

McMaster Divinity College
Women in Christian Ministry

PhD/MA NT MS 6XG6

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Fall 2023
Tuesdays 4–5:50 p.m.
Hurlburt

Course Description

Women in church leadership is one of the most crucial issues facing the church, the academy and the society. 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, and the relationship of gender to subordination within the Trinity has been a major focus. In this course, 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 course will be a study of the biblical role of women in ministry as it relates to the Church & Culture, Christian Worldview and Pastoral Studies. The title of the course, Women & Ministry, reflects the ontology and function of both genders.

Course Objectives

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

Knowing

- Interpret the concept of gender and how it relates to various issues, practices and problems concerning women and ministry.
- Detect the role gender has played in the student's own story
- Identify the key biblical texts that concern gender and work towards understanding their interpretation within a coherent biblical theology

Being

- Experience a fusion of identity in Christ, calling and community with gender
- Be a proactive participant in the evangelical conversation on gender in a way that is consistent with the student's calling.
- Be prepared to teach a course on women in ministry

Doing

- Process current gender issues, passages and concerns with classmates.

- Research a passage or topic and make a scholarly contribution to the study of gender and ministry.
- Develop a syllabus to teach a Gender and Ministry course

Required 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

Barr, Beth Allison. *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2021.

Du Mez, Kristin Kobes. *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. New York: LiveRight, 2020.

Swartz, Lisa Weaver. *Stained Glass Ceilings: How Evangelicals Do Gender and Practice Power*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2023.

Course Requirements

Participation (10%)

Student participation in interactive lectures and class and group discussions is expected, based on your readings for the week in which you participate in the conversation on current gender issues, passages and concerns with classmates.

Reading (10%)

See the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates and pages.

- Read the scheduled material or passage in DBE and Westfall.
- Read Supplementary Papers distributed on A2L
- Students will read a total of 4,000 pages from works on ministry and gender.
- Submit the reading list with page counts on A2L **by 11:59 pm on December 8.**

Theological Paper (15%)

Write a paper in which you articulate your theology/position on women in ministry, including the biblical basis, and describing the way your gender and life story has shaped your theology. It should combine aspects of a position paper, an exegesis paper and a narrative essay. While some research/documentation is required for articulating your position and exegesis, place your emphasis on reflection.

The paper will be approximately 1,250 words (5 pages). It is due by **11:59 p.m., Friday, Oct 24.**

Research Paper (40%)

- On the first day of class, the student will describe the topic of their research paper.
- The student will write a research paper on a passage or issue/topic concerning women in Ministry
- The paper will be 6,000–7,000 words, excluding notes and bibliography
- **The paper is due 11:59 pm on November 27**, submitted on A2L.
- In all matters the student must follow the MDC Style Guide (see Style below)

Syllabus & Presentation (25%)

The syllabus is due 4 p.m. December 5. Since this has a presentation component, no late syllabi will be accepted.

A detailed syllabus and lecture outline for a college level course of a specific institution, either a general introduction to Hebrews, or an elective course that integrates insights from your reading & papers.

See “Developing a Syllabus.” In *Those Who Can, Teach: Teaching as a Christian Vocation*, edited by Stanley E. Porter, 89–106. McMaster Divinity College Press General. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2013.

Grading Summary

➤ Participation	10%
➤ Theological Paper	15%
➤ Reading	10%
➤ Research Paper	40%
➤ Syllabus	25%

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 is required to pass 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 or notify 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.
- 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 8 to complete the course.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is not qualitatively different from other types of dishonesty. It consists of misrepresenting the ownership of written work by deception or by other fraudulent means. In an academic setting this may include any number of forms such as: copying or using unauthorized aids in tests, examinations; plagiarism, i.e., submitting work that is not one's own (regardless of the means of its production) but passing it off as if it is; submitting work for credit in a course for which credit is being or has already been given, unless the previously submitted work was presented as such to the instructor of the second course and has been deemed acceptable for credit by the instructor of that course; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty; giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; forging or falsifying McMaster University or McMaster Divinity College documents.

AODA

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the content of this course is intended to be accessible to all students who are enrolled in the course, including those with disabilities. If a student requires accommodation to participate fully in this course, that student is to contact SAS at McMaster University, who will then work directly with the McMaster Divinity College Registrar to negotiate reasonably appropriate accommodation for the student. The MDC Registrar will communicate with faculty regarding necessary accommodations. Please note that an accommodation is not retroactive and must be requested in advance to allow sufficient time for implementation.

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, for example, the following: NRSV (2021), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), NIV (2011), and the CEB (2011).

Bookstore

All required textbooks for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the entrance to the Nathaniel H. Parker Memorial Chapel of McMaster Divinity College. To purchase in advance, you may contact the bookstore manager, Bernice Quek, by phone at 416.620.2934 or 416.668.3434 (mobile); or by email at books@readon.ca. The Hurlburt Family Bookstore also carries other books and merchandise and is open throughout the academic year during posted hours.

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 [MDC Writing Style Guide \(Revised August 2019\)](#)

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Office hours:

Tuesdays 12—2; Wednesday 2—4.

I am available by appointment in my office or for Zoom calls.

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.

Women in Christian Ministry Course Schedule, 2023

DATE	Course Outline	Pierce & Westfall	Westfall
Sept 12	Intro to Course/Syllabus Life Map Video		
Sept 19	Culture and Gender Historical perspectives and development	1-32, 620-34	Preface Ch 1
Sept 26	Women, Identity and the Body	372-92, 510-538, 597-619	Ch 2, 6.1-2
Oct 3	Roles, partnership and complementarity Marriage, Sex & Celibacy	108-125, 185-204, 393-430, 554-71, 572-96	6.3-7
Oct 10	Reading Week—No Class		
Oct 17	Hermeneutics/Biblical Interpretation and Women	327-50, 431-509	
Oct 24	Women and the Creation Gender and the Trinity Masculine & feminine and the Image of God Theological Paper due 11:59 p.m., Friday, Oct 27	35-52, 282-309, 351-371	Ch 3
Oct 31	OT and the NT—an overview	53-107, 159-84,	
Nov 7	Women and the Fall and Eschatology		Ch 4-5
Nov 14	Gender, Calling and the Role of Experience on Video (due to conferences, no in-person class)	247-262, 310-36,	Ch 7
Nov 21	Gender and Authority on Video (due to conferences, no in-person class) Research Paper due 11:59 p.m., Friday, Nov 24	263-81 (read ahead)	Ch 8
Nov 28	Interpreting the “Clobber Passages” 1 Cor 11:3-16, 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:9-15; & 1 Peter 3:1-7	126-58, 205-246	Ch 9
Dec 5	Challenges and problems of church leadership Problem-solving and Change Syllabus due at 4:00 p.m., Dec 5	539-53, 635-58	
Dec 8	Reading Report due 11:59 p.m., Dec 8		

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- Barr, Beth Alison. *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2021.
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- Burer, Michael H., and Daniel B. Wallace. "Was Junia Really an Apostle? A Re-examination of Rom 16.71." *NTS* 47 (2001) 76–91.
- Byrd, Aimee. *Recovering from Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: How the Church Needs to Rediscover Her Purpose*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
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Commented [DS1]: this is one person's name, and it's listed up above under Amadi-Azuogu, so this is a duplicate.

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