



CM505 Women and Men in Leadership

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Michael Morrison, Ph.D. in New Testament Studies

Assisted by: Carrie Osborne, Master of Science in Professional Counseling,
Master of Pastoral Studies

Course description

This course explores the issue of women and men serving together as leaders in the church. Students will survey biblical evidence about women in leadership. Discussion will include differences in the way that women and men tend to think, and challenges that women often face in this role that has historically been dominated by men.

To do well in this course, you will need to spend about 12 hours each week on reading, forum interaction, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Becker, Carol E. *Leading Women: How Church Women Can Avoid Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender Maze*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1996. ISBN: [978-0687459643](#). 208 pages. Cost: About \$5 new. Discusses how men and women work together.

Leach, Tara Beth. *Emboldened: A Vision for Empowering Women in Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2017. ISBN: [0830845240](#). New, about \$6.00. 190 pages.

Morrison, Michael, and Sheila Graham. *What the Bible Says About Women*

in Church Leadership. 2nd ed. Charlotte, NC: Grace Communion International, 2019. This document compiles, with minor edits, articles and studies done by Grace Communion International in 1995-2006, showing that Scripture does not forbid women from being pastors and other church leaders. 260 pages. Free PDF at <http://bit.ly/GCIwomen>. Printed paperback available at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1983173142/>.

Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York: Ballantine, 1990. ISBN: [9780060959623](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0349102370). New, about \$6.00. 342 pages. Any edition is acceptable.

Recommended supplemental books

Westfall, Cynthia Long. *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016. A scholarly examination of the biblical evidence in Paul's letters.

Johnson, Alan F., editor. *How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2010. Autobiographical accounts of evangelical leaders—ethnically diverse men and women from several denominational backgrounds.

Student learning outcomes for this course

1. Explain the biblical passages giving examples of women in leadership, and explain the verses that are sometimes used to restrict women from church leadership.
2. Describe general anatomical, physiological, and behavioral differences between men and women, remembering that numerous exceptions exist.
3. Based on Scripture, science, and their own experiences, describe how women and men can improve the way they work together in leadership in the church.

Course requirements and assignments

1. Read the lectures. Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Academic Catalog* for study suggestions. You should read the scripture references in the lectures.
2. Participation. Part of the learning that occurs in classrooms comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, you attain this through comments posted on a forum. The comments count for 20 percent of the final grade. In every forum discussion, we expect you to make at least one comment, to read everyone else's comments, and to make at least one reply.
3. Read the textbooks. They total about 1000 pages, or about 100 pages each week (some weeks more, some less).
4. Papers. These count for 80 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 60 hours to work on these papers – an average of six hours per week – some weeks more, some less. See comments on how to write papers in the *Academic Catalog*, section VI.
 - A. Book Review and Reaction Paper: *What the Bible Says About Women in Church Leadership*. (5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to analyze and interact with the reading.
 - a. Identify the biblical issues presented and how the study papers address them.
 - b. Identify the evidence that seems to be the strongest support for the conclusion of the series, and the evidence that seems less compelling, less useful in explaining the conclusion.
 - c. Paper is due at the end of week 5, and counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
 - B. Book Review and Reaction Paper: *Leading Women: How Church Women Can Avoid Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender*

Maze (5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to briefly summarize the main points of the author and apply them to a hypothetical situation.

- a. Discuss the issues presented and their persuasiveness or if they fall short and merit further investigation.
- b. Explain how you would counsel a woman who feels a call to pastoral ministry but needs guidance on understanding the call and what it means to be in pastoral ministry in today's world. How would you help her develop a strategy for using her gifts?
- c. Paper is due at end of week 9; 20 percent of grade.

C. Research Paper: (10 pages; double spaced) Student will explain how women and men can serve together in leadership to the church.

- a. Show how nature and nurture influences those roles.
- b. Relate what opportunities you see available for women and men serving together in the church today. How are those opportunities greater or lesser than in the past?
- c. Conclude with your own vision for how women and men in ministry can collaborate effectively within the context of serving together in church leadership.
- d. This paper should quote from and cite all four of the textbooks. Additional research from books or websites is also welcome. See the last part of Appendix B.
- e. This paper is due at the end of week 12; it counts for 40 percent of the grade.

5. Here's a chart to summarize the assignments:

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours*	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	18	0

Reading discussions and making responses	20	20
Reading the textbooks	40	0
Writing one research paper	40	40
Writing two book reviews	20	40
Total – about 12 hours each week	138	100

* Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time. These are estimates for the hypothetical “average” student.

Weekly topics and assignments (tentative)

Lectures	Assignments
Week 1: Biblical Evidence	Larry King Live, “Should Women Be Pastors?” June 14, 2000. http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0006/14/lkl.00.html <i>What the Bible Says About Women in Church Leadership</i> , part 1; Students introduce themselves on forum
Week 2: Male and Female Differences	<i>What the Bible Says...</i> , part 2a, pages 78-149 Forum discussion
Week 3: Overlapping Diversity	<i>What the Bible Says...</i> , part 2b, pages 150-261 Forum discussion Book Report due
Week 4: Differences in Pastoral Roles	<i>You Just Don't Understand</i> , chapters 1-4 Forum discussion
Week 5: Working Solo, Working Together	<i>You Just Don't Understand</i> , chapters 5-7 Forum discussion
Week 6: Cultural Differences	<i>You Just Don't Understand</i> , chapters 8-10 Forum discussion
Week 7:	<i>Leading Women</i> , Part One: Introduction through chapter 5

Dealing With Opposition	(pages 11-89) Forum discussion
Week 8: Looking Professional	<i>Leading Women</i> , Parts Two and Three, Introduction through chapter 12 (pages 93-186) Forum discussion
Week 9: Clergy Couples	<i>Emboldened</i> , chapters 1-5 Book report due Forum discussion
Week 10: Leadership	<i>Emboldened</i> , chapters 6-10 Research and study for research paper Forum discussion