

**ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Fall 2019**

**Thursday**

**6:00-8:30pm**

**BS/ES644.1 Mothers in Jewish and Christian Scripture and Tradition**

**Rabbi Nina Cardin and Dr. Jennifer McNeel**

Mothers have played a central role in the lives and religious imaginations of Christians and Jews throughout the ages. Biblical figures such as Eve, Sarah, Hagar, and Mary have influenced our conceptions of what motherhood is and what mothers should be like. Mothers have also continued to play important roles in religious communities through the centuries. This course will explore a variety of depictions of mothers and motherhood in the Bible and in Jewish and Christian tradition, allowing students to discover how the maternal image has served these religious communities in the past, and how it can serve as an enriching resource for spiritual life and theological reflection today.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class. In addition to readings from the required textbooks, students will also be required to read articles provided by the instructors and selected portions of the Bible.
- **Writing:**
  - Reflection paper #1 (4 pages; 10% of grade)
  - Reflection paper #2 (6-8 pages; 20% of grade)
  - Final research paper (10-12 pages; 30% of grade)
- **Other:**
  - Oral presentation (15% of grade)
  - Class attendance and participation (25% of grade)

**Required Texts:**

1. Beverly Gaventa, *Mary: Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus*, (Fortress Press, 1999), ISBN: 978-0800631666
2. Beth M. Stovell, ed., *Making Sense of Motherhood: Biblical and Theological Perspectives*, (Wipf & Stock, 2016), ISBN: 978-1625646750
3. The Bible (OT/Tanakh and NT) in one of the following translations: NRSV, NIV (2011), NABRE, NJPS.