



Grace Communion Seminary

CM05 Women in Leadership

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Patricia P. Shaw, M.A.P.S.

Course Description: Women in Leadership

This course explores the issue of women serving as leaders in the church. Students will identify the historical place of women in Jewish, Greek and Roman societies through the time of Jesus and then within the early church. Discussion will assess how the New Testament writers valued women and addressed their contributions to the community of faith and how the role as church leader and its challenges has been recorded from the early church until today.

Required Textbooks

Belleville, Linda L. *Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 2000. ISBN 0-8010-5351-X. 217 pages. List price \$22. Excellent insights on three crucial questions.

GCI Study Papers on “*Women in Church Leadership*,” December, 2006.

<http://www.gci.org/files/Women-all.pdf> 118 pages. Denominational doctrinal study on women in leadership.

Hull, Gretchen Gaebelin. *Equal to Serve: Women and Men Working Together Revealing the Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 1991. ISBN 0-8010-5822-8. 244 pages. List price \$5.89. Author covers the questions of how women served in the past and how they are accepted today in a very readable format.

Johnson, Alan F., General Editor. *How I Changed My Mind About Women*

in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2010. ISBN 978-0-310-29315-6. 270 pages. List price \$16.99. Features autobiographical accounts of well-known evangelical leaders—ethnically diverse men and women from a broad range of denominational backgrounds addressing the topic of women in leadership.

Recommended textbooks

Becker, Carol E. *Leading Women: How Church Women Can Avoid Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender Maze.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Clouse, Bonnidell, and Robert Clouse. *Women in Ministry: Four Views.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1989.

Grenz Stanley J. with Denise Muir Kjesbo. *Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Husbands, Mark and Timothy Larsen, editors. *Women, Ministry and The Gospel: Exploring New Paradigms.* Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2007.

Payne, Philip B. *Man and Woman, One in Christ: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Paul's Letters.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2009.

Pierce, Ronald W. and Rebecca Merrill Groothuis, editors. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Student Learning Outcomes for Women in Leadership

1. Describe the historical and biblical background of women as leaders in connection with the cultural, scholarly or patriarchal decisions that have governed the acceptance or rejection among the various eras where

women have filled or not filled office. This will be the focus of the lectures and will form one component of the final paper.

2. Summarize the primary theological controversies that dominate the academic study of women in leadership. This will be expressed in the Review/Reflection papers and the final paper.
3. Analyze arguments and identify whether they are persuasive, inadequate, or whether they merit further investigation. This will be considered in the papers and online comments written by the students.
4. Evaluate how women and men did and/or can collaborate in leadership to the church and describe the argument from both sides of the question. This will be the focus of the final paper.
5. Using an online forum, students will summarize their observations of the current lecture topic tactfully and with supporting evidence. The instructor will participate in the online discussion and provide additional guidance.

Course Requirements and assignments

1. Read the lectures. Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Student Handbook* for study suggestions. You should read the scripture references in the lectures.
2. Participation. Part of the learning that occurs in traditional classrooms comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, you show this through comments posted on a forum. The comments count for 10 percent of the final grade.
3. Read the textbooks. They total about 849 pages, or about 85 pages each week (some more, some less).
4. Paper(s). These count for 90 percent of the final grade. We

estimate that you will need to allocate about 70 hours to work on these papers – an average of 6 hours per week – some weeks more, some less.

- A. Book Review and Reaction Paper: *Women Leaders and the Church* (4-5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to interact with the assigned reading and give a brief summary of the three questions the author addresses. Identify the issues presented and their persuasiveness or if they merit further investigation. Describe how the text addresses the biblical, historical and cultural background of women in church leadership. Explain how you would counsel a young woman who feels a call to pastoral ministry? (Paper is due Week Five, 20 points for grade.)
- B. Book Review and Reaction Paper: *Equal to Serve: Women and Men Working Together Revealing the Gospel* (4-5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to interact with the assigned reading and briefly summarize the main points of the author. Discuss the issues presented and their persuasiveness or if they merit further investigation. Describe how the text addresses the biblical, historical and cultural background of women in church leadership. Define your counsel with a young woman who feels a call to pastoral ministry after reading the book. (Paper is due Week Nine, 20 points for grade.)
- C. After reading *How I Changed my Mind about Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals*, write your own contribution to the book illustrating your thoughts on women in church leadership by comparing what you were taught as a child to what you observe women actually contributing, and summarize how you would express your current conviction to a Bible Study group. (2-3 Pages, double –spaced. Paper is due Week Seven, 10 points for grade.)

D. Research Paper: (10 pages; double spaced) Student will explain how women and men can serve together in leadership to the church as well as justify their response to those who reject this. Evaluate what roles have women served historically. Consider whether culture determined those roles and what roles are available for women and men serving together in the church today. Conclude with your personal vision for how women can collaborate with men in church leadership. (Student can use assigned readings for research as well as books from Recommended Texts and the Bibliography list. Paper due Week Twelve, 40 points for grade.)

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	19	0
Reading discussions and making responses	10	10
Reading the textbooks	42	0
Writing one research paper	50	40
Writing three reaction or review papers	26	50
Total – about 12 hours each week	147	100

* This is an estimate for the “average” student. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa. Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time.

Weekly Topics and Assignments¹

Lecture Topics	Assignments--complete by next class, Papers-by Due Date
Week 1. Introduction – In the Beginning	Larry King Live, “Should Women Be Pastors?” June 14, 2000. http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0006/14/lkl.00.html (19 pages) GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership.

	http://www.gci.org/files/Women-all.pdf Pages 1-27 Belleville, Pages 15-56 (42 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages. Students introduce themselves on Forum
Week 2. Women Serving Historically	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 28-46 (19 pages) Belleville, Pages 57-99 (42 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages.Discussion on Forum
Week 3. Social Acceptance and/or Rejection	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 47-56 (10 pages) Belleville, Pages 100-141 (42 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages. Discussion on Forum
Week 4. Issues in the Text	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 57-74 (18 pages) Belleville, Pages 142-183 (42 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages.Discussion on Forum
Week 5. Jesus Relates to Women	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 75-87 (13 pages) Hull, Pages 13-75 (62 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages.Discussion on Forum Belleville Book Report and Reflection Paper due
Week 6. Women in the New Testament	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 88-95 (8 pages) Hull, Pages 76-145 (69 pages) Johnson, will need to read 38 pages.Discussion on Forum
Week 7. Challenges of the early Church	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership. Pages 96-105 (10 pages) Hull, Pages 146-207 (62 pages) Johnson, will need to read 42 pages. Johnson Book – Paper due Discussion on Forum
Week 8.	GCI Study Paper on Women in Church Leadership.

Women in the Reformation	Pages 106-118 (12 pages) Hull, Pages 208-244 (37 pages) Discussion on Forum
Week 9. Changes in the Culture	Research and study for Research Paper due Week 12 Hull Book report and Reflection paper due Discussion on Forum
Week 10. Serving Together in Today's World	Research and study for Research Paper due Week 12 Discussion on Forum

Week 12. Research paper due by the end of Monday, Week 12.