009.00137.x [ARES –reserve online] |
| | 17 | <p>The women among Jesus’ followers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. D’ Angelo, Mary Rose. “(Re)presentations of Women in the Gospels: John and Mark,” in Kraemer, Ross Shepard and Mary Rose D’ Angelo, eds. <i>Women & Christian Origins</i>. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999): 129-149. [ARES – reserve online] 2. D’ Angelo, Mary Rose. “(Re)presentations of Women in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke-Acts,” in Kraemer, Ross Shepard and Mary Rose D’ Angelo, eds. <i>Women & Christian Origins</i>. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999): 171-195. [ARES – reserve online] |
| | 24 | <p>Mary Magdalene vs. Mother of Jesus: Role in the Jesus Movement – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shoemaker, Stephen J. “The Virgin Mary in the Ministry of Jesus and the Early Church according to <i>The Earliest Life of the Virgin.</i>” <i>Harvard Theological Review</i> 98:4 (2005): 441-67 [ARES – reserve online] 2. King, Karen L “Why all the Controversy? Mary in the Gospel of Mary” in Jones, Stanley F., ed. <i>Which Mary? The Marys of Early Christian Tradition</i>. (Atlanta: Society of biblical Literature, 2002): 53-74. [ARES – reserve online] |

3. King, Karen L. ““Jesus said to them, ‘My wife...’” A New Coptic Papyrus Fragment” *Harvard Theological Review* 107.2 (2014) 131-159. [ARES – reserve online]

October

- 01 **House Churches (pious assemblies) and Female Authority – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]**
1. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Introduction” especially pp. 12-15 in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 1-16. [Textbook]
 2. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Women Leaders of Households and Christian Assemblies” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 144-163. [Textbook]
- 08 **Women and the Politics of [“Mixed”] Marriages – Annotated bibliography due - 20%.** No student presentations or (formal) responses.
1. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Dutiful and less than Dutiful Wives,” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 17-49. [Textbook]
 2. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Ephesians 5 and the Politics of Marriage,” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 118-143. [Textbook]
- 15 **Women as Agents of Expansion – [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]**
1. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “Women as Agents of Expansion,” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 220-243. [Textbook]
 2. Osiek, Carolyn and Margaret MacDonald with Janet Tulloch, “The Patronage of Christian Women,” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 214-219, [Textbook]
- 22 **Female Martyrs and Heretics in early Christianity– [+ students’ presentation and responses (2)]**
Female Martyrs
- 1a. Perkins, Judith, “The rhetoric of the maternal body in the Passion of Perpetua” in Todd Penner and Caroline Vander Stichele, eds. *Mapping gender in ancient religious discourses* (Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2007): 313-332. [ARES – reserve online]
 - 1b. Selections from English translations of ancient texts: a) “The Passion of the Holy Martyrs: Perpetua and Felicitas,” ca. 200AD <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian24.html>
 - 1c. “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>

Female Heretics

- 2a. Kraemer, Ross, “Heresy as Women’s Religion; Women’s Religion as Heresy” in *Her Share of the Blessings* [*electronic resource*]: *women's religions among pagans, Jews, and Christians in the Greco-Roman world* (Oxford University Press, 1993): 157-173.
- 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)]**
1. Kraemer, Ross Shepard, “Thecla of Iconium, Reconsidered” in *Unreliable Witnesses: Religion, Gender and History in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean*. (Oxford University Press, 2011): 117-152. [ARES – Reserve online]
 2. English translation of ancient text: “Acts of Paul and Thecla,” ca. 150-200 AD <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/actspaul.html>
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)]**
1. Madigan, Kevin and Carolyn Osiek, eds., trans., “Women Presbyters: In the East”; “In the West” in *Ordained Women in the Early Church: A Documentary History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005): 163-202. [ARES – Reserve online]
 2. Karras, Valerie A. “Priestesses or Priests' Wives: *Presbyteria* in early Christianity” in *St. Vladimir’s Theological Quarterly*, 51 2-3 (2007): 321-45.
- 26 **Women in early Christian Art – [+students’ presentation and responses (2)]**
1. Tulloch, Janet H., “Women Leaders in Family Funerary Banquets” in *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006): 164-193 + notes. [Textbook]
 2. Brown, Shelby, “Artistic Representation: Survival of the Classical Ideal” in Janet H. Tulloch, ed. *A Cultural History of Women in Antiquity* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013): 169-194; Notes: 235-241. [ARES – Reserve online]
- December 03 **The end of female authority in the early Church? – Final paper due – 25%**
1. Connelly, Joan Breton. “The end of the Line: The Coming of Christianity” in *Portrait of a Priestess: Women and Ritual in Ancient Greece* (Princeton University Press, 2007): 259-273; Notes: 355-362. [ARES – Reserve online]
 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 web-site 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:

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B- = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A- = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

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| F | Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points |
| ABS | Absent from final examination, equivalent to F |
| DEF | Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”) |
| FND | 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. |

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.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 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 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |