

**ICS Calendar Title:** God/Sex/Word/Flesh: Gender, Theology, and the Body

**ICS Course Code:** ICS 220804 F10

**Instructor:** Dr. Nik Ansell

**Term and Year:** Fridays, 9:30am-12:30pm, Fall 2010

**Last Updated:** November 2, 2010

**Course Description:**

How is our agenda for theology related to our gender? Is 'God' a male word? Is the 'Word made flesh' a male God? Does the experience of women change how God is (made) known? Is sexuality embraced by the resurrection? Attentive to the work of feminist theologians and biblical scholars, we will attempt to develop an 'embodied' theology open to the biblical vision that God will be 'all in all'.

**Course Learning Goals:**

- a. to gain insight into contemporary feminist theology
- b. to become aware of the influence of gender on theological proposals and interpretations
- c. to explore a gender-inclusive, embodied theology

**Course Requirements:**

- a. Total reading: 1250 pages total, including research for paper, of which approximately 60-70 pages per week is required to prepare for class
- b. In-seminar leadership: Written overview of two required readings, identifying key themes and questions, to aid class discussion; oral contribution to discussion
- c. Description of course papers: One paper of 3000-5000 words (PhD, 5000-7000 words), due by relevant ICS/TST deadline
- d. Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:
  - Paper: 60%
  - Class presentations: 20%
  - Oral contributions: 20%

**Required Readings:**

Nik Ansell, "Creational Man/Eschatological Woman: a Future for Theology" (inaugural lecture, ICS, Toronto, 2006) available online at:

[http://www.icscanada.edu/events/20060526cn/inaugural\\_may2006.pdf](http://www.icscanada.edu/events/20060526cn/inaugural_may2006.pdf)

Tina Beattie, "Queen of Heaven" in *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body*, edited by Gerard Loughlin (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007), chap. 20, 293-304 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: ON ORDER; TRIN: BT708 .Q44 2007 )

Susan Bordo, "Postmodern Subjects, Postmodern Bodies, Postmodern Resistance" in *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body*. Tenth anniversary edition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004 [1993], 277-300 (ROBA: HQ1220 .U5 B67 1995X)

Luce Irigaray, "The Wedding Between Body and Language" in *To Be Two* (New York: Routledge, 2001), 17-29 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BF204.5 .I7513 2001)

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* (New York: Continuum, 2007), chap. 5, 90-112 (ROBA: BT103 .J64 2007X)

Valerie A. Karras, "Eschatology" in *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*, edited by Susan Frank Parsons (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), chap. 14-243-260 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .C35 2002)

Susan Frank Parsons, "Feminist Theology as Dogmatic Theology" in *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*, edited by Susan Frank Parsons (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002),

chap. 7, 114-32 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .C35 2002)

Susan A. Ross, "God's Embodiment and Women" in *Freeing Theology: the Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective*, edited by Catherine Mowry LaCugna (New York: HarperCollins, 1993), chap. 8, 185-209 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .F744 1993)

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Tenth anniversary edition with a new introduction (Boston: Beacon, 1993 [1983]) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT704 .R84 1993 ; ROBA: BT704 .R83 1983)

Jane Schaberg, *The Illegitimacy of Jesus: a Feminist Theological Interpretation of the Infancy Narratives*. Expanded 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition (Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix, 2006 [1987]) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT314 .S39 2006 ; ROBA: BT314 .S39 1987)

Graham Ward, "The Displaced Body of Jesus Christ" in *Radical Orthodoxy: a New Theology*, edited by John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward (London: Routledge, 1999), chap. 8, 163-181 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT40 .R34 1999X)

Al Wolters, "Cross Gender Imagery in the Bible" in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 8 (1998): 217-228, available online at: [http://www.ibr-bbr.org/IBRBulletin/BBR\\_1998/BBR\\_1998\\_13\\_Wolters\\_CrossGender.pdf](http://www.ibr-bbr.org/IBRBulletin/BBR_1998/BBR_1998_13_Wolters_CrossGender.pdf)

### Recommended Readings:

Nicholas John Ansell, *The Woman Will Overcome the Warrior: a Dialogue with the Christian/Feminist Theology of Rosemary Radford Ruether* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1994) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .A57)

Sarah Jane Boss, ed., *Mary: the Complete Resource* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT610 .M376 2009; ROBA: BT610 .M376 2007)

Caroline Walker Bynum, *Resurrection of the Body in Western Christianity, 200-1336* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994) (ROBA: BT872 .B96 1995)

Susan Bordo, *The Male Body: a New Look at Men in Public and in Private* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999) (ROBA: HQ1090 .B67 1999X)

Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, *In Memory Of Her: a Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. Tenth anniversary edition with a new introduction (New York: Crossroad, 1994 [1983]). (selections) (TRIN: BR129 .S36 1994)

Beverly Robert Gaventa and Cynthia L. Rigby, *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002) (SMC: BT613 .B57 2002)

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *She Who Is: the Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse* (New York: Crossroad, 1992). (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.44 .J64 2002)

Catherine Mowry LaCugna, *God For Us: the Trinity and Christian Life* (New York: Harper Collins, 1991) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT111.2 .L33 1993)

\_\_\_\_\_, ed., *Freeing Theology: the Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective* (New York: HarperCollins, 1993) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .F744 1993)

