

McMaster Divinity College

# Gender and Ministry

MS/NT 3XG3  
Church and Culture  
Christian Worldview  
Pastoral Studies  
Biblical Studies

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Winter 2017 (Term 2)  
Hybrid Course:  
Online participation  
We meet as a class Feb 21 (9–4) & Feb 22 (9–1)

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## I. Course Description

Gender in the home, church and society has become a central issue among North American evangelicals, and currently, its relationship to the doctrine of the Trinity is a major focus. 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 hybrid course will be a study of the biblical role of gender in ministry as it relates to the Church & Culture, Christian Worldview and Pastoral Studies. The title of the course, Gender & Ministry, reflects an interest in the issues of both genders. As a hybrid course, the format of the course will include weekly assignments distributed and submitted online and online discussion as well as meeting Feb 21-22 and major papers.

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program

## 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**

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

### **Doing**

6. Process current gender issues and concerns with classmates
7. Research a topic of personal interest concerning gender and ministry
8. Produce a portfolio project on gender in the area of specialization
9. Specific biblical engagement, application, exercise, realization, or practice

## **III. Course Requirements** (Please note that there will be some adjustments made to Course Requirements)

### **A. Class Participation**

1. Student attendance and participation in the two-day seminar (Feb 21-22) is necessary to pass the course.
2. Online interaction on Avenue to Learn with posts and participation in discussion threads are required.

### **B. Modular Material**

The professor will introduce the coursework and provide a focus and conceptual framework to process the reading material and guide subsequent discussion one week before each reading report is due. The modular material will be available online, but the professor will initially send group e-mails to make sure that each student has received the necessary instruction and information.

### **C. Online Reading Reviews (15%)**

See the Schedule at the end for the precise dates and pages.

1. Read the professor's modular material that is available one week before each review is due; this will provide a conceptual framework and focus for your report.
2. Read the required reading and post a 1 page single-spaced report on the Monday of the week that it is due, interacting and responding critically to the reading.
3. Late reports will be penalized 10% each day, because effective participation in the online discussion is based on completing and processing the reading.

### **D. Online Discussion (15%)**

1. Each student will maintain the thread each week based on their posted report.
2. Each student will interact with a minimum of five other reports each week.

### **E. Written Assignments**

1. Weekly Online Reading Reviews (15%--see above)
2. Specialization Paper  
Each student will choose to write one of the following papers which reflects Biblical Studies (BS), Pastoral Studies (PS), The Church and Culture (CC) or Christian Worldview (CW)
  - a. Exegetical Paper (BS/PS)
    - (1) The exegetical paper **midnight Friday, March 10**, submitted online on Avenue to Learn.

- (2) Length & style: It should be no more than 4000 words (about 15 pages) of text, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide:  
<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
- (3) Approach: The student will choose one of the key biblical texts that is central to gender and ministry. Guidelines for the exegetical procedure will be given in detail online, but briefly, complete your own preliminary research/study of the text in terms of its big idea, argument and its relationship and contribution to the whole discourse before you interact with secondary sources. Carefully assess the options and state your position on controversial texts.
- b. Research Paper (CC/CW)
- (1) The research paper **will be due midnight Friday March 10** submitted online on Avenue to Learn.
- (2) Length & style: It should be about 4,000 words (15 pages), excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide:  
<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
- (3) Approach: The student will choose 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.
- c. Sociological Research (alt. for CC/CW)
- (1) The Sociological research will be **due midnight Friday, March 10**, submitted online on Avenue to Learn..
- (2) Format: The paper should consist of a summary of your research which should be about 1,500 words (6 pages). Appendices containing the data and charts on the information collected should be attached. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide:  
<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
- (3) Approach: The student will research gender in their chosen denomination or tradition using the following process: (a) Identify the paradigm of leadership utilized (hierarchical, participatory management or?). (b) Determine roles and distribution of men and women in leadership. (c) Examine ratios of women to men attending Bible college and/or seminary (etc) versus ratios of placement and employment. (d) Interview a couple of leaders and offer a brief survey. (e) Summarize your findings.
3. Life Map (20%)
- a. Each student will create a Life Map, which **will be due midnight, Friday, April 7**, submitted online on Avenue to Learn.
- b. Format: While it should follow the MDC Style Guide, the format may implement pictures or other more informal features. The length should be approximately 2,500 words, but the page number may vary.
- c. Approach:
- (1) In the first section, summarize your personal theology concerning gender, integrating the issues covered in class.
- (2) In the second section, design a map (plan) to enable you to
- (a) Follow your calling to ministry in view of identity ties,

