

# **Assemblies of God Theological Seminary**

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

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**Spring, 2002**

### **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 wholistic 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:

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

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

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

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

Recommended texts:

Bilezikian, Gilbert. Beyond Sex Roles: A Guide for the Study of Female Roles in the Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1985.

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.

Strauss, Mark L. Distorting Scripture? The Challenge of Bible Translation and Gender Accuracy. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

1. Introduction
2. Hermeneutical foundation—how we interpret the Bible
3. Creation narrative and the Fall
4. Men and Women in the rest of the Old Testament
5. Women and Men in Graeco-Roman Society
6. Women in Judaism
7. Men and Women at Pentecost
8. Ministry roles in the Early Church
9. Husband-wife relationships
10. Regulations for people where they were in Corinth
11. Regulations for people where they were in Ephesus
12. Teachings about authority in the Bible

**METHODOLOGY**

Lecture, discussion, video presentation(s), 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 and 1/2 page on collateral readings (to be described in class). Assigned collateral readings will be placed on reserve in the library for reading or photocopying.
2. Successful completion of two exams: Midterm approx. February 19, Final from 10:15 to 12:45 on April 23.
3. Research and personal position paper of 12-15 pages, due at the beginning of class on April 11. Using both Old and New Testaments, characterize a scriptural basis for women taking positions of leadership. Special attention should be given to the Creation narrative and the controversial passages. Include some consideration of the major themes within the ongoing discussion concerning women in ministry as an issue in the evangelical and/or Pentecostal communities. Conclude with a final summary of your personal beliefs regarding women in ministry, clarifying your reasons for your position. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, following guidelines in Turabian's 6th edition. 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.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Attendance and class participation	10%
Completion of all required readings and submission of reports	15%
Research and personal position paper	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

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

Blauvelt, Martha T. "Women and Revivalism." In Women and Religion in America, Vol. 1, New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

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.

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.

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.

MacHaffie, Barbara J., ed. Readings in Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

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.

Noren, Carol M. The Woman in the Pulpit. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Poloma, Margaret M. The Assemblies of God at the Crossroads: Charisma and Institutional Dilemmas. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1989.

- Payne, Sandra. A Call to Women. McLaren Vale, South Australia: Living Way Publishers, 1982.
- Riss, R. M. "Women, Role of." In Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, eds. Stanley Burgess and Gary McGee, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.
- Roebuck, David. "Pentecostal Women in Ministry: A Review of Selected Documents." Perspectives in Religious Studies, 16 (Spring): 29-44.
- Scanzoni, Letha D. and Nancy A. Hardesty. All We're Meant to Be: Biblical Feminism for Today. 3rd rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Scanzoni, Letha D., and Susan Setta. "Women in Evangelical, Holiness, and Pentecostal Traditions." In Women and Religion in America, Vol. 3, eds. Rosemary Ruether and Rosemary Keller, San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.
- Scholer, David M. Selected Articles on Hermeneutics and Women and Ministry in the New Testament. Pasadena: Fuller Theological Seminary, 1997.
- Spencer, Aida B. Beyond the Curse: Women Called to Ministry. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1989.
- Trobisch, Ingrid. The Confident Woman: Finding Quiet Strength in a Turbulent World. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993.
- Trombly, Charles. Who Said Women Can't Teach? South Plainfield, NJ: Logos, 1985.
- Tucker, Ruth. Women in the Maze: Questions and Answers on Biblical Equality. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Tucker, Ruth, and Walter Liefeld. Daughters of the Church: Women and Ministry from New Testament Times to the Present. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Barbara Cavaness, December 2001.