PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY
WS 410 005, CRN 44009 4 credits
Jan. 5-Mar. 11, 2010, Clay 202

Dr. Frodo Okulam
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore women’s spirituality in many traditions from its beginnings in ancient times to the present day. Through a variety of resources, including video and guest presentations, readings, and experiential exercises, participants will have opportunities to develop insights into their own spirituality and share with one another.

READING MATERIALS

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Attendance and participation: 40%. This includes preparatory readings, presence in class, and appropriate participation in discussion and experiential exercises.
2. Journal: 20%. At least 2 pages per week. Includes: responses to readings, personal reflections and items of interest from your research.
3. 2 short response papers: 10%. 2 page papers in response to speakers.
4. Research project: 30%. 7 p. paper or 20 min. presentation with references cited and a resource list. Project ideas include exploring an author’s works in the field of women’s spirituality, an issue in women’s spirituality, w.s. within a particular tradition, experiencing a women’s spirituality celebration, or interviewing an author or practitioner in the field. Paper due Mar. 16. Pres. by sign-up.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION
1. Create a safe and respectful atmosphere for discussion. Treat others with consideration, including ensuring time for all to speak.
2. Understand that each person’s spiritual experience is sacred. Respect one another’s traditions.
3. Agree to keep specifics of class conversations within class.
4. Recognize that no one has “the facts” about spirituality or spiritual traditions. Respect others’ wisdom and your own.
5. Acknowledge that sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression exist.

Recognize that this class is about women’s experience and is taught from the perspective of feminist analysis.
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About Us
In Other Words Women’s Books & Resources is the last surviving non-profit feminist bookstore in the United States. For the last 15 years we have offered a comprehensive and diverse collection of books, magazines, and zines with a wide variety of subjects, including: feminist & queer studies, erotica, sex & sexuality, trans studies, spirituality, herbs, and non-sexist children’s books, to name a few. In Other Words is more than a bookstore and has recently become a hub of activity—hosting a wide range of community events, meetings and workshops that include author readings, Spanish classes, writing workshops, concerts, art shows, yoga and much more. We also support many local progressive organizations by providing the space and outreach opportunities for community based activities and public forums to encourage dialogue and debate.

Why buy your books from In Other Words?
Buying your books from In Other Words instead of online is an important way that you can support not only your local feminist community but also your local economy. Over the 15 years that In Other Words has been open, we have watched many of our sister feminist bookstores close their doors. Textbook sales are a huge part of what keeps ours doors open and our community programs thriving.

How to buy your books from In Other Words:
Textbooks are available at our store in NE Portland before and after the term starts. For the first week of classes only, we bring them to the Women’s Resource Center in the basement of the Montgomery Building, located on PSU Campus. We will also mail books for out of town students. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards. Most books are new and we sell used books when they are available.

Feel free to contact us: textbooks@inotherwords.org or www.inotherwords.org or 503-232-6003

For the first week of classes only, books will be available on campus at the Women’s Resource Center

The Women’s Resource Center is located in the basement of the Montgomery Building. Our hours for the first week of classes are: Mon: 9-7, Tue: 10-7:30, Wed: 10-6, Thur: 11-6, Fri: 12-3.

Return Policy:
If you drop the class you may return your textbooks to our bookstore, for full credit, within 10 days of purchase. They must be in new condition, and you must present proof of having dropped the class (such as a printout of the new class schedule).

Buy Back Policy:
We will buy your used textbooks back at 20–25 % of the retail price if we are sure the book is going to be used again. Only a manager can buy back your books, so call the store ahead of time to make sure one will be there. Manager hours at In Other Words are generally 10 to 6 Monday to Thursday.

In Other Words Bookstore
8 NE Killingsworth

Store Hours:
M-F 10 AM to 9 PM
Sat 12 PM to 6 PM
Sun Closed

By Car from PSU: Take I-5 North to exit 303. Follow signs for Killingsworth and turn Right onto Killingsworth. Drive 10 blocks to Williams Ave. We are on the right, just after the light.

By Bus from PSU: Board the 6 MLK at SW Columbia and SW Park. Get off at NE MLK and Killingsworth. Walk 3 blocks West to Williams. We are located on the left, just before the light.
JANUARY


Tues. Jan. 19: Experiential exercise: Ancient Woman. Small Group Discussion: Journal questions; Women’s spirituality and our matriline. Stereotypes of women: Discussion of Teish reading. Journal questions: Thoughts on the readings: What are my inner stereotypes of women? How are they shaped by spiritual or religious images? What is my concept of Deity/Deities? How does this interact with my self-image?


Tues. Jan. 26: Library Training with Sarah Beasley in Library rm. 170. She will lead us in research techniques in our particular subject and help us get started on project research.

Thurs. Jan. 28 Meet with me re. project. Journals: Personal connection with project topic. What has shaped my spirituality? How have my life experiences contributed to my spiritual understanding? Prepare journals to turn in Tues.

FEBRUARY

Thurs. Feb. 4: Check-in re. projects; follow up from Judy. Journals returned to you. Visit Women’s Studies open house in SMC 296. Further project meetings if needed. Prepare response paper to turn in Tues.


Tues. Mar. 2: Class presentations or open topic. Prepare journals to turn in Thurs.


Tues. Mar. 9: Class presentations. Journals returned to you.


DUE DATE for PAPERS: Tues. Mar. 16.