**Study program: Gender studies** 

Name of the subject: Gender and Religion

Teacher(s): Miloš Jovanović, Zilka Spahić Šiljak

Status of the subject: elective Number of ECTS credits: 5

**Conditions: none** 

### Subject goal

Getting the students acquainted with different religious traditions, particularly Christian Orthodox as the dominant in Serbia, and the place issues related to non-heterosexuality have in their teachings. Furthermore, introduction to the stand different religious organizations take towards LGBTIQ people and changes of it in different socio-cultural contexts.

### **Outcome of the subject** – *Upon completion of the course, students will:*

- 1. Be acquainted with the issues and problems related to (non-hetero)sexuality that arise within the theological and social teachings of different religious and spiritual traditions.
- 2. Be able to analyze the socio-cultural and historical conditions that have influenced religious attitudes towards sexuality.
- 3. Have an insight into existing empirical research on the relationship between religion and homosexuality.
- 4. Be able to point out social problems related to religious attitudes about homosexuality and present their alternative solutions to both professional and lay public.

# **Subject content**

# Theory

- 1. Introduction religion and sexuality/ies
- 2. Christianity, Judaism, Islam and homosexuality
- 3. Homosexuality in non-Abrahamic religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Native American religion, ...)
- 4. "Orthodox" and "alternative" interpretations of the Holy Scripture
- 5. Christianity, male and female homosexuality
- 6. Ascetic practices in early Christianity, virginity, the body
- 7. "Unnatural" and sex "contrary to nature" the disruption of the "cosmic order"
- 8. Religiosity, spirituality, sexuality
- 9. Human rights, civil/sexual freedoms, religious beliefs
- 10. Empirical research on religiosity and homosexuality
- 11. Moralistic condemnation of homosexuality in Christian Orthodoxy
- 12. LGBTQ believers in Serbia the problem of identity
- 13. Politics, religion, sexuality "cultural wars" in Serbia
- 14. Queer theology
- 15. Religions and non-heterosexuality prospects for the future

Practical learning: Exercises / Seminars

### Literature

Scott Thumma and Edward R. Gray (eds.). Gay Religion. Lanham; New York: Altamira Press, 2005.

Stephen Hunt (ed.). Contemporary Christianity and LGBT Sexualities. Farnham: Ashgate, 2009.

Jeffrey S. Siker (ed.) Homosexuality and Religion - An Encyclopedia. London: Greenwood Press, 2007.

Pierre Hurteau. Male homosexualities and world religions. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2013.

John Boswell. Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century. Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 1980.

Bernadette J. Brooten. Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism. Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1996.

Eve Levin. Sex and Society in the World of the Orthodox Slavs 900–1700. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1989.

Peter Brown. *The Body and society: Men, women, and sexual renunciation in early christianity.* New York: Columbia University press, 1988.

James A. Brundage. Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe. Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1987.

Vern L. Bullough. Sexual Variance in Society and History, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1980.

Vern L. Buloh i Boni Buloh. Seksualni stavovi. Beograd: Fabrika knjiga, 2004.

Dag Ejstejn Endše. Seks i religija: od devičanskih balova do bogougodne homoseksualnosti. Loznica: Karpos, 2010.

Alexandra Cuffel, Ana Echevarria & Georgios T. Halkias (eds.). *Religious Boundaries for Sex, Gender, and Corporeality*. London; New York: Routledge, 2019.

Joanna de Groot & Sue Morgan (eds.). Sex, Gender and the Sacred: Reconfiguring Religion in Gender History. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

Miloš Jovanović. *Identitet, religioznost, seksualnost: problem identiteta religioznih LGBT osoba u Srbiji.* Novi Sad: Mediterran publishing, 2016.

Miloš Jovanović "Moralistička osuda homoseksualnosti u pravoslavlju", *Teme* XXXV (3), 2011, str. 705-744. Miloš Jovanović. "Silence or condemnation: The Orthodox Church on homosexuality in Serbia", *Družboslovne razprave* XXIX (73), 2013, pp. 79-95.

Mariecke van den Berg, David J. Bos, Marco Derks, R. Ruard Ganzevoort, Miloš Jovanović, Anne-Marie Korte & Srđan Sremac. "Religion, Homosexuality, and Contested Social Orders in the Netherlands, the Western Balkans, and Sweden", u: Gladys Ganiel, Heidemarie Winkel & Christophe Monnot (eds.). Religion in Times of Crisis. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2014, str. 116-134.

Marcella Althaus-Reid. *Indecent Theology: Theological perversions in sex, gender and politics.* London; New York: Routledge, 2000.

Gerard Loughlin (ed.). *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body*. Malden, MA; Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Melissa M. Wilcox. Coming Out in Christianity: Religion, Identity, & Community. Bloomington; Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Kathy Rudy. Sex and the Church: Gender, Homosexuality, and the Transformation of Christian Ethics. Boston: Beacon press, 1997.

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Number of active teaching classes	Theoretical teachi	Theoretical teaching: 2		Practical teaching: 1	
Method of carrying out the tea	ching				
Lectures, presentations, debates;	presentation of texts and	d discussions rela	ted to problems from the	e literature	
Evaluation of knowledge (max	imum number of point	s 100)			
Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	Final exam		
class participation	30 (presentations, discussions)	written exam			
practical classes		oral exam		70	
colloquia					
seminar paper					