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## CE / PM 650 Women In Ministry

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Course  
June

**CE/PM 650: WOMEN IN MINISTRY**  
**Three Hours**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with matters relating to women in the ordained and lay ministries of the church. Consideration is given to both the impact of the Church on women, and the impact of women on the Church, from biblical times to the present. The course is interdisciplinary in its structure, investigating the topic of women in ministry from biblical, historical, theological, psychological, sociological, anthropological, and pastoral perspectives.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students who complete the course with basic competency will:

1. Use the Wesleyan quadrilateral to work through their questions on, and develop their theology of women and ministry.
2. Explore biblical perspectives on women in ministry, examine, and evaluate the varying views based on different hermeneutical approaches to biblical passages seen as relating to women in ministry.
3. Examine research findings on the developmental patterns and ways of knowing for both women and men and discover the significant contribution women as well as men have to offer in ministry.
4. Grow in knowledge of the contributions women have made to the Church throughout history.
5. Reflect on the impact women have had on their personal lives and spiritual growth.
6. Gain insights into the experiences of contemporary women in the Church and develop skills to meet the challenges of being a woman in ministry, supporting women ministers, and affirming the ministry of all women in the Church.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Reading**

Equal to the Task: Men and Women in Partnership, Ruth Haley Barton  
Women in Ministry: Four Views, Bonnidell Clouse and Robert G. Clouse, Eds., Pages 9 – 123.

Women in the Church, Stanley J. Grenz with Denise Muir Kjesbo.

Origins of Difference: The Gender Debate Revisited, Elaine Storkey.\_

"Learning from Gender Differences" by Catherine Stonehouse. Or, if you have read the Stonehouse article for another course, review it and read two chapters from You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation, Deborah Tannen.

An additional 300 pages. Include reading on:

The ministry of women throughout history and God language.

### **Reading Report**

**All reading is to be completed before the beginning of the course.** Submit a card indicating the completion of reading, listing each of the books read. The final grade will be reduced by .25 or .50 for each reading assignment not completed.

You may choose the women in church history that you want to read about. You may read brief accounts of many, or read more broadly from the lives of certain women.

I will place some articles on "God language" on reserve. Read at least a couple of articles on this subject. You may choose to invest several of your 300 pages of additional reading in this topic.

### **Class Attendance**

Regular class attendance is expected. If absence is unavoidable, discuss with the professor how the class session can be made up.

### **Church Visit**

With class members, visit a church pastored by a woman. If you will not be able to join us for that visit on June 24, you could make your visit before class begins.

### **Journaling**

**Prior to the beginning of the course**, spend at least 30 minutes reflecting on your experiences as a woman or with women in the church and the impact of women on your formation. Journal your reflections and insights.

Spend an additional 30 minutes or more in additional journaling during the first week of class.

Some possible reflection questions:

Who have been the most important women in my life?

How did they impact me?

At points in my life where I have been most at risk, who, by God's grace, was there for me?

Was there a woman?

What experiences have I had with women in ministry?

Has the limited number of women in ministry models impacted me?

How has the way in which women have been treated in the churches I have attended affected my attitudes and me?

What have been the important influences and events along my path to ministry? What has helped or hindered?

**Due: June 19 and 22.**

## **Interview and Report**

**Prior to the beginning of the course, interview a woman in ministry.** Complete a significant portion of required reading before conducting the interview. Decide on the questions to ask in the interview based in part on questions raised by your reading. In a 3-4-page paper give an abstract of the interview, then compare and contrast your story with that of the interviewee. What questions do your stories raise? How does the interviewee's experience compare with perspectives in the reading? What actions are suggested for you out of reflections on the interview? Include responses to these questions in your paper.

### Grading Criteria

Understanding of the woman's call to ministry and the gifts she brings to ministry.

Grasp of the challenges the woman faces in ministry.

Insightfulness of the comparison of her story with yours and perspectives from the reading.

Insightfulness of questions identified and actions suggested.

**Due June 21.**

## **A Ten Page Paper**

Research and write a ten-page paper on a subject related to the content of this course and to your particular interests or needs for learning. Possible topics for the paper are listed below. **Choose just one.** Whichever focus you choose, integrate into the paper the witness of scripture, church history, contemporary research, and experience, as you discuss some aspect of women in the ordained, professional lay, or volunteer lay ministries of the church. Document your paper including endnotes and bibliography.

**A Theology of Women in Ministry** – further explore your theology of women in ministry and articulate it in the paper. You may want to prepare the paper so that it could be of help to others in your area of the church who are struggling with the issue of women in ministry.

**A Workshop on Women in Ministry** – develop a workshop which you could present to pastors, church leaders, college students, or a women's group which would allow them to discover some of the insights from this course which you believe the selected target audience needs to discover. This project requires creative ways of teaching the material and engaging participants in the subject matter.

**A Biography with Reflective Commentary** – research the life of a woman and her ministry. Provide commentary on her life and ministry in the light of the content of this course.

**A Study of Women in Ministry in Your Denomination** – study the history or the present status of women in ministry in your denomination. Write up your findings, analyzing them in the light of the course. (This option will not be possible in the concentrated course time frame unless you do the major research before the course begins.)

**A Topic of your Choice** – Discuss with the professor other ideas you might have.

### Grading Criteria

Clarity in articulating significant issues relating to women in ministry.

Quality of the biblical support for positions taken in the paper.

Significance of the material presented.

Insightfulness of the paper.

**Due: June 29**

## **GRADING**

The assignments will contribute to the grade as follows:

Class participation – 25%

Interview – 25%

Paper – 50%

**All material is to be typed, double-spaced and written in inclusive language.**

**Provide documentation when drawing ideas from other sources.**

**Type SPO number on the front of all papers.**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Women in Church History**

June 19 – Introduction

Sharing our stories

Women in Church History

**Related Reading:** Grenz: pp. 7 – 62

Additional reading on women in church history

### **The Bible on Women in Ministry**

June 20 – Women in the Old Testament

Jesus and Women

**Related Reading:** Grenz pp. 63 – 97, 142-172

Clouse pp. 9-123

June 21 – Women in the New Testament Church

**Related Reading:** Grenz: pp. 98 – 141.

June 22 – Feminist Theology

**Related Reading:** God language articles

Storkey

### **Contributions Women Bring to Ministry**

June 26 – Women's Ways of Knowing and Valuing

**Related Reading:** Stonehouse or Tannen

June 27 – Yentel

Male and Female Serving Side by Side

**Related Reading:** Grenz pp. 173 – 198

Barton

## **The Woman's Real World of Ministry**

June 28 – Women Experiencing Ministry

The Issue of Ordination

**Related Reading:** Grenz pp. 199 – 233

June 29 – Wrap Up