

THEO-866: Feminist/Womanist Theology

Fall 2024, Synchronous ONLINE

Instructor: Anne Joh, PhD

Office Hours: By Appt.

Readings: Available as PDF on Course Moodle. NO BOOK PURCHASE.

(Subject to changes as necessary and warranted by the instructor. This is a provisional working document.)

This course explores introductory contours to theology and praxis of feminist and womanist theology. Course content allows for a provisional and contingent conversation on and at the intersection of gender, race, sexuality, class, migrations, militarism, representation, colonialism, and forms of domination and violation. The course is designed to introduce feminist discourse and is, therefore, limited in scope. The course aims to introduce language and resources to students so that they can begin conversations about what it means to live a feminist life grounded on feminist and womanist theologies.

Course Requirement:

Class Participation: Come prepared with well-thought-out questions and reflections to share with the class. Focusing our discussions around these three dimensions allows for a constructive engagement with materials covered during our weekly sessions. Each participant must sign up to facilitate a weekly session. The facilitator comes prepared with questions to be raised and discussed during our class. The facilitator will summarize and raise questions within no longer than 15 minutes. One time: 40% of final course grade.

- 1) Clarification - seeking greater clarity about the nature of a given writer's position, about connections between readings, or about issues that continue from seminar to seminar.
- 2) Critique - identifying and briefly developing weaknesses you perceive in an assigned text.
- 3) Implication—explore the implications for cultural critique, theology or something else generated by the assigned reading of the week.

Final Project/Paper/Creative Project:

The instructor will also need to approve a medium other than a final research paper. Whatever the chosen medium, a final project shall focus on any analytics discussed in the course and its implication in the still-emerging field of feminist theologies. For assessment, the instructor will look for the above (Clarification, Critique, and Implication)—40% of the final course grade.

Office Hours:

Part of my job is to offer office hours to advisees and students enrolled in my courses. Appoints are scheduled individually as I do not hold set office hours. Do not be shy about requesting office hours. You can do so by sending me an email request. I prefer phone conversations

rather than video meetings. We want to be sure that our time is used fruitfully. Meetings should be clear so think about what you want to discuss/accomplish during the meeting. Learning to set a clear agenda for a meeting is part of professionalization. When you request a meeting, let me know in a few words what the purpose of the meeting is. Do not beat around the bush. Be clear and transparent. The day before our meeting, send me another email with no more than one page of clear purpose and content of what you want to discuss. You do not have to craft a perfect email to me. It does not have to have the perfect narrative. Even a bullet-point agenda of issues/topics to discuss is fine. This will help orient our meeting and also give me a heads-up. This also helps to take the pressure off having to feel you have to perform during our meeting of your brilliance. If you need to cancel, I need an email from you that you need to reschedule or cancel.

*Shame spiral: If you are having difficulty with the course, it's a good idea to reach out sooner than later. Many of us grapple with shame and fall into the trap of, "I'll get in touch when I have everything together." Please avoid this and reach out and not wait.

Drafts/Papers:

If you want feedback at the meeting, a good rule of thumb is the number of pages to be read divided by 2, which is the number of days in advance it should be sent to me.

Post Meeting follow-up:

I highly recommend you send me a follow-up email highlighting our conversation's important points and resolutions, and especially important decisions or agreements that both of us have made, such as deadlines. If we continue with conversations and emails, keep everything in one single thread of emails so I can track our conversations' evolution.

Letter of Recommendation:

It's fine to request LORs via email. Include all necessary information so that I can write a specific and helpful letter on your behalf. This may include any paper you wrote for me, your CV, and any statement, letter or essay you will submit with your application. I do not take LORs lightly and need all relevant information four weeks in advance to craft a letter I am willing to sign off on.

Course Sessions