

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

**BTH 640/THE 639 THEOLOGY OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will address biblical passages relevant to the ministry of women in the home, church, and community. Discussion will lead men and women students to develop a holistic biblical hermeneutic of male-female relationships and ministry roles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Following this course the student should be able to:

- Understand what the Bible says about male-female relationships in the home and community
- Explain the historical position of their denomination on the theology of women in ministry
- Interpret and apply Old and New Testament scriptures relevant to ministry roles of men and women
- Thoroughly exegete “problem texts” related to male and female relationships in the Body of Christ
- Evaluate current viewpoints of women in ministry and various differing scriptural interpretations
- Form a personal theology and attitude concerning women in ministry from evidence presented and apply that attitude within the context of contemporary church structure

TEXTBOOKS

Required texts:

Gill, Deborah M. and Barbara L. Cavaness. God’s Women—Then and Now. Springfield, MO: Grace & Truth, 2004.

Grenz, Stanley J. and Denise M. Kjesbo. Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

The Role of Women in Ministry as Described in Holy Scripture. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing, 1990 (Position Paper).

Compilation of readings.

Recommended texts:

Belleville, Linda. Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.

Cunningham, Loren and David Hamilton. Why Not Women? A Biblical Study of Women in Missions, Ministry, and Leadership. Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 2000.

Keener, Craig. Paul, Women, and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1992.

BASIC OUTLINE

Dates	Topic	Reading
Jan 12	Introduction	Osborn: "Daughters of Deliverance"
Jan 19	Hermeneutical Foundation	Wood: "Women in Ministry"
Jan 26	Creation and the Fall	Hestenes: "Scripture and the Ministry..."
Feb 2	Maleness and Femaleness in the OT Gill/Cavaness Interaction due	Mickelsen: "Does Male Dominance..."
Feb 9	Graeco-Roman, Jewish and Christian Contexts	Dresselhaus: "The Place of Women..."
Feb 16	Jesus' Treatment of Women	Grady: "Ten Lies the Church Tells..."
Feb 23	Midterm Exam and subjects of research to be submitted	
Mar 1-5	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 8	Women in the NT Church: Theological Texts Grenz/Kjesbo Interaction due	Scholar: "Gal 3:28 and Ministry of W..."
Mar 15	Ministry roles in the Early Church	AG Position Paper: <u>The Role of W...</u>
Mar 22	Regulations—people in Corinth	Scholar: "Male Headship: God's..."
Mar 29	Regulations—people in Ephesus Research paper due	Scholar: "Paul's Women Coworkers..."
Apr 5	Husband-wife relationships	Bartchy: "Issues of Power..."
Apr 12	Authority, Power, and Leadership	Grady: "Let the Women Preach"
Apr 19	God's Women Today	Blumhofer: "Role of Women in the AG"
Apr 26	Final Exam	

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, video, group study, research paper, midterm and final exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings, with reading reports—two pages on texts—to be described in class. Assigned collateral readings will be found in the compilation of readings for this course, available in the library for students to copy. Students may be quizzed over the contents of the collateral readings.
2. Successful completion of two exams: Midterm approx. February 23, Final on April 26.
3. Research paper of 12-15 pages, due at the beginning of class on March 29. Using both Old and New Testaments, briefly characterize a scriptural basis for women taking positions of leadership (2-4 pages). Consulting recent definitions, journals, magazines, books and discussions of the role of pastors, prophets, and apostles in modern times, (2-4 pages) choose one woman to write about (living in the last 40 years) who has served in a leadership role. Explain how she exemplifies the biblical characteristics of a pastor/teacher, prophet, apostle, etc. from at least 8 sources, including interview, websites, etc.(4-6 pages). Subjects of research are to be approved by the instructor by Feb. 23. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, following guidelines in Turabian's 6th edition. Include a title page, Table of Contents, and Works Cited page. Please note that a deduction of one-half letter grade per class will be assessed for late work.
4. Faithful attendance to class (as per the Student Handbook) and participation in discussions/groups. Grades will be reduced for excessive unexcused absences.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Attendance and class participation	10%
Reading reports and quizzes	15%
Research paper	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adeney, Miriam. A Time for Risking: Priorities for Women. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1987.

Barton, Ruth Haley. Equal to the Task: Men and Women In Partnership. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Beard, Helen. Women in Ministry Today: A Positive Statement on the Role of Women. Plainfield, NJ: Logos, 1980.

- Becker, Carol E. Leading Women: How Church Women Can Avoid the Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender Maze. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1996.
- Blauvelt, Martha T. "Women and Revivalism." In Women and Religion in America, Vol. 1, New York: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Blumhofer, Edith. Restoring the Faith: The Assemblies of God, Pentecostalism, and American Culture. Chicago: University of Illinois, 1993.
- Booth, Catherine. Female Ministry; or, Woman's Right to Preach the Gospel (1891). New York: The Salvation Army, 1975.
- Borrowdale, Anne. Distorted Images: Misunderstandings Between Men & Women. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Brereton, Virginia, and Christa R, Klein. "American Women in Ministry: A History of Protestant Beginning Points." In Women in American Religion, ed. Janet W. James, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1980.
- Bristow, John. What Paul Really Said About Women. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.
- Brown, Judy L. Women Ministers According to Scripture. Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 1996.
- Eldred, O. John. Women Pastors: If God Calls, Why Not the Church? Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1981.
- Evans, Mary J. Woman in the Bible: An Overview of all the Crucial Passages on Women's Roles. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.
- Farrel, Pam. Woman of Influence: Ten Traits of Those Who Want to Make a Difference. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Glaz, Maxine and Jeanne S. Moessner, eds. Women in Travail & Transition: A New Pastoral Care. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Grady, J. Lee. 10 Lies the Church Tells Women: How the Bible Has Been Misused to Keep Women in Spiritual Bondage. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 2000.
- Groothuis, Rebecca M. Good News for Women: A Biblical Picture of Gender Equality. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Gundry, Patricia. Neither Slave nor Free: Helping Women Answer the Call to Church Leadership. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.
- Hardesty, Nancy. Women Called to Witness. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984.

- Hassey, Janette. No Time for Silence. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Haubert, Katherine M. Women as Leaders: Accepting the Challenge of Scripture. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1993.
- Hestenes, Roberta, and Lois Curley, eds. Women and the Ministries of Christ. Pasadena: Fuller Theological Seminary, 1979.
- Hestenes, Roberta, ed. Women and Men in Ministry: Collected Readings. Pasadena: Fuller Theological Seminary.
- Kroeger, Richard C. and Catherine C. Kroeger. I Suffer Not a Woman: Rethinking 1 Timothy 2:11-15 in Light of Ancient Evidence. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Lawless, Elaine J. Handmaidens of the Lord: Pentecostal Women Preachers and Traditional Religion. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988.
- Lindley, Susan Hill. "You Have Stept Out of Your Place": A History of Women and Religion in America. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Lutz, Lorry. Women as Risk-Takers for God: Finding Your Role in the Neighborhood, Church, and World. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- MacHaffie, Barbara J. Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
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- Malcolm, Kari T. Women at the Crossroads: A Path Beyond Feminism & Traditionalism. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1982.
- Mickelsen, Alvera, ed. Women, Authority and the Bible. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Barbara Cavaness, March 2004.