

McMaster Divinity College

Gender & Ministry

MS/NT 3XG3

Phone: 905.525.9140 x23605

MS/NT 6XG3

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Fall 2014 (Term 1)

Mondays 10:30-12:20 p.m.

Specializations: Biblical Studies, Church and Culture, Christian Worldview, Pastoral Studies

I. Course Description

Issues that concern gender in the home, church and society have become a primary concern among North American evangelicals. Christian leaders and committed lay people will do well to understand the current situation, work on a coherent biblical theology, and discern their own role and ministry or courses of action in the home, church and culture. This course will give each student the opportunity and resources to explore this issue in their area of specialization and to benefit from the insights and contributions of the other areas. The focus of research in the course may extend beyond gender roles to include contemporary concerns such as sexuality and sexual behavior, eating disorders, pornography and domestic violence.

This course will be a study of the role of gender in ministry as it relates to Biblical Studies, the Church & Culture, Christian Worldview and Pastoral Studies. It may also include MA and PhD students in New Testament or Ministry Studies. The title of the course, Gender & Ministry, reflects an interest in the issues of both genders.

II. Course Objectives

Specific Objectives – Through reading, lectures, discussion and assignments the student will:

Knowing

1. Understand the concept of gender and how it relates to various issues, practices and problems.
2. Understand the role gender has played in the student's own story
3. Know the key biblical texts that concern gender and work towards understanding their interpretation within a coherent biblical theology

Being

3. Experience a fusion of identity in Christ, calling and community with gender
4. Be a proactive participant in the evangelical conversation on gender in a way that is consistent with the student's calling

Doing

5. Participate in online discussions
6. Research a topic of personal interest concerning gender and ministry

7. Produce and present a portfolio project on gender in the area of specialization
8. Specific biblical engagement, application, exercise, realization, or practice

III. Course Requirements for Professional Students (MS/NT 3XG3 BS, CC, PS, CW)

- A. Class Participation (10%)
 1. Student participation in interactive lectures and class and group discussions is essential and expected, based on your readings for the week and your life experience.
 2. Participation in weekly online discussions in Avenue to Learn: 2 entries per week. Each student who is enrolled in the course will receive information on Avenue to Learn by email.

- B. Reading (10%)
Dates and pages TBA.
 1. Read the pages for the required reading prior to class on the assigned date, as well as any passage that will be covered when relevant. Be prepared to interact with the main issues in group discussions.
 2. The student will be asked to summarize the percentage of reading that was completed and submit it by email

- C. Written Assignments
 1. Research Paper (30%)
 - a. Each student will write a research paper in a topic of special interest, or on a topic that equips them with the information to meet their goals for the course and for their specialization. **It will be due Friday, October 24 at midnight.** All submissions should be made by email to westfal@mcmaster.ca. Late papers lose 1% for 7 days, and then up to a maximum of 30% .
 - b. Length & style: It should be about 12-15 pages, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide.

 2. Portfolio Project in the Area of Specialization (30% + 5% presentation)
Due Dec 1, 10:30 a.m. Projects will be presented in class on Dec 1. Further instructions will be placed in the course DropBox.
Recommended projects for each specialization are:
 - a. Explore the relationship between a biblical understanding of gender and cultural aspects which may include the home, church, and society in North American culture or other cultures (CC)
 - b. Write an exegetical paper on a crucial biblical text that concerns gender or research a biblical theology of gender (BS).
 - c. Examine the role of gender and the church through a detailed methodology utilizing a survey and interviews in the student's chosen denomination or tradition (PS).

- d. Develop a personal statement, theology & plan that will form the student's theology of gender and plan to realize appropriate actions and goals (CW)

D. Praxis (15%)

Determine with the professor a specific act that engages, applies, exercises, realizes, or practices a biblical concept that concerns gender.

