SPECIAL TOPICS:

WOMEN AND RELIGION

WOMEN'S STUDIES 302-3

Instructor: B. Blakely
Summer Session 1980

The course will examine the place of women in religious systems, focusing on the Judeo-Christian biblical tradition, contemporary women's spirituality, and liberation theology, as well as other sources.

We will discuss the role religion plays in life, including issues like the interpretation of personal experience of the sacred and the profane, the meaning of religious authority and truth, the place of sexuality and sexual differentiation in the development of religious imagery. Using a variety of religious texts, we will look for images of and attitudes toward women: the place of women in the world and in the human order; the role of women in causing evil and finding salvation; a feminist vision of a transformed world.

Requirements will be a short paper and a seminar presentation, as well as a take-home exam. Those who wish to may keep a journal, in partial fulfillment of requirements.

Required Reading:

Rosemary Ruether  New Woman, New Earth
Mary Daly  Beyond God the Father
Erich Neumann  Gyn/Ecology
Mircea Eliade  The Sacred and the Profane

In addition, a number of short readings will be xeroxed and distributed to the class.

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or permission of the instructor