

**Writing Assignment 1: Smarr track**  
**MMW 12, Winter 2015**

**Length:** 3-5 pages + Works Cited page

**Due date:** Hard copy due in section on Tuesday, January 27, or Wednesday, January 28.  
Electronic copy due to Turnitin.com by 11:59 pm on the same day hard copy is due.  
(Submission instructions in a separate handout.)

**Percentage of Final Course Grade:** 8%.

You must complete all three writing assignments in order to pass MMW 12.

**Texts:**

- The Gospel of Matthew, Course Reader
- Stark, Rodney. "Reconstructing the Rise of Christianity: The Role of Women." *Sociology of Religion* 56.3 (Autumn 1995): 229-244. JSTOR. Web. 12 November 2014.

**THE ASSIGNMENT:**

Rodney Stark argues that "women played a critical role in the rise of Christianity." How might the gospel of Matthew be used to argue for or against giving women an important status and function in the new community of Jesus' followers?

Write an academic argument making the case for your answer to your fellow scholars-in-training in this course.

You may draw upon Stark for establishing a framework for your discussion. In developing your evidence, you may want to consider the range of roles for women's participation shown or suggested in Matthew and to what extent Matthew appears to be addressing women as well as men, or equally with men.

Remember: Do not consult any sources outside of the assigned course materials. Doing so will result in an F on the assignment and possibly a charge for academic misconduct.

Please follow the guidelines in the other handouts on the MMW 12 website about the writing assignments: "MMW Program Policies for Formatting, Documentation, Copies of Sources, Late Papers, Plagiarism," "Guidance for Writing MMW 12 Essays and an Overview of the Writing Assignments," and "Grading Rubric for Essay 1."

**SUBMISSION CHECKLIST:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Three-to-five page Final Paper in MLA format with a title
- \_\_\_\_\_ Works Cited page in MLA format
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turnitin.com Submission
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grading Rubric for Essay 1 (printed off from MMW 12 webpage)