Amy-Jill Levine, ed., *A Feminist Companion to Mariology* (London: T and T Clark, 2005) (SMC: BT614 .F46 2005)

Gerard Loughlin, ed., *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT708 .Q44 2007 ; TRIN: BT708 .Q44 2007)

Sallie McFague, *The Body of God: an Ecological Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT695.5 .M34)

Sallie McFague, *Models of God: Theology for an Ecological, Nuclear Age* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT102 .M425 1987)

James B. Nelson, *Body Theology* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992) (ROBA: BT741.2 .N35 1992)

\_\_\_\_\_, *Embodiment: an Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1978) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT708 .N44)

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Intimate Connection: Male Sexuality, Masculine Spirituality* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1988) (KNOX: HQ1090.3 .N44 1988)

\_\_\_\_\_ and Sandra P. Longfellow, eds., *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994) (ROBA: BT708 .S4797 1994b)

Paul W. Newman, *A Spirit Christology: Recovering the Biblical Paradigm of Christian Faith* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1987) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT202 .N48 1987)

Susan Frank Parsons, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT83.55 .C35 2002 ; ROBA: BT83.55 .C35 2002)

Frank Reilly, "Jane Schaberg, Raymond Brown, and the Problem of the Illegitimacy of Jesus" in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 21/1 (Spring 2005): 57-80 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf)

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Goddesses and the Divine Feminine: a Western Religious History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005) (ROBA: BL325 .F4 R84 2005X)

\_\_\_\_\_, *Women and Redemption: a Theological History* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998) (ROBA: BT704 .R835 1998X)

Mary Hembrow Snyder, *The Christology of Rosemary Radford Ruether: a Critical Introduction* (Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1988) (KNOX: BT202 .S58 1988)

Elaine Storkey, *Origins of Difference: the Gender Debate Revisited* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001) (ROBA: HQ1075 .S78 2001X)

Phyllis Trible, *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1171.2 .T74)

\_\_\_\_\_, *Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS575 .T75)

Michael Vasey, *Strangers and Friends: a New Exploration of Homosexuality and the Bible* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1995) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .H6 V374 1995)

Pamela Dickey Young, *Feminist Theology/Christian Theology: In Search of Method* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2000) (ROBA: BT83.55 .Y68 1990)

#### *Session 1: September 17* Introductions

#### *Session 2: September 24*

Nik Ansell, "Creational Man/Eschatological Woman: a Future for Theology (inaugural lecture, 2006), available online at: [http://www.icscanada.edu/events/20060526cn/inaugural\\_may2006.pdf](http://www.icscanada.edu/events/20060526cn/inaugural_may2006.pdf)

Al Wolters, "Cross Gender Imagery in the Bible" in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 8 (1998): 217-228, available online at: [http://www.ibr-bbr.org/IBRBulletin/BBR\\_1998/BBR\\_1998\\_13\\_Wolters\\_CrossGender.pdf](http://www.ibr-bbr.org/IBRBulletin/BBR_1998/BBR_1998_13_Wolters_CrossGender.pdf)

#### *Session 3: October 1*

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*, Tenth anniversary edition with a new introduction (Boston: Beacon, 1993 [1983]), Prelude, chap. 1 [xiii-xi; 1-46]

Susan Frank Parson, "Feminist Theology as Dogmatic Theology" in *idem.*, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), chap. 7 [114-32]

#### *Session 4: October 8*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 2 [47-71]

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* (New York: Continuum, 2007), chap. 5 [90-112]

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 3 [72-92]

*Session 5: October 15*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 4 [93-115]

Luce Irigaray, "The Wedding Between Body and Language" in *To Be Two* (New York: Routledge, 2001), 17-29

Susan Bordo, "Postmodern Subjects, Postmodern Bodies, Postmodern Resistance" in *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body*. Tenth anniversary edition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004 [1993]), 277-300

*Session 6: October 22*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 5 [116-138]

Graham Ward, "The Displaced Body of Jesus Christ" in John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward, eds., *Radical Orthodoxy: a New Theology* (London: Routledge, 1999), chap. 8 [163-181]

[Reading Week: October 25-29]

*Session 7: November 5*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 6 [139-158]

Tina Beattie, "Queen of Heaven" in Gerard Loughlin, *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007), chap. 20 [293-304]

Jane Schaberg, *The Illegitimacy of Jesus: a Feminist Theological Interpretation of the Infancy Narratives* (expanded 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition: Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix, 2006, originally San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987), Preface, Introduction [ix-xi, 1-19]

*Session 8: November 12*

Schaberg, *The Illegitimacy of Jesus*, chap. 2 [20-77]

*Session 9: November 19*

Schaberg, *The Illegitimacy of Jesus*, chap. 3 [78-144]

*Session 10: November 26*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 7 [159-192] and chap. 8 [193-213]

Susan A. Ross, "God's Embodiment and Women" in Catherine Mowry LaCugna, ed., *Freeing Theology: the Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective* (New York: HarperCollins, 1993), chap. 8 [185-209]

*Session 11: December 3*

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, chap. 9 [214-234] and chap. 10 [235-258]

Valerie A. Karras, "Eschatology" in *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), chap. 14 [243-260]

Ruether, *Sexism and God-talk*, Postscript [259-266]

*Sessions 12-13: December 10 and 17*

Student presentations

