



# The Role of Women In Ministry

---

## Programmed Syllabus

Lucy Wood Mabery, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Pastoral Ministry*  
*Dallas Theological Seminary*

INSTITUTE OF  
**THEOLOGICAL**  
STUDIES



Updated 2006



# Syllabus

---

## Course Description

Often overlooked or misunderstood are the vital roles of women in the home, society, and the church. Learners will study ministry to and by women, including biblical foundations for women and principles for evangelizing, discipling, and counseling women. Lectures focus on the history of women's ministries in the church, the role of women's ministries in the New Testament, and the contemporary cultural context for women's ministries. In addition, students will learn how to minister to the needs of specific women's groups, such as singles, homemakers, those in the workplace, and those who are hurting.

## Course Objectives

*Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:*

1. Articulate a biblical philosophy of ministry to and with women.
2. Discuss the nature of Christian ministry to and with women.
3. Evaluate aspects of ministry to and with women from a biblical perspective.
4. Grow in his/her understanding and appreciation of the unique privileges and opportunities of women in Christian ministry.
5. Clarify his/her own personal approach to women in ministry.

## Course Texts

### 1. Required Reading

Clark, Stephen B. *Man and Woman in Christ*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Books, 1980. (**provided in Reader available through ITS**)

Mabery-Foster, Lucy, compiler, *The Role of Women in Ministry: Reader*. Grand Rapids: ITS, 1996. (**only available through ITS**)

### 2. Collateral Reading

Additional readings from various books, journals, and magazines are provided in the ITS Reader. This additional reading will aid you in better understanding the lessons and in preparing your term paper.



# Syllabus

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Whether you sit in a traditional classroom or study from a distance, you will benefit from interaction, collaboration, and spiritual formation (ATS schools, note Standards 3.2.1.3; 10,3,3,3; 10.3.4.3). In order to meet this need in distance theological education, ITS is developing structures and resources to encourage spiritual formation and community interaction in our courses. In this course, we have included three collaborative learning features:

1. ITS Online Interactivity Forum (see course requirements) - fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion (required for all students)
2. Spiritual Formation Project (see course requirements) - fosters mentor-to-learner interaction in a mentor-guided reflection, discussion and application (required for all students)
3. Learning Community Assignments (see end of syllabus) - fosters peer-to-peer collaboration in a group approach to assignments (optional but recommended where possible)

Go to [www.ITScourses.org/interactivity/](http://www.ITScourses.org/interactivity/) for the most up-to-date ITS resources.

## Course Requirements

1. In order to receive three semester or four quarter-hours credit for the course, the student must complete the course requirements within a one-year period unless the particular institution requires the completion of all the work within the framework of a semester or quarter. During this time, the student is expected to devote a minimum of 120 hours to the completion of the course including listening to the **24 recorded lectures** and completing the other assignments listed in this Programmed Syllabus.
2. **Required Reading**  
  
Complete all of the required readings as they are listed in the Assignment section of this Programmed Syllabus.
3. **Study Questions**  
  
Contained in the "Assignment" section of this Programmed Syllabus are study questions covering both the lectures and the reading, which are to be completed in writing. Brief answers are preferred. These should be completed study by study as the student works through each lecture, and any resources may be used in compiling his/her answers. (NOTE: These and some additional questions are included in the back of the ITS Study Guide. *Only the questions given in the Programmed Syllabus are required.*)



# Syllabus

---

## 4. Reaction Papers

You will react to **three** specific subjects in a succinct paper **not to exceed two pages**, doubled spaced, and including **two** outside references (other than assigned material or hand-outs). You will address the same topic whether you are a woman or a man.

**Reaction Paper #1:** "What Does It Mean To Be A Woman?"

**Reaction Paper #2:** "Discussion of Biblical Passages on Women"

**Reaction Paper #3:** "Answer to Biblical Feminists' Views"

## 5. Term Paper

You will develop a *personal philosophy of ministry to and with women*. The paper should incorporate the biblical texts and theological principles that support each point you make. This is an attempt to have you think biblically and theologically about ministry to and with women and your present or future role in such ministry.

This philosophy should relate to positions that you intend to assume in relation to women in the home, church, and society.

It should clearly discuss relationships of women to men in the home, church, and society, and be based clearly on the biblical position that the student has taken.

The paper should not exceed **twenty pages**, double-spaced, not including the Bibliography. Either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable.

## 6. Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Take the inventory to determine your Spiritual Gifts in conjunction with Lectures #14 and #15.

## 7. ITS Online Interactivity Forum

Participate with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded discussion of two major course topics. Go to [www.ITScourses.org/interactivity/](http://www.ITScourses.org/interactivity/) to register for and enter the ITS On-Line Forum. In order to get the fullest benefit from the Forum, complete the assignment **after** you have listened to *all* the lectures. Be sure to return to the forum after finishing the course to see how others respond. Follow these steps to complete the assignment:



# Syllabus

---

- ♦ Post an original answer to each question for your course (75 word min.).
- ♦ Post your response to any previous answer given to each question (75 word min.).
- ♦ Submit a document to your proctor that contains the original questions, your postings, and the postings to which you responded.

