Paper 2 Assignment
Gender & Religion Research Paper

For this paper, you will research a religion that interests you and write a report about how that religion deals with gender. Does it have gods and prophets? What sex are they? What gender are its human leaders (this may differ in different countries)? Do its doctrines or followers suggest guidelines or rules for straight male, straight female, and homosexual behavior? What does this religion believe about reproduction? Does it have different rules for rearing children based on their biological sex and gender?

One main source that you can begin with are the selections from Chapter 5 of your WATW textbook, titled “Religion and Philosophy”. The other sources you will need to gather on your own; we will spend a day in the library to assist you with your research.

As you research, you will need to select one aspect of a particular religion that interests you with regard to gender that you want to concentrate on. You may find one gendered aspect that differs greatly between two religions and decide to write a comparative paper describing these differences. Remember, it does not have to be a “religion”, but may also be a philosophy that people live by. Atheism is also a philosophy. The purpose of a research paper is to find out more about a topic you know relatively little about. Do not include your opinions; try to report the facts you discover about these beliefs with as little bias as you can. Describe the beliefs and/or practices and discuss their gendered implications.

- Your finished draft will be six pages, double-spaced, in MLA format.
- You will include a Works Cited page listing the sources you use.
- Your introduction should clearly state your topic and what aspects of this topic you will approach in the rest of the paper. Think of it as a “map” that will guide your reader through the information you will be presenting.
- Your audience will be your classmates, who live in the same historical time and nation-state that you do, but who may have different beliefs.
- Your conclusion should suggest ideas for further research, draw parallels with other religions or philosophies, or suggest a link between your reader and your research.
- See rubric for more detail.

POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR RESEARCH: