

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
A Continuing Education Course in Conjunction with  
**Conversations '10 Leadership Conference**  
Dallas, TX  
Sept. 29-October 1, 2010  
**BTHE 640: Biblical Foundations for Women in Leadership**  
(3 credits)

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Cheryl A. Taylor, D. Min., Instructor**

**Fall 2010**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course draws upon the context of the larger conference to provide a framework for personal leadership growth and development. The course explores various aspects concerning women in ministry—integrating biblical and contemporary perspectives. Students will examine the biblical foundations for women in leadership, as well as biblical responses to contemporary leadership challenges encountered by women in ministry. Participants will enjoy a community experience designed to affirm their calling, hone their giftings, and expand their God-given leadership influence.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will demonstrate that they have satisfactorily met the objectives of the following domains:

***Cognitive Outcomes***

1. Understanding of the biblical foundation for women in leadership.
2. Familiarity with the biblical, historical and contemporary characteristics and contributions of women in leadership.
3. Awareness of key challenges faced by women leaders and biblical responses to those challenges.
4. Increased exposure to relevant leadership resources available for women leaders today.
5. Hermeneutical competency on one passage or issue relevant to women in leadership from a Scriptural basis.

***Character/Attitude Outcomes***

1. Confidence in the solid biblical and theological foundations for women in ministry.
2. Renewed commitment to the vital contribution of women in leadership in emerging culture.
3. Increased sensitivity to the diverse avenues of ministry available to women.
4. Increased desire to expand one's personal ministry capacity and productivity.
5. Increased appreciation for the ways men and women in the Christian community can work together as a team—each bringing different gifts and strengths to the ministry.

***Skill Outcomes***

1. Ability to delineate and articulate a biblical basis for the validity of women participating in ministry and holding positions of leadership in the church.
2. Engage in meaningful self-assessment of individual calling and competencies.
3. Increased ability to biblically address contemporary issues facing women in leadership.
4. Ability to analyze and implement relevant resources to enhance one's own leadership.
5. Increased networking with other women leaders who can provide insight and encouragement into the student's personal practice of ministry.

## **COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

Student should select their course readings from the following suggested book list:

### ***I. Biblical Foundations for Women in Church Leadership***

Alexander, Estrela and Amos Yong. *Philip's Daughters: Women in Pentecostal Leadership*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009. (251 pages)

Beck, James R. and Craig L. Blomberg. *Two Views on Women in Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, rev. ed. 2005. (368 pages)

Belleville, Linda. *Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000. (224 pages)

Bristow, John T. *What Paul Really Said About Women*. HarperOne, 1991. (144 pages)

Cunningham, Loren and David Hamilton. *Why Not Women? A Biblical Study of Women in Missions, Ministry, and Leadership*. Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 2000. (288 pages)

Gill, Deborah M. and Barbara L. Cavaness. *God's Women—Then and Now*. 3<sup>rd</sup> English edition. Bangalore, India: Authentic Media, 2009. (214 pages)

Grenz, Stanley J. and Denise Muir Kjesbo. *Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995. (233 pages)

Jewett, Paul. *The Ordination of Women*. W.B. Eerdmans, 1980. (164 pages)

Keener, Craig S. *Paul, Women, and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1992. (368 pages)

McKenzie, Vashti M. *Not Without a Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women in Ministry*. Pilgrim Press, 1996. (134 pages)

Sumner, Sarah. *Men and Women in the Church: Building Consensus on Christian Leadership*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2003. (288 pages)

Tucker, Ruth. *Women Caught in the Maze: Questions and answers on biblical equality*. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 1992. (254 pages)

Williams, Don. *The Apostle Paul and Women in the Church*. Sunrise Reprints, 2010. (168 pages)

Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. InterVarsity Press, 1996. (150 pages) (*Note: While not focused specifically on women in leadership, this is a helpful resource for students who may need a theology primer.*)

