

## Course Outline – Religious Studies 2222F

### Feminist Spirituality

#### School of Humanities

This course is now being offered as **online synchronous** which means we will meet “in person” via Zoom during class hours. There will be other aspects available on the OWL course site as well. I have set up this course to function as a community of enquiry, which means that discussions of the material, input from the prof, and input from the students will count for a significant part of your marks. When you log into Zoom, please have your cameras turned on. It is important that we can all see each other during the dialogues.

#### General Information

Course #: RS 2222F

Section #: 530

Term: Fall

Year: 2021-22

Delivery: ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS

Course Day and Time: Wed, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Via Zoom and OWL

#### Instructor Information

Name: Sharon Lindenburger

E-mail: slinden@uwo.ca

Telephone number for office appointments:

Office hours: I will hold office hours via Zoom or Owl

Office location:

#### Course Description

An exploration of current expressions of feminist consciousness which are shaping spirituality.

Sources will be the experience of women and connections will be made to the religious traditions which are sources of many of the current trends.

**Added note from the professor:** In this course we will be considering the developing field of analysis of issues known as **Intersectionality**, which is highly relevant to feminist studies. Intersectionality refers to the overlay or complexity of multiple issues that must be considered when exploring feminist spirituality today—issues such as poverty, class stratification, cultural contexts, competing contexts, power or lack of power. Intersectionality had its beginnings within black feminist theology and critique, and has proven highly useful in a wide lens approach to many forms of feminist spirituality and practice.

## Required Course Materials

**RS 222G Course Pack**, available at UWO bookstore, and will also be available in a digital version. As much of the course will draw upon the readings in the course pack, it is crucial that each student obtain a copy (either hard copy or digital)

Books:

Pui-Lan, Kwok. *Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding*. NJ: Paulist Press, 2012.

Kim, Grace Ji Sum & Susan M. Shaw. *Intersectional Theology: An Introductory Guide*. Minneapolis: Forrest Press, 2018

(Both of the required books are fairly short and inexpensive, and both are important for the major themes of the course. Since the course is now online synchronous, ordering the two books (*Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding* and *Intersectional Theology: An Introductory Guide* can be obtained quickly on Amazon, and I have ordered them at UWO bookstore as well).

## Optional Course Materials

Highly recommended: Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. Crossroad Publishing, revised 2020 edition.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop a definition of feminist spirituality
- Identify and critique patriarchal concepts and institutions which prompted the rise of feminist spiritualities
- Appraise how women have resisted oppression within religious traditions
- Explore the gains women have made within various spiritual traditions
- Examine the influence of symbols and language on women's spiritual experiences
- Analyze recurring themes in feminist spirituality as well as emerging new themes

## Brescia Competencies

1. Exploration of how female writers in the area of feminist spirituality communicate their ideas as a spiritual and values-based vision. Understanding and practicing how we ourselves communicate with each other about feminist spirituality. (Brescia competency 1 – Communication)
2. Evaluation of the required texts and in-class discussions to identify both the strengths and drawbacks of various approaches in feminist spirituality. (Brescia competency 2 – Critical Thinking)
3. Understanding of the role of discernment, decision-making, and the distillation of complex issues to arrive at informed decisions and choices, undertaking in particular the influence of intersectionality (Brescia competency 3 – Inquiry and Analysis)

4. Creating strategies, visions, and potential action plans based on the examples of others and measuring these against our own innate and unique creativity (Brescia competency 4 – Problem Solving)
5. Exploration of one’s own attitudes, abilities, potentials, and ideals as a woman desiring to find a sense of wholeness and empowerment within one’s personal spirituality (Brescia competency 5 – Self-Awareness and Development)
6. Discovery of initiatives, both local, regional, nationwide, and international, that signal current directions in feminist spiritual thought, including those we may choose to engage with directly or contribute to in some way. (Brescia competency 6 – Social Awareness and Engagement)
7. Uncovering the underlying human and spiritual values that influence feminist spirituality, but which also have a universal relevance in today’s world. (Brescia competency 7 – Valuing)

### Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

The instructional methodology will involve lectures on major themes within feminist spirituality. However, equally important is participate in discussions and dialogue, both with the professor and with each other. This course will be a community of enquiry. There will be an OWL site for the course that will provide information on deadlines and expectations for each week of the course.

Dialogue, conversation, and sharing of viewpoints from the readings and from the students is crucial to a community of enquiry. Therefore, your participation and willingness to engage in dialogue will account for 25% of your final mark, i.e., one quarter of your final mark.

### Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, Zoom-based activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, videorecording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

### Evaluation

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Date/ Deadline	Learning Outcomes	Brescia Competencies
Participation/in-class discussions	25%	Throughout the course	Appreciation and exploration of recurrent and	1,2,5,7

			emerging themes in feminist spirituality	
<b>One response paper of five double-spaced pages</b>	15%	October 13, 2021	Making a well-thought-out response to material in a chosen reading from the course	3,4,5
<b>Research Project and Presentation</b>	25%	Nov. 17 and Nov. 24 (15-minute presentations with students divided over the two dates, hand in research notes, Power Point, etc.)	Demonstrating the ability to research and critically assess a research problem or point of view, using course sources and other sources researched by the student	2, 3, 6
<b>Final Exam (take-home exam that will consist of three brief essay questions, and one longer response to a choice of questions.)</b>	35%	Will be scheduled during the exam period of the fall semester	Demonstrating the ability to absorb, reflect upon, and synthesize the content of the course as a whole.	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

#### Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

## Course Content

Over the twelve weeks, the course will deal with four themes:

- 1) Feminist reclamation of spirituality and religion
- 2) Intersectionality
- 3) Diversity, Globalization, differing traditions and lifestyles
- 4) Personal Impact of feminist spirituality (gender, self-image, values, actions)

The weekly organizer by specific class week will be added to this course outline shortly.

