Feminist Theology is a subfield within the academic study of religion, a method for analyzing women's standing in the world's religions, and—for some—a mode of resistance to male-dominated religious hierarchies. A scholarly outgrowth of the civil rights and women's liberation movements, Feminist Theology is historically and philosophically related to the anticolonial and emancipatory critiques that have challenged dominant cultural paradigms since the early 1970s. Akin to other liberation theologies, Feminist Theology looks for alternatives to patriarchal authority and male-centered narratives. "Theology" refers to models of God or the divine. Feminist Theology reexamines religious sources, texts, and history in order to recapture the feminine divine, to rediscover women's historical contributions, and to correct institutionalized views of female ritual inferiority. Methodologically, Feminist Theology addresses issues of authorship, bias, point of view, cultural context, language, and authority in the development of today's dominant theologies, primarily within Christianity and Judaism.

This course will address several topics that fall within the academic field of Feminist Theology, including the following:

- feminist interpretation of Scripture ("Biblical hermeneutics");
- feminine metaphors for God and Spirit;
- women apostles, patrons, and "desert mothers" in the early Christian church;
- medieval women mystics—their status and distinctive imaginings of God;
- modern Jewish women's readings of the Bible and religious activism;
- the inclusive language debate;
- the Virgin Mary as focus of Christian women's spirituality, including guadalupismo (veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Latin America;
- mujerista (Latin American women's) theology.

Readings will include publications by some of the best-known scholars in the field, such as Mary Daly, Elizabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Phyllis Trible, and Elizabeth Johnson. A few advanced undergraduate students may be allowed to enroll in this course as ANTH 3098, with the instructor's consent. The principal course requirement is a research paper, the topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. For further information and permissions, contact Prof. Linnekin <Jocelyn.Linnekin@uconn.edu>. No auditors, please.