

McMaster Divinity College
Gender in Ministry

DPT 5XG5

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Fall 2019
Hybrid Course:
Online participation
WebEx session Tues Sept 10 (3:30–5:30 pm)
Face to Face Oct 18 (9–4) & Oct 19 (9–1)
WebEx Session Dec 10 (3:30–5:30 pm)

Bibliography

Dr. Cindy Westfall is the Associate Professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College. Her research interests are wide-ranging including Greek, linguistics and discourse analysis, the book of Hebrews, Revelation and the Catholic Epistles, Bible Translation, Biblical Social Justice, and most relevant for this course, Gender and Ministry. She is the author of *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ*, which won the Christianity Today Award of Merit, 2018. She has also written *A Discourse Analysis of Hebrews: The Relationship between Form and Meaning* and co-edited *The Bible and Social Justice: Old Testament and New Testament Foundations for the Church's Urgent Call*. She is married to Glenn and lives in Dundas, ON.

Course Description

Gender is one of the most crucial issues facing the church. The #metoo movement and the debate on the role of men and women in the home, church and society may be the major issues among North American evangelicals, recently, the relationship of gender to the doctrine of the Trinity has been a major focus, and our denominations and organizations are discussing sexuality. Many of the DPT research interests have some association with gender and ministry. We will allow you the space that you need to process the issues. 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, domestic violence and the sex trade.

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 accomplished online and online discussion as well as meeting Oct 18 & 19, two WebEx sessions and major papers.

Course Objectives

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

Knowing

- Understand the concept of gender and how it relates to various issues, practices and problems of concern.
- Understand the role gender has played in your identity, story and practice.
- Know the key biblical texts that concern gender and contribute towards building a cogent foundation for a biblical basis and theology in gender

Being

- Recognize your identity and life story through the lens gender as a basis for practice-led research.
- Be prepared to participate in the evangelical conversation on gender in a way that is consistent with your calling, practice and research interest.

Doing

- Process current gender issues and concerns with classmates.
- Apply practice-led research a topic of concerning gender and ministry
- Develop a biblical foundation for theology and practices related to gender issues. **Reading**

Core Texts to be Included in the Reading

Pierce, Ronald W., Rebecca Merrill Groothuis and Gordon Fee, eds. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2005.

Westfall, Cynthia Long. *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Material & links distributed online.

Recommended

Fraser, Elouise Renich. *Confessions of a Beginning Theologian*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.

VanLeeuwen, Mary Stewart. *Gender and Grace: Love, Work & Parenting in a Changing World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1990.

Van Leeuwen, Mary. *My Brother's Keeper: What the Social Sciences Do (and Don't) Tell Us about Masculinity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Course Requirements (Please note that there will be some adjustments made to Course Requirements)

Reading (10%)

The required reading for the course is 4,000 pages. The student will read the texts and select appropriate reading for Gender in Ministry (particularly as it relates to their research question) and submit a list of books and pages read on **Dec 12**.

Face-to-Face and WebEx

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

Two WebEx sessions are scheduled: September 10, 3:30-5:30 pm; December 10, 3:30-5:30

Online Videos

In addition to the Face to Face session, the professor release a video on the topic on the course schedule that combines information and activities.

Participation: Online Discussion (15%)

- Each student will initiate a thread in the Avenue discussion forum each week, with the exception of the Face-to-Face week.
- Each student will maintain the thread of their posted discussion.
- Each student will interact with a minimum of five other topics each week.

Reading

The required reading for the course is 4,000 pages. The student will read the texts and select other appropriate reading for Gender in Ministry and submit an annotated bibliography **due on 11:59 pm, December 12.**

Written Assignments

Annotated Bibliography (25%)

The student will read 15-20 resources related to the book of Hebrews (4,000 pages) and develop an annotated bibliography by writing a 100-150 word annotation for each one with a total of approximately 2,000. The required texts for the course can be included as part of the book list. **The reading report will be due 11:59 pm on November 29.**

Life Map (20%)

Each student will create a Life Map, which **will be due 11:59 pm, Friday, November 15,** submitted online on Avenue to Learn.

