UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr J. Zemler
Course #: THEO 4030/5030 (5030 component restricted to graduate students)
Section: 101
Course Title: Women in the Bible

Description:

Women in the Bible
(Any syllabus to be brought to every class)

This is a demanding third-level Theology course. We will explore the status and roles of women in the Bible. There will be an emphasis on social and historical background as well as narrative and theological themes. Some of the women of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible to be studied include the following: Eve, Dinah, Lady Wisdom, and Hulda. Some of the women from the New Testament include Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Martha, Mary, the Canaanite Woman, Martha and Mary.

If you have someone in particular you would like to study, let the professor know and we can make that happen.

We will be very interested in how women are portrayed in scripture and the theological and narrative purposes they serve as characters. We will also examine how the Jewish and Christian traditions have interpreted some of these women. There will be particular interest in how women are portrayed and in how various types of feminist theologians interpret scripture. To that end, the course will be as much about hermeneutics as it is about exegesis.

In a perfect world all of the students would be prepared for advanced study of a biblical topic in English translation. Given the lack of perfection in the world, the professor does not really believe that it the case. To help ensure that all students can acquire as much knowledge as possible, we will have an overview of biblical studies for several weeks. This will include the structure and content of the Bible, how it is usually examined in academia, and some basic theology. For those who know all of this, it will make the first exam that much easier. For those who don’t know all of this, it means they will be better prepared for the first exam and more advanced work in scripture.

The course is demanding. Expect to work. Attendance and attention is mandatory.

5030 (MACD):

Format: Lecture Format
Assignments and/or Examinations: Several exams and at least one Research paper

Language Pre-requisites: None