

RELS 235: RELIGION AND SEX

Queen's University School of Religion

Taught by: Kacey Dool, PhD Candidate

This course considers the complex connection between religion and sex, including religious influence over views of and attitudes towards sexuality, the role of sexuality in religious traditions and teachings, as well as sexual dichotomies and stereotypes (i.e. sacred/profane, 'purity,' or gender and value-based binaries). Approaching our study through an intersectional and interdisciplinary lens, we will examine the role religion has in the establishment and maintenance of social, political, and economic sex and gender 'norms' in various contexts. However, we will also explore the ways by which religion and sexuality have liberatory power, such as decolonial love, goddess traditions, and sexual and gender-based activism, among others. Although major 'World Religions' will be addressed in terms of their relationships with sexuality on a broader scale, attention will also be given to specific topics such as colonialism and sexuality, contraception and sterilization, and reproductive health and justice.

Course Breakdown

You will be required to attend bi-weekly lectures which will feature 2-3 readings and active discussion of the topics covered. All materials will be made available to students online. In addition to scholarly articles and chapters, assigned readings will include/be supplemented by cultural sources such as art, film, performance, poetry, social media, and news sources. Invitations to guest speakers will be made when possible. These inclusions are intended to support you in developing a wholistic and intimate understanding of the relationship between religion and sex. Grading will be based on participation, four short critical reflection papers, a 'Show and Tell' group assignment (in which students find meaningful sources to share and discuss with their peers), as well as a final project that can take the form of an essay, portfolio, artistic creation, podcast, poster, or another format that you pitch me. The purpose of this final assignment will be to demonstrate your critical reflection and thinking on the topic of religion and sex and promote the synthesis of diverse concepts and ideas in a format that best represents you and your interests as a learner.

Time Commitment per Week

10 hours

Prerequisite

Level 2

Required Textbook/Materials

No