

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute  
Fall 2021**

**Class Day & Time: Thursday, 6:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Course Name & Number: BS646 Women in the New Testament**

**Instructor: Dr. Jennifer McNeel**

**Prerequisite:** BS622 (The Literature & Theology of the New Testament), or permission of the instructor

**Course Description**

The role of women in early Christianity is a topic of both historical interest and contemporary theological significance. Responsible and creative interpretation of women's stories is crucial for biblical study and for proclamation of the gospel. This course will examine the portrayal of women in New Testament and some noncanonical texts through historical, literary, theological, feminist, and womanist reading strategies. Students will explore the relevance of these texts for understanding the lives of women in the early church and for Christian life and ministry 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 the required books listed below, students will also read articles provided by the instructor and selected passages of the New Testament.
- **Writing:**
  - Three essays (2-3 pages each; 30% of grade)
  - Research paper (10 pages; 35% of grade)
  - Weekly short discussion board posts (a few sentences each; 15% of grade)
- **Other:**
  - Presentation (15% of grade)
  - Attendance and participation (5% of grade)

**Required Texts:**

1. Jaime Clark-Soles, *Women in the Bible, Interpretation* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2020), ISBN: 978-0664234010
2. Frances Taylor Gench, *Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2007), ISBN: 978-0664230067

**MAT Degree Outcome(s) Addressed by This Course:**

1. Interpret biblical texts and articulate Scripture's major theological themes

**MACM Degree Outcome(s) Addressed by This Course:**

1. A firm understanding of the Christian Scripture and pertinent Church Tradition through the ability to apply that understanding in analyzing and responding to pastoral / ministry encounters