

RELI 193A: Women and Christianity

Critical Reading Papers for Unit 1

We will have 2 kinds of reading papers for units 1 and 2: micro reads and macro reads. Each student will do one or the other kind of paper in this unit, and then in unit 2 we'll switch; students who wrote micro reads in unit 1 will write macro reads, and students who wrote macro reads in unit 1 will write micro reads.

A micro reading paper will be 1-2 pages about a specific passage or small set of passages from a primary source (an ancient text). Focus on the language and meaning of the passage you choose. You may wish to consider different approaches we discussed in the first week of class: what does the passage say about social history? what does it say about the construction of womanhood or femininity? etc. Since this unit is about scriptural models, you may wish to consider how / why it's significant if your passage is part of Christianity's sacred scripture. You may compare your passage to other passages read for that day, or other things we read earlier in the class, as long as you stay basically concerned about your passage. You don't need an introduction or conclusion.

A macro reading paper will address themes, issues, questions that cut across the readings for the day. This paper will deal with the big picture. The paper can mention specific passages, of course, but keep an eye on the big picture. You can write about how themes and issues in the readings today relate to earlier material in the course, too. It would also be appropriate to address big themes raised by secondary sources (articles, introductory parts of the text books, etc.) and even critique the argument of a secondary source.

Both kinds of papers should pose at least one discussion question for the class. The question doesn't have to be micro or macro -- just something you want to discuss.



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