E. Grading Summary

1.	Reading	10%
2.	Participation	10%
3.	Research Paper	30%
4.	Portfolio Project	30%
5.	Presentation	5%
6.	Praxis	15%

IV. Course Requirements for M.A. and Ph.D. Students (MS/NT 6XG6)

This is a graduate research level course. It is assumed that students will perform as graduate research students to facilitate learning. Students will be expected to do suitable academic work outside of the classroom.

Successful completion of the course requires satisfactory completion of the course requirements. Failure to make a valid attempt to complete the requirements may constitute grounds for failure of the course.

A. Participation (10%)

The student is expected to come to class having prepared sufficiently to make a contribution to the topic of discussion and raise significant questions by reading primary and secondary material and by reading all seminar papers in advance. A general introduction to the course subject is required and a short bibliography is included for further reference; each student will want to build a more extensive bibliography.

B. Reading (10%)

Each student will read a total of 3,000 pages including the course readings and other sources on gender that are suitable and relevant for their program. The reading list is due to be submitted by email on midnight Dec 5 with a total page count.

C. Written Assignments

1. The student will write a research paper (5,000 words, excluding notes and bibliography) that is a suitable topic for their program (35%)
2. A detailed syllabus and lecture outline for a college level course on gender related to your program (25%).

The professor assumes that students already know the basics about how to

research, write and orally present papers. However, we will work at further developing skills that are utilized in scholarly discourse and publication. Both content (research, analysis, organization of material) and presentation (mechanics and style) are important. Each student must utilize the MDC style guide. The general guidelines are that the paper should be 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1” margins and utilize footnotes (not endnotes). The paper should include a title page, numbering and a staple cover (not fancy). Each paper should include a formal introduction and conclusion as well as implications for contemporary hermeneutics and any applications for contemporary ministry.

The paper is due in electronic form at midnight Friday, November 14. [A penalty of 1% will be subtracted from the paper’s final grade for every day late for the first week and 4% every day following up to 30%.](#) Extensions are not typically granted. In cases of serious illness, a doctor’s note may be required to be given to the Registrar.

Syllabi are due December 1 at 10:30 a.m.

D. Praxis (20%)

A further practical application of the study of gender determined by the professor and student such as teaching in class or at church

E. Grading Summary

1.	Reading	10%
2.	Participation	10%
3.	Paper	35%
4.	Syllabus	25%
5.	Praxis	20%

IV. Textbooks and Materials

A. Required

1. Pierce, Ronald W. and Groothuis, Rebecca Merrill, eds. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.
2. Pope-Levison, Priscilla. *Sex, Gender and Christianity*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.
3. Westfall, Cynthia. *Paul and Gender*. Grand Rapids: Baker. Will probably be distributed in manuscript form

B. Recommended

1. Storkey, Elaine. *Origins of Difference*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001.
2. Van Leeuwen, Mary. *My Brother’s Keeper: What the Social Sciences Do (and Don’t) Tell Us about Masculinity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002).
3. Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.

C. Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 217A, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 195 The West Mall, Suite 414, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416.622.0655 x308; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

D. Additional Materials

1. Handouts for lectures and class discussion will be made available during class and/or online.
2. Procedures and guidelines for assignments will be given in class and/or online.

V. Classroom Behaviour

A. Attendance

1. Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor.
2. Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.

B. Participation

1. Please respect the opinions of others without disrespect or ridicule, even if you do not agree with them. However, feel free to respond logically and critically in an orderly manner.
2. Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.
3. Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
4. Students are not to use the internet, check email or utilize other electronic devices except what is appropriate in the course work.
5. Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines will be dismissed from the class with consequences.

VI. MDC Policies

A. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~
<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

B. Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

C. Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Appointments & office hours

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via Email: westfal@mcmaster.ca

Phone: 905.525.9140 x23605

Office hours Mondays 3-5 p.m., Tuesdays 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesdays 1-2:30 p.m., or by appointment

Course Outline and Reading Schedule TBA