

## **FINAL ASSIGNMENT: You can do one of 2 things for your final 3 page essay:**

**1)** You may watch a movie from the list below OR if you know of another, clear it with me first and write a detailed analysis of how religion is impacting the women in the movie. (Questions you should ask yourself: Where is the movie set and what culture is it from? How is religions portrayed in the movie in relation to the women characters? What examples from ANY of the class readings can you relate to the movie and its characters? (Use at least 3 examples from the many we read in class AND you should also refer to "roles" or something from the intro powerpoint in how the women's lives are impacted. Look at conflicts, cooperation, understanding and biases in the plots.

FOR EXAMPLE: *Babette's Feast* is about a woman who is a phenomenal cook, moves into a very conservative Danish Protestant town where any bodily pleasure is seen as sinful. So, extravagant meals are seen as decadent, lol. Reminds me of a *Like Water for Chocolate*. The Puritanical Protestantism is suspicious of all things physically enjoyable and it leads to some members of the community seeing the woman as sinful, rather than their interpretation as the source of "evil." I like to use the example that the body was not the sin as God put the first couple naked in the garden. The sin was in the mind once they gained the knowledge of evil. Ergo, it is the mind and its evil that makes what was beautiful a sin. And then I could use the myth of Bambara, or anything about temptresses. Hopefully you'll watch what you pick with a theme in mind, which will make it easier to watch for certain aspects in the movie. This is where your notes using tables to break down the components of each myth or information will help make writing easy.

OR

**2)** You may visit any of the many places of worship that is not the one that you are a practicing member of. And NO, Protestants can't visit a Christian Catholic church or any other Christian denomination. You can go to a mosque or synagogue, however...or any of the other religions we studied. Daoist, Buddhist, Confucian, shamanistic native tradition, traditional Pacific Islander practitioners, or Hindu temple.

BEFORE you visit, you must call ahead to explain that you are doing this for a class on gender and would like to talk to a woman practitioner OR someone who can answer questions on any differences in ritual and worship by gender. Have your questions in hand before you go. When you visit, be nonjudgmental about how you ask about gender differences and try simply find out what, if any restrictions are in worship at the place. For example, do women have to cover their heads, do they have their own designated place in the facility, but you don't need to question the theological argument for what they tell you. Pick up any pamphlets that are available, ask if you can take pictures and where it is ok, draw a little layout of the building/grounds/garden, anything that will enhance your essay. It must be no less than 3 full double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman or Arial font, 1" margins (remember to correct the Microsoft Word sometimes defaults to 1.25" L and R margins) in addition to your visual aids. Just your name, date, and class name on one line at the top, then a title identifying where you went followed by your proofread carefully written essay.

You will then give a brief description of the place and get your interviewee or guide's name. Most of your essay should be your observances of various things that you can connect to what we learned in class. EG. What rituals you saw or were mentioned, whether there was a sacred text, special clothing or artifacts and symbols around, the general atmosphere (subdued or boisterous, happy but placid, calming, emotional...find some good descriptive words). Finally, include anything that you found particularly interesting or that you could relate to...remember, do not judge in your writing, instead, try to experience the place with an open, curious mind.

### **Movies and Media for Women & Religion** (revised 4/2018)

DVD/Netflix: only on DVD    NETFLIX: streaming on Netflix    \*: Professor's copy

## MOVIES--fiction

*Antonia's Line* (Dutch, feminism) matriarch holds sway over several generations of women - DVD Netflix

*Babette's Feast* (Danish/Protestant) - DVD Netflix

*Bless Me, Ultima* (New Mexico, boy and his cunandera grandmother) - DVD Netflix

*Not W/out my Daughter* ( Betty Mahmoody) \*

There is also a 6 part documentary about the father, Seyyed Bozong Mahmoody , on YouTube.

*Water* (Indian widows' home) - NETFLIX

*The Stoning of Soraya M* (Small town Iran, based on true story) - DVD Netflix \*

*Rosenstrasse* (WWII German women protest to save their Jewish husbands) - DVD Netflix \*

*Like Water for Chocolate* (Mexican family, food) - DVD Netflix

*Frida* (Frida Kahlo, atheist) - NETFLIX

*Mustang* (Turkish/French, 5 sisters in remote Turkish village) NETFLIX

*The Magdalene Sisters* (Irish Catholic asylum for "fallen" women in 60s)-DVD Netflix

*Joy Luck Club* (Chinese in America)

*Mulan* (Disney version) DVD Netflix OR Chinese movie *Mulan: Legendary Warrior* - DVD Netflix  
(Hua Mulan, if you prefer to read the ancient Chinese legend)

