TEACHINGS ABOUT WOMEN IN CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM

Judaism and Christianity present views about women which are both positive and negative. What historically have these religions taught about the roles and images of women? How are Christian teachings different from Jewish, and how are they similar? Is one tradition "better" for women than the other?

We will examine the teachings of these traditions, and test hypotheses about the sources and impact of these views. In doing so, we will also need to discuss the often troubled relationship between Judaism and Christianity. After exploring history and background, we will then look at the present problems and possibilities for women in these two religious communities.

We will then look to the future: what new questions and challenges do women bring to these religious systems? What changes are in the making, what new visions are emerging? And what resources can be found in the religious traditions to empower these changes?

This course will be team-taught by a woman (and Anglican priest) and a man (a Jewish rabbi). They will present some material separately, but will also dialogue with each other, critiquing each other's views and approaches.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A reprint package will be available from the instructors, at cost.

GRADING STRUCTURE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

25% Take home exam
25% Tutorial presentation
50% Research paper