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IST 497

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

**ORIGINAL TWO**

Article 1 – Modern Women, Traditional Abrahamic Religions and Interpreting Sacred Texts

This article was written by Victoria Harrison and published by Feminist Theology in 2007. It covers the plight of modern religious women which is important in my research as there will need to be connections drawn from historical belief and doctrine and modern society. Specifically, I need to pay attention to feminist movements and how they impact how women view their place in religion.

This article discussed how access to education affected women’s perceived social status. The author discusses women’s reactions at how religion affected their existence in a patriarchal society, including religious divorce law and how these religions were formed. Although the author covers these more as ideas and thoughts rather than hard evidence, they could still be extremely important to build discussion in my research.

The author although thoroughly discusses Matilda Joslyn Gage, an academic with great thoughts on women and religion. This area of the article will be vital to bring up how Christianity puts women in a submissive position. I will need to find some of Gage’s work but the summation of much of her work is in this section with citations to Gage. I think an interesting aspect is the authors use of Gage and the creation story and build with their own ideas about Genisis.

This article is vital as a building block for my research. It gives me fantastic resources to look at in its citations and the author approaches the topic with a neutrality to be desired. Overall, it is inspirational in my writing and includes all of the Abrahamic religions, making it a quality source for me.

Article 2 – Marriage in Islam, Christianity, and Judaism

This article was published in 2016 in Religious Inquiries and was written by Mansoureh Zarean and Khadijeh Barzegar. There are numerous writings done by the two of them that relate to women in religion and this one looks at the function and implication of marriage in a minimally biased way. I appreciated that they used sociological aspects in their discussion. In the introduction they discuss what marriage can provide and throughout the article they discuss how different religions acknowledge these needs.

One need discussed is sexual drive. Although scientifically sex is recognized as necessary and natural, some religions look down on it. In the authors discussion of Islam, they bring up that sexual satisfaction is created by God with divine purpose and that marriage is the way someone should fulfill that. When they move into Christianity the authors look at how women and their sensuality is looked at as being tempting and sinful. This shocking contrast is something that will be important to my writing. In Judaism there is less direct mention of sexuality but there is recognition of the first commandment from God being to procreate, which quite obviously involves sex. However, this could also lead to varied interpretations including one in which recreational sex is not prohibited. In all three religions, marriage is seen as the only way to have sex and procreate in the eyes of God.

Another important subject covered by this article is divorce. In Judaism divorce is allowed but it is in the hand of the man. This document is called a get and has to be signed by the husband for the divorce to be recognized. The actual word get is not mentioned in the paper so I will have to find another article that uses that word and describes the document. In Christianity, it is repeatedly stated that divorce should not occur, although some sects have changed this belief it still has social stigma. In Islam divorce can occur under strict circumstances and will be met with social repercussions. However, as marriage in Islam is supposed to bring peace, if instability and anger is impossible to solve, divorce must occur.

The authors inclusion of sex and how each religion views sex will be vital to the interpretation of the moder “temptress” that is often portrayed in the media. One take could be that Islam has been influenced by Christianity in the women having all the cards to play and holding a man’s desire. The different levels of ability of divorce in these religions would be extremely helpful when analyzing the status of modern women. There is an obvious stigma to divorcees, especially women who get faulted. In Judaism, any fault of the woman can be grounds for divorce, and in Islam there is still a connotation to women’s fault. I should include stories of modern women who attempt to get a get and the stories of women and children in all religions that feel the social repercussions of divorce.

Connection

The two articles above will build onto each other, beginning with the first article, I can build what a woman’s position is in Abrahamic society before moving to the facts of religious marriage presented in the second article. I will then be able to add my own personal thoughts into what I believe the doctrine and teachings presented affect the status of women throughout time. I will then be able to once again use the first article to continue to the modern women aspect of my research – modern women being post-industrialism. These articles seamlessly come together but also leave plenty of room to include other sources such as quotes from religious texts. Next week I should have an English translation of the Qur’an to look at and be able to see some of the greater context of the doctrine.

Citations

Harrison, Victoria S. “Modern Women, Traditional Abrahamic Religions and Interpreting Sacred Texts.” Feminist Theology 15, no. 2 (2007): 145–59. https://doi.org/10.1177/0966735007072020.

Zarean, Mansoureh, and Khadijeh Barzegar. “Marriage in Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.” Religious Inquiries 5, no. 9 (June 2016): 67–80.

**ADDED CITATIONS**

ARTICLE 3 – Women in World Religions: Feminist Perspectives

Malhotra, Charu, “Women in World Religions : Feminist Perspectives.” *Indian Anthropologist* 32, no. 1/2 (2002): 97–104. http://www.jstor.org/stable/41919912.

ARTICLE 4- The Jewish Law of Marriage and Divorce in Ancient and Modern Times and Its Relation to the Law of the State

Mielziner, M. The Jewish Law of Marriage and Divorce in Ancient and Modern Times and Its Relation to the Law of the State. Cincinnati, Ohio: The Bloch Publishing and Printing Company, 1884.

Annotation –

This work was published in 1884 by the Bloch publishing company from Cincinnati Ohio. It was written by Rev. Dr. M. Mielziner, an American Reform rabbi with a diverse education. He wrote this during his time as a professor of Talmud and rabbinical literature at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, which he later became president of. His written works, which were limited, are to be looked at with some authority. Although it was published nearly 140 years ago, it is a good representation of how Jewish doctrine affects the modern person. In the work he discusses various aspects of marriage, mostly about Jewish law and how it can be interpreted. I found this to be one of my more important readings as it directly quotes scripture. I would also find it useful if I was to continue this line of research towards fertility and divorce more in depth. Dr. Mielziner does not directly discuss the misogynistic aspect that parts of Jewish marriage hold, but with the detailed descriptions and excerpts I am able to connect to my thesis. One of the main subjects that appeared was the idea that a Jewish man cannot be whole without a wife, and that is like a sin to not try and be married. There was no discussion of women or their happiness, which really stood out to me. I also noted the quotes that emphasize working towards happiness and equality in marriage. This had a great connection to the article about the three religions approach to marriage. It added more depth to the reason of marriage in Judaism. The article was most closely related to religious studies, but there is also a lot of history threaded into his writing.

ARTICLE 5- Interpreting Tears

Quraishi, Asifa, Frank E. Vogel, and Brinkley Messick, eds. “Interpreting Tears: A Marriage Case from Islamic Yemen.” Essay. In The Islamic Marriage Contract: Case Studies in Islamic Family Law, 156–79. Cambridge, MA: Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School, 2008.

ARTICLE 6- Christian Marriage: Contract or Covenant

Palmer, Paul F. “Christian Marriage: Contract or Covenant?” Theological Studies 33, no. 4 (1972): 617–65. https://doi.org/10.1177/004056397203300401.

ARTICLE 7- The contract of marriage and its purposes from Islamic perspective

Laluddin, Hayatullah, Norhoneydayatie Abdul Manap, Ahmad Azam bin Mohd. Shariff, Ahmad Bin Muhammad Husni, Zuliza Mohd. Kusrin, Ibnor Azli Ibrahim, and Nazura Abdul Manap. “The Contract of Marriage and Its Purposes from Islamic Perspective.” Asian Social Science 10, no. 2 (2013). https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v10n2p139.

ARTICLE 8- Civil Enforcement of Jewish Marriage and Divorce

Solovy, Jodi M. “Civil Enforcement of Jewish Marriage and Divorce: Constitutional Accomodation of a Religious Mandate.” DePaul Law Review 45, no. 2 (Winter 1996): 493–535.