

McMaster Divinity College
Women in Christian Ministry

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

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Fall 2023
In Person or Livestream
Tuesdays 4–5:50 p.m.
Hurlburt

Course Description

The debate on the role of women in the home, church, and society remains one of the major issues among North American evangelicals, and there have been some major developments in the conversation and debate in the last five years. The focus of this course is the biblical, theological, and social support for women in ministry, as well as their roles as equal partners in the creation mandate and equal heirs in the kingdom of God. Whatever your position, this course can be a vital path for understanding the times. Christian leaders and committed laypeople 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, the 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.

This online course relates to the Church & Culture, Biblical Studies, and Pastoral Studies specializations. The format of the course will include videos on topics, weekly Zoom discussion sessions, online sharing of resources, and a major paper or project. The reading will include current scholarship and encourage book reviews for extra credit in some of the influential (and ground-breaking) recent publications.

Specializations

Biblical Studies (BS)

Students taking this as a Biblical Studies (BS) course will be encouraged to explore and research biblical content and develop a biblical theology that is exegetically responsible and interacts critically with scholarship that is fundamental for women in ministry, with applications that embrace the complexity of contemporary culture(s).

Church and Culture (CC)

Students taking this as a Church and Culture (CC) course are encouraged to explore the interface of the Church and the contemporary world with women in ministry in various contexts such as

missions, development, evangelism, the emerging church, cultural context, preaching, or worship.

Christian History and Worldview (CW)

Students taking this as a Christian history and worldview course are encouraged to focus on key women ministers, biblical scholars and theologians and/or movements in Christian history and theology that are associated with the support, promotion and participation of women in ministry, and to engage the thought, history and practice that have excluded women from ministry.

Pastoral Studies (PS)

Students taking this as a Pastoral Studies (PS) course are encouraged to explore how a biblical understanding of women in ministry should be practiced and transmitted in one's target area(s) such as leadership strategies, ethical decisions, and pastoral care as well as worship, teaching, and preaching.

Elective

This is a great elective that is relevant to any and every student! Take this opportunity to further develop your biblical worldview and develop a framework in which you can process the ongoing discussion of the biblical role and the issues of women in ministry and gender in the church, home, and society.

Course Objectives

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

Knowing

- Relate to and express the various issues, practices, and problems related to women in ministry.
- Explore the role gender has played in the student's own story.
- Identify the key biblical texts that concern women in ministry within a coherent biblical theology through the readings and lectures.

Being

- Awareness of his or her identity in Christ, as a synthesis of gender, life story, calling, and community.
- Be a proactive participant in the evangelical conversation on gender in a way that is consistent with the student's calling.

Doing

- Process solutions to current issues and concerns about women in ministry and gender with classmates.
- Write an exegetical paper on a relevant passage, research a topic of personal interest concerning gender and ministry, or produce a portfolio project on gender in the area of specialization.
- Discern his or her specific calling or responsibility concerning women in the church, home and society.

Reading

Required

Pierce, Ronald W., et al., eds. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*. 3rd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2021.

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

Any material & links distributed online.

Recommended (Extra Credit)

Barr, Beth Allison. *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 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 (Please note that there will be some adjustments made to Course Requirements)

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 any supplementary papers distributed on Avenue.
- Submit Reading Report to Avenue to Learn (A2L) the percentage of reading completed on **Dec 8, 11:59 p.m.**

You may earn 5% by reading one of the recommended books: state that you read the book in the Reading Report

Student Participation (15%)

Student attendance is necessary to pass the course, which includes watching the 3 videos that will be uploaded to A2L. This class is highly interactive. Participation includes discussions in class in which you will relate to and express, the various issues, practices, and problems related to women in ministry and develop solutions together. Participation in discussion threads on A2L is not required, but will enhance your percentage.

Written Assignments

Life Map and Presentation (35%)

Each student will create a Life Map, which **will be due 11:59 p.m. Friday, Oct 27**, submitted online on A2L (Assessments/Assignments/Life maps) and presented in class.