*Sworn Virgin* (Albanian woman who lives as a man) NETFLIX

*Desert Dancer* (Iranian dancers) NETFLIX

*Sandstorm* (Bedouin polygamy and female independence) - NETFLIX

*Sleepy Hollow* (1999 movie with witches) - DVD Netflix

*The Witch* (2015 witch movie) DVD Netflix

*The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc* (1999)\*

*Whalerider* (2003) DVD Netflix\*      *The Eagle Huntress* (2016) DVD Netflix

*The Letters* (2015 biopic of Mother Teresa using her correspondence to her advisor) NETFLIX

*The Scarlet Letter* (there are several version, except the one with Demi Moore) DVD Netflix

*Veer-Zaara* (2004 Indian Hindu and Muslim love story) DVD Netflix

*My Name is Khan* (2010 American Muslim/Hindu couple which 9/11 separates) DVD Netflix

*Julie* (1979 and 2005 movies are about an Indian Christian girl, Hindu man and unwanted pregnancy) DVD Netflix

*Amira & Sam* (2014 Catholic American vet and Muslim American woman fall in love) DVD Netflix

*Lemon Tree* (2008 movie about a Palestinian widow fighting to save her farm in the disputed area of Israel) DVD Netflix

*Eat, Drink, Man, Woman* (1994 Ang Lee movie about a Taiwanese widower and his 3 daughters) DVD Netflix

*David & Layla* (2008 US movie about Jewish man, Muslim refugee woman RomCom based on real story) DVD Netflix

*Padman* I just watched this movie and it deserves to be on the list even though it isn't specifically about religion. What is religious is the place of caste and women, the cultural insistence that women's bodies and natural processes are "unclean" because of blood, the Laws of Manu, and that women are considered inferior to men and therefore a couple aren't allowed to talk/touch/understand one another's bodies and natural functions because of a socially constructed belief system about "morality and shame." Below is the link to an article about the real man and then you may use the Bollywood movie. [India Pad Man.docx](#)

*Lioness*, docudrama on the first women Army soldiers who saw combat in Iraq. This is because the military used women to search the Iraqi women at checkpoints and to be ambassadors in a way. In other words, the religio-cultural world of the middle east required women warriors. DVD only. \$3.99 rental on Amazon. Also an important movie showing the mixture of ethnicities in any group of soldiers.

## TELEVISION Shows:

Little Mosque (Canadian sit-com) HULU

The Vicar of Dibley (BBC show) NETFLIX

## DOCUMENTARIES

4 on this link: <http://www.aquila-style.com/lifestyle/movies-films/documentaries-you-cannot-miss/59718/>

"I WASN'T ALWAYS DRESSED LIKE THIS" "ME AND THE MOSQUE" "OUTLAWED IN PAKISTAN" "HIP HOP HIJABIS" The 4th movie "The Square" is also good if you are interested, but focuses primarily on the men during the protests in Cairo square against the government during the recent Egyptian revolution.

"OUR TIMES" Iranian 2002 elections and women-DVD Netflix

"INDIA'S DAUGHTER" Deadly rape in India causes widespread protests-NETFLIX

"DANCING IN JAFFA" 2013 A ballroom dance instructor teaches competitive dancing in Israel to Palestinians and Jews, contending with both the conflict between the 2 religions AND conservative gender ideas about men and women socializing. DVD Netflix

"EAGLE HUNTRESS" 2016 documentary of a father who breaks tribal norms and teaches his daughter to hunt with a trained eagle. DVD Netflix

"BREADWINNER" 2017 animated film about a young girl who, after her father's arrest by the Taliban, cuts her hair so she can work and help feed her family, while looking for her father as well. DVD Netflix

"HE NAMED ME MALALA" 2015 documentary about the young Pakistani girl who survived being shot by the Taliban on her way to school. She has spoken publically for girls' education and even addressed the UN. DVD Netflix.

ALSO: single mom movies, women as heroes (Hunger Games, Divergent, Kill Bill, Wonder Woman BUT clear with me first)

IF YOU CAN FIND A COPY:

Ararat (fiction, Armenian genocide)

Artemesia (fiction, Gentileschi 17th c painter)

The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt (documentary, Columbian presidential candidate)

Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change (documentary, Catholic nuns in Selma fighting for civil rights in the 60s)

#### **NEW:**

*Persepolis* (2007) Animated film by Marjane Satrapi, partly autobiographical during her childhood during the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

*Fiddler on the Roof* (1971) Musical about Russian Jews in 1905 but has a lot of gender aspects because of the main character's 5 daughters. DVD Netflix

*Yentl* (1983) Young Jewish woman dresses like a man so that she can learn Talmudic Law after her father died. DVD Netflix

#### **JUST ADDED F2019:**

Meditation Park (2017) Movie about Chinese women in America and has at least 1 scene that clearly shows a Confucian world view. Netflix