

Religion, Gender and Globalization  
Professors Cheryl Doss and Serene Jones  
INRL 621/REL 827/WGS 621  
Th 1.30-3.20 LUCE 203

This course explores the varied ways in which women religious practitioners engage in politically significant activities in the course of every life – activities that impact and are impacted by the process of globalization. Central to the course is theoretical engagement with recent scholarship on transnational gender theory, globalization studies, gender and development, and studies in religious practice and culture. The approach of the course is interdisciplinary, bringing together theology, economics, women’s studies, and political theory. Weekly readings will include materials ranging from novels and visual cultural to social scientific studies and global economic analysis.

The course will take advantage of the resources provided by the Women, Religion and Globalization Project. See [www.yale.edu/macmillan/wrg](http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/wrg). Most notably, it will involve ongoing student interaction with two current Yale “Women Living Religion” Fellows, the Rev. Mpho Tutu, Executive Director, The Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage; and Fatima Azzahrae Chaabani who has worked with women’s associations in Morocco on religious reforms; and the” Religion and International Affairs Fellow”, Marisa van Saanen, formerly with The World Bank, Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics.

#### Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class having done the readings and prepared to participate. Each week, students will be expected to write a short paragraph outlining the key issues of the readings as they relate to our discussions of women, religion and globalization and list three questions for discussion. These must be uploaded to the classes v2 server by 9:00 on the morning of the class. This is worth 35% of the final grade.

Each student will be expected to present a “snapshot” of a recent incident in which the three elements of the course converged, diverged or were otherwise entangled in an illuminating way, a visual picture of a moment in which they came alive for you. Students will present these in class and provide a written description of the image (max 500 words). This is worth 10% of the final grade.

Each student will write an annotated bibliography of three books or articles from their field (these may be books that you are reading for other classes) addressing the question of how the book illuminates these three issues or how the book would be richer by considering all three. Each entry should be no more than one page, single-spaced. These will be shared with the class. With permission of the instructors, students may substitute a movie or art exhibit for one of the books. These will be due on Feb. 28, April 10 and May 2. This is worth 20% of the final grade.

Final papers (10-12 pages) should analyze a specific issue/moment/action/practice where women's daily practice of religion has had an impact on globalization. Papers are due May 2. Students will present their papers in class on April 17. The paper and presentation is worth 35% of the final grade.

Melissa Matthes is the teaching assistant for the course. She can help with any issues regarding the website and will be available to talk to students about their papers.

Cheryl Doss has office hours scheduled weekly in 223 Luce Hall, with sign up sheets for them available in 210 Luce Hall. Her office hours are usually Wednesday 10-12.

Serene Jones has office hours on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30 in WLH318.

The following books have been ordered at Labyrinth Books:

Lourdes Beneria, *Gender, Development and Globalization*

Diane Eck, *Encountering God*

Dorothy Bass, *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*

Katherine Marshall and Marisa Bronwyn Van Saanen, *Development and Faith: Where Mind, Heart, and Soul Work Together*

Gail Holst-Warhaft, *A Cue for Passion: Grief and its Political Uses*

Mary Gordon, *Circling my Mother*

Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass*

#### Tentative Course Outline

##### January 17 Introduction

Introduction to the conceptual framework of women, religion and globalization.

##### Jan. 24 Gender and globalization

Contributions of feminist economists to issues of globalization, with a focus on labor issues. We will ask how including issues of religious practices would impact our understanding of women and globalization.

##### Jan. 31 Feminist Theology

This class will explore how interfaith discussions of women and globalization contribute to the themes of the course.

##### Feb. 7 Everyday practices

This session explores the political and religious significance of everyday cultural practices understood in a global framework, focusing specially on such activities as rest, food preparation, childcare, prayer and mourning.

##### Feb. 14 Faith and Development, Case Studies from the World Bank

Led by Marisa Van Saanen

This class session will examine the nexus of secular and faith-based development

and poverty alleviation activities through a focus on the World Bank's Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics and the related NGO, and their work to bring together secular and faith-based development efforts, to find common ground and opportunities for learning and partnership.

Feb. 21 The Political Economy of Mourning: Gender and the Practices of Loss

Led by Melissa Matthes

This session will examine the political uses of grief and the state's investment of \ who we mourn and how we mourn.

Feb. 28 Storytelling as Political Practice

Led by Mary Gordon

This session will discuss writing and storytelling as globally significant political activities and the character of intergenerational women's relationships.

March 6 Women's Access to Land and Assets in Africa

Using women's access to land and other assets as a case study, we will examine the role of legal regimes, economic factors, religious practices and social norms on women's access to assets.

March 27 Practices of Reconciliation

Led by Rev. Mpho Tutu

April 3 Practices of Moslem women in Morocco

Led by Fatima Azzahrae Chaabani

April 10 Immigration Issues in New Haven

Led by Alicia Camacho-Schmidt (tentative)

April 17 Student Presentations

April 24 Gender, religion and economic development

Led by Mayra Buvenic, Director of the Gender and Development Group at the World Bank and Joanne Leslie, Faculty Associate, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

### **Readings:**

January 17 Introduction

Jan. 24 Gender and globalization

Lourdes Beneria, *Gender, Development and Globalization* (especially ch. 3, 5 & 6; skim other chapters)

Jan. 31 Feminist Theology

Serene Jones, "Feminist Theology and the Global Imagination"

- Diane Eck, *Encountering God* (selections)
- Feb. 7 Everyday practices  
 Dorothy Bass, *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time* (also available as an online book through Yale library) (selections)  
 Chitrita Banerji, "What Bangladeshi Widows Cannot Eat." (will be handed out)
- Feb. 14 Faith and Development, Case Studies from the World Bank  
 Development & Faith: Where Mind, Heart, and Soul Work Together, World Bank, Katherine Marshall and Marisa Van Saanen, 2007. (Read Chapters 1 & 2 and skim any chapters of interest)
- "Appreciating Assets: The contribution of religion to universal access in Africa," ARHAP for the World Health Organization, 2006  
[http://www.arhap.uct.ac.za/research\\_who.php](http://www.arhap.uct.ac.za/research_who.php) and  
<http://www.arhap.uct.ac.za/publications.php#newsletters> (Read about the report and download and skim the report)
- "Faith Communities Engage the HIV/AIDS Crisis: Lessons Learned and Paths Forward," Berkley Center at Georgetown University:  
[http://repository.berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/AIDS\\_final.pdf](http://repository.berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/AIDS_final.pdf) (Skim only)
- "Mapping the Role of Faith Communities in Development Policy: the US Case in International Perspective, Berkley Center at Georgetown University:  
[http://repository.berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/Berkley\\_FBO\\_backgrounder\\_final.pdf](http://repository.berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/Berkley_FBO_backgrounder_final.pdf) (Skim only)
- Feb. 21 The Political Economy of Mourning: Gender and the Practices of Loss  
 Gail Holst-Warhaft, *The Cue for Passion: Grief and Its Political Uses*  
 "State Ideology and the Status of Iranian War Widows," Zahedi Ashraf, from *International Feminist Journal for Politics*, June 2006.
- Feb. 28  
 Mary Gordon, *Circling my Mother* (selections)  
 Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass* (selections)
- March 6 Women's Access to Land and Assets in Africa  
 Cheryl Doss, "The Gender-Asset Gap", *Feminist Economics*, 2006  
 Kaori Izumi, *Reclaiming our Lives: HIV and AIDS, Women's land and Property Rights and livelihoods in Southern and East Africa*. (selections)

Readings for the final sessions will be announced in class. The guest speakers are being consulted on appropriate readings.