

COURSE OUTLINE**Philosophy 118
Women, the Earth and the Divine****I. Catalog Statement**

Philosophy 118 introduces students to the relationship between social domination of women and domination of the rest of nature. The goal of this course is to help students develop skills in analyzing the impact of the world's major religions on the lives of women in both majority and minority cultures and on the life of the planet earth. Topics covered are the definition of values, and a study in viewpoints of the major religious traditions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This course also offers a brief assessment of the consequences of such views in creating and/or solving women's as well as environmental problems in the United States. Emphasis is placed on developing judgment in the use of primary or secondary sources, and helping students discern what sources they should or should not trust. The course will consider the differences among applications of deliberately selected value systems with respect to how the treatment of women in minority cultures affects cross cultural understanding and affects the attitudes of the majority towards minorities.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Requisite Skills: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 1.

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. analyze short essays (approximately 2-6 pages in length) to identify thesis, topic, developmental and concluding sentences, as well as transitional expressions used to increase coherence;
2. evaluate compositions for unity, sufficiency of development, evidence, coherence, and variety of sentence structure;
3. organize and write an essay which:
 - a. addresses the topic and is directed by a thesis statement;
 - b. has an introduction, body, and conclusion and demonstrates a basic understanding of essay organization;

- c. shows some awareness of critical thinking: e.g., linkage of evidence with assertion, some awareness of pro-con sides to an issue, ability to compare/contrast two short readings in a focused way;
- d. develops ideas, moving from general to specific;
- e. is easy to read and follow.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- 1. compare eastern and western attitudes toward women and nature;
- 2. analyze ‘the logic of domination’ that lies at the core of traditional philosophical value systems;
- 3. understand how religious world views promote and perpetuate the oppression of women and the rest of nature;
- 4. explain the continued impoverishment of the earth and its inhabitants due to the aggressive expansion of corporate globalization;
- 5. analyze contemporary American feminist movements and environmental movements in light of the major human value systems.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours

A. Introduction	1 hour
1. Course content	
2. Definition of religion	
B. Basic tenets of Eastern and Western Religions	1 hour
1. Hindu and Buddhist theories about the Law of Karma and Reincarnation	
2. Chinese theory of Yin and Yang	
3. Judeo-Christian theory of creation	
C. The Role of Women within Institutional Religions	8 hours
1. Women as portrayed at the roots of western traditions: Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman religions	
2. Women as portrayed in the western religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam	
3. Women as portrayed in the eastern religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto	
4. Cross cultural understanding of the treatment of women	
D. The Image of Women as Role Models Presented in:	4 hours
1. Myth	
2. Legends	
3. Liturgy	
4. Sacred art	
E. Survey of Traditional Philosophical Value Systems	5 hours

1. Objectivist–subjectivist / absolutist-relativist
 2. Theistic-nontheistic
 3. Rule/duty vs. utility/consequence
 4. Universalist vs. individualist
 5. Rationalist vs. empiricist
- F. Eco-feminist Theologies and Ethics 3 hours
1. Is the gender of the deity or deities understood as male, female, both or neither?
 2. Relationship between gods and goddesses in polytheistic religions
- G. Goddess in the World Religions 8 hours
1. Goddess worship in the African traditions
 2. Matrilineal goddess worshipping societies in Western traditions
 3. Goddess worship in Chinese and Japanese traditions
 4. Goddess worship in Hindu traditions
- H. Survey of Traditional Attitudes toward Humanity’s Place in the Universe 6 hours
- I. The Eastern attitude
 - a. Hindu
 - b. Buddhist
 - c. Taoist
 2. The Western attitude
 - a. Judaic
 - b. Christian
 - c. Moslem
- I. Analysis of Values as Expressed in the Contemporary Western Ecology Movement in the United States 4 hours
1. The “land ethic”
 2. Respect for life
 3. Holistic thinking
 4. “Spaceship Earth”
- J. Possible American Models for the Application of Values in Environmental Issues 4 hours
1. Stewardship
 2. Biological community
 3. Universalizing actions
 4. Ecofeminism
- K. Conclusion 4 hours
1. After the patriarchy: rethinking theology and nature
 2. Women’s organizations in the United States
 3. Environmental organizations in the United States

4. New alternatives to corporate globalization

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion;
2. audio-visual presentations;
3. student presentations and discussions;
4. outside readings of reserved books and articles from scholarly journals.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. essays (e.g. an essay analyzing the Koranic justifications for the superior position of men in Islamic culture);
2. group project (e.g. how does the code of Manu affect gender relation in Hindu society).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. two to three one hour class examinations and a final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards;
2. written assignments demonstrating the critical analysis of the ideas and principles in a collegiate manner;
3. class discussions;
4. class participation demonstrating course exist standards.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Reuther, Rosemary Radford. *Integrating Ecofeminism, Globalization, and World Religions*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, Inc., 2005. Print
14th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0-7425-3530

IX. Other Appropriate Reading

Cooley, Paula M.; Eakin, William R.; and McDaniel, Jay B. *After Patriarchy*.
Maryknoll: Orbis Book, 1999. Print
14th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0883447487

X. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare eastern and western attitudes towards women and nature;
2. demonstrate an understanding of the traditional philosophical value systems;

3. analyze contemporary feminist movements as well as environmental movements in light of the major human value systems;
4. develop models for the application of value in feminist and environmental issues.