

FER SCHOOL SYLLABUS

Course

GOD, SEX, AND GENDER

Monday Live Chat, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Semester: Winter semester of the 2026/2027 academic year

Number of ECTS credits: 4

Total contact hours: 45

Language of instruction: English

Teaching methods: Lectures, discussions, media content analysis, case studies, and student presentations

Course Description

This course explores one of the most provocative and enduring questions in theology, philosophy, and religious studies: Does God have a gender? If God transcends human categories of sex and gender, why is God so often addressed as “He”? What theological, social, cultural, and political consequences emerge from referring to God in masculine terms? Conversely, what might change if God were imagined or addressed as “She,” or through non-gendered language? Drawing on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, the course examines how divine imagery, language, metaphor, and symbolism have shaped understandings of gender, authority, embodiment, and religious belonging throughout history. The course investigates masculine, feminine, maternal, relational, and non-gendered representations of God, with special focus on the ways such representations influence women’s religious authority, spiritual agency, and participation in religious communities. It also explores the relationship between gender, power, sacred language, and religious institutions, asking how theological images of God both reflect and shape broader social hierarchies. The course invites participants to critically examine whether God can, or should be imagined through gendered categories. More broadly, it asks what our language about God reveals about human communities, structures of power, and possibilities for more inclusive, liberating, and justice-oriented theological imagination.

Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze the historical use of masculine language for God in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions and its implications for religious authority, social hierarchy, and gender relations.
- Identify and compare masculine, feminine, maternal, relational, and non-gendered representations of the Divine across monotheistic traditions.
- Evaluate how divine imagery, metaphor, symbolism, and sacred language shape understandings of embodiment, belonging, authority, and spiritual agency.
- Explain the relationship between theological language and broader structures of power, including patriarchy, institutional authority, and gendered exclusion.

- Assess how alternative images and names of God, including feminine and non-gendered language, may open possibilities for more inclusive and liberating theological imagination.
- Reflect critically on the social, cultural, and political consequences of addressing God as “He,” “She,” or beyond gendered language.
- Discuss how gendered images of God influence women’s religious authority, participation, leadership, and spiritual agency within religious communities.

2. Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for enrolment in the course.

3. Live Chat: Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

4. Mode of Instruction: The course is delivered through online lectures and discussions.

5. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to read the assigned literature regularly, participate in the live chat sessions, and prepare a presentation based on the assigned readings.

Students wishing to obtain ECTS credits are required to submit a final paper of up to 3,000 words.

6. Policy on Late or Incomplete Coursework

Students who submit assignments late or fail to complete all course requirements will not be able to complete the course successfully.

7. Assessment

Participation in live chat sessions: 30%

Presentations: 30%

Final written paper: 40%

Description of themes:

- Why God is perceived as Male?
- Does God have Gender in Judaism?
- Does God have gender in Christianity?
- Does God have gender in Islam
- God- images, symbols, language
- Female images of God in Film
- Female images of God in Film
- Gender-based violence, what are the unique doctrines, sacred texts...(suffering, patience, obedience, power - Judaism
- Gender-based violence, what are the unique doctrines, sacred texts...(suffering, patience, obedience, power - Christianity
- Gender-based violence, what are the unique doctrines, sacred texts...(suffering, patience, obedience, power - Islam
- Female Rabbis
- Female Priest
- Female Imams

- Female priests - Buddhism
- Consultations for final papers