1. Format: While it should follow the MDC Style Guide, the format may implement pictures or other more informal features. The length should be a minimum of 2,500 words, but the page number may vary.
2. Approach (with corresponding sub-headings)
 - Identify your relationship to gender issues through your life story.
 - Clarify the biblical basis for your understanding of gender.
 - Identify your areas of responsibility, influence and passion in dealing with gender in the church, home and society.
 - Summarize your calling in regards to gender
 - Problem-solve any challenges and barriers to dealing with these areas.
 - Plan to implement plans of action or necessary changes.
 - Write a personal mission statement in regards to gender and ministry

Major Paper (40%)

The student will write a major paper of 8,000 words that approaches an issue or topic in Gender in Ministry with a practice-led approach. The student is encouraged to incorporate their Life Map where it applies.

The paper should include four key sections.

- A brief, but clear explanation of how the paper on Gender in Ministry is rooted in a Practice Led-research approach. Most of your Life Map can be edited and incorporated into this section
- An exploration of the challenges and problems that provoke your study of Gender in Ministry (i.e. why does this ministry practice need to be addressed? What are the problems that you want to identify?). Your Life Map should help you frame this.
- A consideration of a foundational theology of the practice of ministry under consideration in this course and a deep consideration of how new approaches to this practice can be employed in helping to address and improve ministry practice in this area. Again, the section on your biblical basis in your Life Map can be incorporated.
- Some reflection on the application of these ideas to the students own ministry context (both in terms of the local church and also their ministry beyond the local church.

Grading Summary

Annotated Bibliography	25%
Online discussion	15%
Paper	40%
Life Map	20%

Additional Materials

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

Classroom Behavior

Attendance

- Attendance in the two-day session is required to pass the course
- Watching the course videos is mandatory for the course.
- Missing more than the equivalent of two weekly classes may result in the reduction of grade or failure.
- Students should be on time to class & WebEx sessions or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor (preferably in advance).
- Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.

Participation

- 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.
- Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.

- Students are not to carry on off-topic (or online) conversations in class.
- 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.

Late Assignments

Lose 2% each day for 7 days, and then 4% a day up to 30%. However, the projects and all assignments must be turned in by December 11 to complete the course.

Textbook Purchase

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. Other book services may also carry the texts.

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://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

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://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf> Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Appointments

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via E-mail (most effective): westfal@mcmaster.ca

Friend me on Facebook and send me a message!

Phone: 905-525-9140 ext. 23605

Office hours (Rm 242):

Monday 1–2

Tuesday 1–3

Wednesday 1–3

~~Thursday 3:30–5:30 p.m.~~

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.

Gender in Ministry Course Schedule, 2017

DATE	Course Outline	Pierce & Groothuis	Westfall
Week 1 Sept 10 3:30-5:30	WebEx Session Life Map Video		
Week 2 Sept 16-20	Culture and Gender video Historical perspectives and development	13–75	Preface Ch 1
Week 3 Sept 23-27	Roles, partnership and complementarity	464–480	Ch 2
Week 4 Sept 30– Oct 4	Hermeneutics/Biblical Interpretation and Gender video	287–352 355–400	
Week 5 Oct 7-11	Gender and the Creation & Fall video	79–95, 172–85,	Chs 3–4
Week 6 Oct 18-19	Face-to-Face Concept of Gender Gender and the Trinity Masculine & feminine and the Image of God OT and the NT The Body LGTBQ, Intersexuality, Transexuality Gal 3:28, I Cor 14:34–35 & 1 Timothy 2:9–15	96-141 401–28	6.1–3 9 Supl. papers
Week 7 Oct 21-25	Marriage, Sex & Celibacy video	186-204, 224-38 448–63	Ch 5 (6.4–7)
Week 8 Oct 28- Nov 1	Eschatology video		Ch 5
Week 9 Nov 4-8	Gender, Calling and the Role of Experience video	142–71 241–54, 272–286	Ch 7
Week 10 Nov 11-15	Gender and Authority video Life Map due 11:59 pm Nov 15	205–23, 255–71	Ch 8
Week 11 Nov 18-22	Conference Week/Study		
Week 12 Nov 25-28	Challenges and problems of church leadership video	481–507	
Dec 2-6	Problem-solving and Change video	431–381	
Dec 10 3:30-5:30	Major Paper due 3:30 pm Dec 10 WebEx Session Annotated Reading Report due 11:59 p.m. Dec 12		