This course will examine the continuities and discontinuities in feminist religious approaches across traditions. We will look at how women are redefining religious discourse in four traditions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism - both in reformulating traditional language, imagery, and norms, and claiming and naming women's role as agents of spiritual formation and liberation.

The course will first draw on students' own experiences of the sacred and the faith traditions of their foremothers. We will then examine social location, culture and context as critical factors in determining how women engage and understand religious experience in different sites of struggle, in different geographic and social contexts and in specific religious situations around the globe. While our perspective will be global our discussions will concentrate on feminists who reside in or have been trained or educated in Europe or North America.

We will then examine some of the areas in which feminists are challenging and re-shaping traditional religions - in claiming sacred texts and history, drawing on women's popular religiosity, and creating new ritual practices and new representations of the sacred.

We will address some of the following questions throughout the course:

* How do feminists within the tradition define what constitutes feminism?
* How has the religious tradition enforced the domination of women and how might it be a resource for liberation?
* How do feminists interpret, understand the sacred texts of the tradition?
* How are women redefining the role of women within the religious culture and tradition?
* In what ways are feminist approaches grounded in the social identities and location of the women if that tradition?
* What are the similarities and differences between feminist approaches to Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism?

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Texts:**


**Course Requirements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay - A Spiritual Autobiography (3-5 pgs)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper - A comparison of Two Feminist Traditions (15 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Term (Take Home 5 pgs)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>