## ***II. Women and Leadership***

- Barthel, Tara K. and Judy Dabler. *Peacemaking Women: Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. (352 pages)
- Barton, Ruth Haley. *Equal to the Task: Men and Women In Partnership*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998. (224)
- Beach, Nancy. *Gifted to Lead: The Art of Leading As a Woman in the Church*. Zondervan, 2008. (176 pages)
- Becker, Carol E. *Becoming Colleagues: Women and Men Serving Together in Faith*. San Fransisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000. (314 pages)
- Becker, Carol E. *Leading Women: How Church Women Can Avoid Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender Maze*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1995. (210 pages)
- Clark, Linda. *5 Leadership Essentials for Women: Developing Your Ability to Make Things Happen*. New Hope Publishers, 2004. (254 pages)
- Edwards, Sue, Kelley Mathews and Henry Rogers. *Mixed Ministry: Working Together as Brothers and Sisters in an Oversexed Society*. Kregel Academic & Professional, 2008. (272 pages)
- Everist, Norma. *Ordinary Ministry, Extraordinary Challenge*. Abingdon Press, 2000. (192 pg)
- Kolb, Deborah M., Williams, Judith, and Carol Frohlinger. *Her Place at the Table: A Woman's Guide to Negotiating Five Key Challenges to Leadership Success*. San Fransisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. (304 pages).
- Mindell, Phyllis. *How to Say It For Women: Communicating with Confidence and Power Using the Language of Success*. Prentice Hall Press, 2001. (256 pages)
- Noren, Carol. *The Woman in the Pulpit*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1992. (180 pages)
- Porter, Jeanne. *Leading Ladies: Transformative Biblical Images for Women's Leadership*. Innisfree Press, 2000. (224 pages)
- Porter, Jeanne. *Leading Lessons: Insights on Leadership from Women of the Bible*. Augsburg Books, 2005. (127 pages)
- Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1990. (352 pages)
- Willhauck, Susan and Jacquelyn Thorpe. *The Web of Women's Leadership: Recasting Congregational Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001. (174 pages)

Zikmund, Barbara Brown, Adair T. Lummis, and Patricia M. Y. Chang. *Clergy Women: An Uphill Calling*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. *Attend all plenary, workshop, and breakout sessions of the three day conference.* Take notes on each session, and be an active participant in all discussions. Focus on the content of the sessions and on impressions, questions, and reflection on personal application to your ministry context.
2. *Write a 5-7 page reflection and integration paper on the conference.* The paper should summarize the conference with an emphasis on the key concepts that influenced you the most. What challenged you, and why? How will you implement the challenges and philosophies of the speakers into your ministry paradigm? Can you foresee how these new ideas will impact those you work with and those to whom you minister? Feel free to include an evaluation of the conference and any suggestions or improvements you would recommend.
3. *Complete a minimum of 1600 pages of reading.* Select books from the course textbook list, or check with the professor for substitutions. Try to divide your reading equally between the two sections. Remember, it is a violation of academic policy to claim credit for books read previously for credit. If there are books which you have already read for other classes, please substitute another book from the list. Students should submit a list of the books read, and total number of pages read, with the submission of their final assignments. (Note: This is the reading requirement for a 3-credit course. Add 700 pages of reading for each additional credit being taken.)
4. *Write a reading reflection paper for each book read.* For each book read, write a 1 page reflection paper. Topics to cover could include a critique of the book's strengths and weaknesses, reaction to some of the book's premises/conclusions, and an assessment of how the text impacts you. Discuss 1-2 ideas in the book that were significant to you, or that you found most applicable to your current leadership and ministry context.
5. *Complete a biblical-theological research paper.* Select a specific Scripture passage or topic pertaining to women in leadership. Write an 8-10 page research paper on the biblical-theological foundation of the passage/topic you selected. Paper should demonstrate sound exegetical skills. (Note: This is the requirement for the 3 credit class option. Add 4 pages to the length of the paper for each additional credit being taken.)
6. *Complete a final integrative project.* Stemming from the course reading and conference sessions, develop a final project which assists you in integrating the course into your personal leadership and/or ministry. The possibilities are limitless. Examples include:
  - develop a teaching/training session to share with other women leaders (w/ PPT/handouts)
  - conduct an in-depth study of some specific challenge you face as a women leader
  - develop a new program/event based on some aspect of the course that would be helpful to your ministry context
  - develop a growth plan/strategy for a specific area of your personal leadership development.

The project should be the equivalent of 8-10 pages, demonstrate master's level research and document the sources consulted, though it does not have to be a formal research paper.  
(Note: This is the requirement for the 3 credit class option. Add 4 pages to the length of the paper for each additional credit being taken.)

**DUE DATES:**

*All course work is due postmarked no later than Friday, January 14, 2011.*

**Submit all work to:** Dr. Cheryl Taylor  
 1435 N. Glenstone Ave.  
 Springfield, MO 65802

**NOTE:** Late work will be penalized at the discretion of the professor. Work received postmarked after the due date will incur a \$30.00 change of grade fee, even if an extension has been granted by the instructor. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

**GRADING**

Conference reflection/integration paper	10%
Completion of 1600 pages of reading	15%
Reading reflection papers	15%
Biblical-Theological Research Paper	30%
Final integrative project	30%

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Dr. Cheryl Taylor, fall 2010.