**NOTE: Please read the “Assignment Instructions” in the Forum for more details.**

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

## 8. Spiritual Formation Project

**RATIONALE:** Ministry preparation and the Christian life require more than academic exercises. Learners also need personal, spiritual formation, which involves theological reflection and critical thinking on their current practices and assumptions. This process occurs as learners engage in self-reflection and interaction in a community of learning. **With this in mind**, ITS includes in all courses a capstone project addressing these issues and facilitating interaction beyond the formal learning environment (ATS schools, note Standards 3.2.1.3; 4.1.1; 10.3.3.3).

Write a **five-to-six page reflective essay** and **interview a mentor**, discussing the spiritual impact of this course on your life. *Identify your mentor early in the course*, and submit the essay to your grader when you take the final exam. This last project should not be a summary of course content, but an application of course principles. Complete the following:

**a. Personal Reflection and Evaluation: *Reflect on the course*** – To integrate your academic studies with your walk of faith, reflect on the content of the course and evaluate your life in light of what you learned.

1. Follow these steps in your reflection:

Step 1: What **one** theme, principle, or concept in the course is the most significant to you personally? Why is it significant?

Step 2: What portion(s) of the course brought this theme/principle/concept to light?

Step 3: Think about your past. Why is it vital now for you to deal with and apply this theme/principle/concept?

Step 4: How should this affect your thoughts and actions, and what *specific steps* should you take to *concretely* apply what you have learned?



# Syllabus

---

2. Write your answers to the above questions in full paragraph form. (Recommended length for this reflection: **approximately three pages**)
  3. Give a copy of this reflection to your mentor (see #2).
- b. Community Reflection and Interaction: *Interview a mentor*** – Since the Holy Spirit uses the input of others to guide and form His people, interview a mentor according to the following guidelines:
1. Who should you interview? (a-c are required; d-f are recommended)
    - a. Someone with whom you have a reasonably close relationship.
    - b. Someone who is a mature Christian ministry leader (i.e. a pastor).
    - c. Someone who is **not** your grader or a family member.
    - d. Someone who values the spiritual formation process.
    - e. Someone who is familiar with and values the subject of the course.
    - f. Someone who has experience using the content of the course in ministry.
- NOTE: **Identify your mentor early in the course**, and give him/her the page entitled “Guidelines for Mentors.”
2. Focus of the interview – Your interview should focus on the issues and questions you raise in your essay. For example:
    - ◆ What feedback can your mentor give in response to your essay?
    - ◆ In light of the course content, are the conclusions you made appropriate? Why or why not?
    - ◆ What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications might he/she suggest from his/her own life and ministry?
- NOTE: Conduct this interview either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do **not** use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc). Suggested length: 45 minutes.
- c. Synthesis and Application: *Draw your final conclusions*** – Having reflected on the course and the discussion with your mentor, synthesize what you have learned in these three sections:



# Syllabus

---

1. Section 1: Begin your essay with the personal reflection from #1 above. This should be exactly what you gave your mentor for the interview.
2. Section 2: Comment on your interview, explaining what you discussed and the insights you gained from your mentor. Include the following:
  - ◆ What were the mentor's comments regarding your essay?
  - ◆ What advice did he/she give?
  - ◆ How did his/her comments expand or correct your application of the course?
  - ◆ Include the person's name, occupation, and the length of the interview.
3. Section 3: Conclude with a synthesis of what you have learned. Answer the following:
  - ◆ If your mentor corrected any thoughts in your "Personal Reflection and Evaluation", how do you feel about these corrections? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
  - ◆ Synthesizing your thoughts from section one and your mentor's insight in section two, what final conclusions have you reached? How is this different from section one?
  - ◆ In light of the interview and further reflection, what additional, *specific* changes need to occur in your life and what *concrete* steps will you take to implement them?

**NOTE TO STUDENTS:** Your effort in this assignment will determine its benefit. If by the end of this course you have not yet reflected critically on your life in light of what you have studied, allow this assignment to guide you in that process. The instructor for this course will not score your essay based on the amount of spiritual fruit you describe; so do not exaggerate (or trivialize) what you have learned. **The primary grading criteria is that you have thoughtfully considered the principles of the course and realistically sought to apply them to your life.** If you have done this and met the minimal requirements (as noted above), you will earn the full points for this assignment.

Note on confidentiality: Perhaps the Holy Spirit is dealing with you in some very personal areas of your life. Because of this, your grader will keep your essay entirely confidential and either return or discard it.

Objective: to stimulate reflection and interaction on course principles in order to enhance personal spiritual formation.

Revised 10/05



# Syllabus

---

## 9. Course Evaluation

Answers to Programmed Syllabus questions .....	20%
Philosophy of Women's Ministry Paper .....	40%
Reaction papers (Each 5%).....	15%
Completion of all reading material .....	10%
Spiritual Formation Project .....	10%
ITS Online Interactivity Forum .....	5%

**NOTE:** There is no examination for this course.



# Syllabus

---

## Notes Regarding This Downloaded Syllabus

This downloadable syllabus is not exhaustive. It is designed to provide learners with a picture of the course, not a full outline of the course. Grader Guidelines, Appendixes, Bibliographies, Lecture Outlines, and Review Questions have been removed. The complete course syllabus is included with purchase of the course in either a digital or hard-copy format.

Likewise, individuals taking the class for credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to alter or change the syllabus as deemed necessary.