- commitments, & biblical principles.
- (b) Problem-solve obstacles to implementing a biblical practice of gender.
- (c) Implement any necessary changes with **praxis**.

**D. Grading Summary**

1. Seminar Participation 10%
2. Online reading reviews 25%
3. Online discussion 15%
4. Paper 25%
5. Life Map 25%

**IV. Textbooks and Materials**

**A. Required**

1. Pierce, Ronald W., Rebecca Merrill Groothuis and Gordon Fee, eds. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2005.
2. Westfall, Cynthia Long. *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
3. Material & links distributed online.

**B. Recommended**

1. Fraser, Elouise Renich. *Confessions of a Beginning Theologian*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.
2. VanLeeuwen, Mary Stewart. *Gender and Grace: Love, Work & Parenting in a Changing World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1990.
3. Van Leeuwen, Mary. *My Brother's Keeper: What the Social Sciences Do (and Don't) Tell Us about Masculinity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

**C. Additional Materials**

1. Any handouts for lectures and class discussion will be made available before class online in the course DropBox.
2. Further procedures and guidance for assignments will be given in class and/or online.

**V. Classroom Behavior**

**A. Attendance**

1. Physical attendance in the two days is required to pass the course.
2. Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor (preferably in advance).
3. 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 may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up.

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

**C. Late Assignments** (except for the online reading reports) lose 1% each day for 7 days, and then 4% a day up to 30%. However, the projects and all assignments must be turned in by April 10 to complete the course.

**D. 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 ~ <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

**D. 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, TNIV and CEB 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.

**E. Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is a violation of the integrity of persons in the form of unsolicited, unwelcome, verbal or physical behavior, which discriminates on the basis of gender about a person's body, attire, gender, marital status or economic status. Among faculty, staff, and students, sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

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

## MS-NT 3XG3 Course Schedule

DATE	Module and Course Outline	Pierce & Groothuis	Westfall
Week 1 Jan 9–13	Culture and Gender Historical perspectives and development	13–75	Preface Ch 1
Week 2 Jan 16–20	Roles, partnership and complementarity	464–480	Ch 2
Week 3 Jan 23–27	Hermeneutics/Biblical Interpretation and Gender	355–400	Supl. Paper
Week 4 Jan 30– Feb 3	Theological Contexts—TB discussed	287–352	
Week 5 Feb 6–10	Gender and the Creation & Fall	79–95, 172–85	Chs 3–4
Week 6 Feb 13–17	Gender in the OT & NT	96–141	
Seminar Sessions Feb 21–22	Concept of Gender Gender and the Trinity Masculine & feminine and the Image of God Eschatology The Body Homosexuality, Intersexuality, Transexuality Gal 3:28, I Cor 14:34–35 & 1 Timothy 2:9–15	(no report) 401–28	(no report) Chs 5 6.1–3 9 Supl. paper
Week 7 Feb 27– Mar 3	Marriage, Sex & Celibacy	186-204, 224-38 448–63	Ch 5 (6.4–7) Supl. papers
Week 8 Mar 6–10	<b>Papers due midnight Mar 10</b>		
Week 9 Mar 13–17	Gender, Calling and the Role of Experience	142–71 241–54, 272–286	Ch 7
Week 10 Mar 20–24	Gender and Authority	205–23, 255–71	Ch 8
Week 11 Mar 27–30	Challenges and problems of church leadership	481–507	Conclusion
Week 12 Ap 3–7	Problem-solving and Change <b>Life Map due midnight Ap 7</b>	431–381 (no report)	