Weekly Organizer:

Class/Week	Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
		e.g., topic, content, associated readings, activities.	e.g., quiz, paper, group project, exam.
<b>1</b>	Sept.8	Discussion: What is feminism” and how does it apply to spirituality?	Introduction to the course, overview of readings and course requirements.
<b>2</b>	Sept. 15	Introduction to Intersectionality	Chapters from <i>Intersectionality</i> to be assigned
<b>3</b>	Sept. 22	Hour 1 1/2: Ursula King, Spirituality and Gender Chapter from <i>Globalization, Gender and Peacebuilding</i> Hour 2: Historical Context Retrieval: Judith Plaskow, Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective (foundation for much of feminist spiritual thinking)	King article is in the course pack  Chapter from textbook will be announced on OWL  Plaskow article in course pack
<b>4</b>	Sept. 29	Self-in-Relation Hour 1: Kimberly Snow, Having a Woman’s Body Kimberly Snow, Childbirth as Spiritual Experience Hour 2: Take Back the Light, Sheila A. Ruth, Spirit Sheila A. Ruth, Feminist Vision	Kimberly Snow articles in course pack    Sheila A. Ruth, articles in course pack
<b>5</b>	Oct. 6	Hour 1: Re-Imaging the Divine from a Feminist Perspective	Johnson’s articles in course pack

		<p>Elizabeth Johnson, To Speak Rightly of God</p> <p>Elizabeth Johnson, Critical Discourse About God, Feminist Theology</p> <p>Hour 2: Sallie McFague, God as Mother</p> <p>Silvia Regina &amp; De Lima Silva, Feminist Wisdom Rituals and Liturgies as Spiritual Resources</p>	<p>McFague, Regina and Silva in course pack</p>
6	Oct. 13	<p>Hour 1: Re-sacralizing Nature</p> <p>Anne Clifford, Feminist Perspectives in Ecology</p> <p>Hour 2: Rosemary Radford Ruether, Ecofeminism</p>	<p>Clifford article in course pack</p> <p>Ruether article in course pack</p> <p><b>Brief reflection paper due</b></p>
7	Oct. 20	<p>Outgrowth to other ways of religious or spiritual traditions</p> <p>Hour 1: Johanna Stuckey, Feminist Goddess Worship, feminism, and Feminist Theology (spelling deliberate)</p> <p>Leona Anderson &amp; Pamela Dickey Young, Women in New Age Traditions</p> <p>Hour 2: Leona M. Anderson, Pamela Dickey Young, Neopaganism and Wicca</p> <p>Sheila A. Ruth, Feminist Pagan Theology</p>	<p>All articles for this week in course pack</p>
8	Oct. 27	<p>Feminist Spiritualities of Struggle</p> <p>Hour 1: Carol Christ, If we do not love life</p> <p>Beverly Wildung Harrison, The Power of Anger in the Work of Love</p> <p>Hour 2: Cynthia Eller, Feminist Politics and Feminist Spirituality</p>	<p>Carol Christ, Harrison and Eller in course pack</p>
9	Nov 3	<p><b>November 1 -7 is Reading Week, no class</b></p>	
10	Nov. 10	<p>Cultural Assumptions to be avoided</p>	<p>Johnson article in course pack</p>

		Hour 1: Myke Johnson, Wanting to be Indian: Cultural Appropriation in White Feminist Spirituality Hour 2: Intersectionality as Theological Method (and how it affects stereotypes and appropriation)	Intersectionality as Theological Method in textbook <i>Intersectionality</i>
11	Nov. 17	Presentations of student research projects in 15-minute increments	Turn in power points and/or research notes, summary of project after presentation
12	Nov. 24	Presentation of student research projects in 15-minute increments	Turn in power points and/or research notes, summary of project after presentation
13	Dec. 1	<b>Globalization and Intersectionality</b> Hour 1: Kwok Pui-Lan, Gender and Interfaith Dialogue  Hour 2: Practicing Intersectionality	<b>Gender and Interfaith Dialogue in Textbook, Kwok Pui-Lan, <i>Globalization, Gender and Peacebuilding</i></b> Book chapter from text

There will be a last class meeting on December 8 to talk about the take-home exam, what is required, deadline etc.

## 2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) .

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10) ).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

2. For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

#### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48-hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may not be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

#### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf);
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.



*The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:*

*[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)*

## **2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

*If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.*

*If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor ([https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/index.php](https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php) ). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).*

*You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

## **3. ABSENCES**

*Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.*

*Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.*

*Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.*

*It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory*

*([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).*

## **4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

*Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:*

*[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).*

*Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.*

*If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.*

*The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.*

*Plagiarism:*

*Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.*

*All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be*

*included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).*

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

*Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.*

### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

*All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar*

*[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).*

*Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.*

### **6. PREREQUISITES**

*Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).*

### **7. SUPPORT**

#### **Support Services**

*The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at*

*<http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)*

#### **Mental Health and Wellness**

*Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through Health & Wellness at Brescia*

*([https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) ) and Health and Wellness at Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).*

#### **Sexual Violence**

*All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.*

*If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php) .*

*Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.*