The goal of the Life Map is to discern your specific calling or responsibility concerning women in the church, home and society through an awareness how your identity is rooted in the role gender has played in your life story.

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 number of pages may vary.

Video: Watch the Video uploaded to A2L on how to write a Life Map.

Use these *subtitles* for each section:

- Introduction
- Life Story
- Responsibility, Circle of Influence and Passion
- Personal Theology
- Calling
- Goals (What Needs to Change)
- Problem Solving/Obstacles
- Mission
- Conclusion

Paper or Project in the Area of Specialization (40%)

Each student will choose to write an exegetical or research paper or do a project that reflects their specialization: Pastoral Studies (PS), Church and Culture (CC), Christian Worldview (CW), or Biblical Studies (BS). Those taking the class for an elective can choose between options.

The goal of the paper or project is to specifically work on the objectives of producing research or a project for your portfolio in your area of specialization.

Submit your paper/project proposal to A2L **at 11:59 p.m., Friday, Nov 3.**

The paper/project will be submitted online (or, if necessary for some projects, in hard copy) on A2L **at 11:59 p.m., Friday, Dec 1** in (Assessments/Assignments/Paper or Project).

1. Exegetical Paper (PS/BS)

- Length & style: It should be no less than 4,000 words (15 pages) of text, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide (see Style below).
- Approach:
 - The student will follow the “Steps to Exegesis” posted on A2L.
 - 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 elements.

2. Research Paper (PS/ CC/CW/BS)

- Length & style: It should be no less than 4,000 words (15 pages), excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide (see

Style). A PowerPoint presentation on how to write a research paper will be available on A2L.

- Approach: The student will choose a topic on women in ministry of special interest or a topic that equips them to meet their goals for the course and for their specialization.

3. Project (PS/CC/CW)

- The student will complete a paper or project designed to make the research accessible in a specific contemporary context. No late projects will be accepted. If possible, a copy will also be submitted to Avenue.
- Length & style: While the nature of the project might require a wide variation in page count, a rule of thumb can be: if written, it should be the equivalent to approximately 4,000 words (about 15 pages) of text, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the MDC Style Guide (see Style). If it is a project, it should be somewhat comparable in time and effort to a 15 pg. research paper.
- Some suggestions for projects include:
 - A sermon on a passage on Gender in Ministry
 - A study guide that will assist young adult learners in exploring or understanding a biblical theology of gender. Include questions, explanations, directions, and other material that both illuminates the text in its historical context and helps learners to connect the text with life today
 - A movie presentation, critical review, and discussion that encapsulate a theme of gender within a Christian worldview.
 - A parable or allegory that utilizes significant or powerful contemporary imagery, symbols, or metaphors that express relevant topics or issues concerning gender and the Church.
 - A collection of poetry or songs that explores thought, themes, and/or emotions related to the topics on gender in the course.
 - An experience for a small group that simulates situations or experiences relevant to gender and ministry

Grading Summary

Reading	10%
Participation	15%
Paper/Project	40%
Life Map	35%

Additional Materials

- Any handouts for lectures and class discussion will be made available before class online in A2L. Further procedures and guidance for assignments will be given in class and/or online.

Classroom Behavior

Attendance

- Attendance is required. Missing more than the equivalent of two weekly classes may result in the reduction of grade or failure.
- Watching course videos are also mandatory.
- 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 expected not to be doing work on any other subject except what is appropriate in the course outline.
- 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 July 22 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 <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>

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!

Office hours

Tuesdays 1–2, 3–4; 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 Life Map due 11:59 p.m., Friday, Oct 27	35–52, 282–309, 351–371	Ch 3
Oct 31	OT and the NT—an overview Paper/Project Proposal 11:59 p.m., Friday, Nov 3	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)	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 Paper due 11:59 p.m., Friday, Dec 1	126–58, 205–246	Ch 9
Dec 5	Challenges and problems of church leadership Problem-solving and Change	539–53, 635–58	
Dec 8	Reading Report due 11:59 p.m., Dec 8		

Bibliography

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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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