



SWM Curriculum

Overview

Course 1: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women September 16, 2023
Instructor: Christa Eisbrenner: SWM Dean

Course 2: Biblical Literacy November 4, 2023
Instructor: Cynthia Westfall: Associate Professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College

Course 3: History of Women in the Church January 20, 2024
Instructor: Mimi Haddad: Executive Director of Christian's for Biblical Equality

Course 4: Leadership Development March 2, 2024
Instructor: Ruth McGillivray: Executive Vice President Northwest Seminary & College

Course 5: Team Building & Practices April 20, 2024
Instructor: Diana Anton: Executive Director of Lifesprings International

Course 6: Gospel Proclamation June 1, 2024
Instructor: TBA

Course 7: Spirituality of Fundraising September 14, 2024
Instructor: Greg Henson: President of Kairos University

Course 8: Responding to a Suffering World November 2, 2024
Instructor: TBA

Course 9: Spiritual Formation January 18, 2025
Instructor: Julianne Gilchrist: Spiritual Director at Gilchrist Coaching & Adventures

Optional online mini-course: Rhythm of Life February 2025
Instructor: TBA

Course 10: Peace Amid Conflict
Instructor: Audrey Jose: Lifesprings International

March 1, 2025

Course 11: What Christians Believe
Instructor: Nikayla Reize: Lead Pastor at Awaken Church, Professor at Ambrose University

April 12, 2025

Course 12: Worldview, Culture and the Bible
Panelists:

May 31, 2025

Graduation Celebration

May 31, 2025

There will be a special ceremony and celebration to honour those who have earned their certificate of ministry and all that has been accomplished at the school. Family and friends are invited to attend this evening celebration.

Course 1: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women

Christa Eisbrenner, MA (SWM Dean)

Teaching Objectives:

- Present an overview of the landscape of women in the 21st century and questions leaders need to be asking.
- Present God's original vision and calling for his daughters and what it means for women today.
- Present God's kingdom strategy for women as part of a Blessed Alliance.

Learning Outcomes:

- To gain a better understanding of the state of women in today's world and God's calling on all his daughters, and to ask the right questions in formulating a theology of women.
- To gain a deeper understanding of what it means for a woman to be God's image bearer.
- To understand the depth and truth of God's vision and calling for his daughters.

Required Reading: **From Risk to Resilience: How Empowering Young Women Can Change Everything – 2019 by Jenny Rae Armstrong**

Go Deeper:

Half the Church: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women – 2015 by Carolyn Custis James

Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up – 2018 by Kathy Khang

Course 2: Biblical Literacy

Cynthia Westfall, PhD (Associate Professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College)

Teaching Objectives:

- Understand the importance of good exegetical and hermeneutical study of the Bible for women as women, as leaders, and as students.
- Teach how to study the Bible using good exegetical and hermeneutical practices.

Learning Outcomes:

- Know how to study the Bible in an intentional, authentic, and organized way using appropriate methods and tools.
- Know how, through good exegetical and hermeneutical study of the Bible, women can add their voices to theological discussions.

Required Reading: **The Blue Parakeet, 2nd Edition: Rethinking How You Read the Bible – 2018 by Scot McKnight**

Go Deeper:

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth: Fourth Edition – 2014 by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

Course 3: History of Women in the Church

Mimi Haddad, PhD (President & CEO of CBE International)

Teaching Objectives:

- Present a survey of the role of women in church history from the New Testament period to the 21st century.
- Look at examples of women in spiritual leadership throughout history and the contextual factors under which they lived and ministered. [Note: This was originally presented with a focus on women in the west, but local teachers can research and include women who were influencers in their areas of the world.]
- Present the ways which God has used women to advance His kingdom throughout history.

Learning Outcomes:

- Gain a better understanding of the vital and diverse roles women have played in the history of the church beginning with the New Testament.
- Have an increased awareness of the role God is calling them to in building his Church.

Required Reading: **Women in the Mission of the Church – 2021 by Leanne Dzubinski & Anneke Stasson**

Go Deeper:

Extraordinary Women in Christian History: What We Can Learn From Their Struggles and Triumphs – 2016 by Ruth A. Tucker

Course 4: Leadership Development

Ruth McGillivray (Executive Vice President of Northwest Seminary & College)

Teaching Objectives:

- Present an overview of leadership basics.
- Present various leadership styles.
- Look at the character of a leader and God's standards for leaders.
- Look at how God's love shapes our leadership.

Learning Outcomes:

- Gain a better understanding of what it means to be a leader.
- Discover their own personal leadership style and learn how to grow in leadership skills.
- Gain an understanding of the character of a leader and God's standards for leaders.
- Learn how to be a leader in God's love.

Required Reading: **Developing Female Leaders: Navigate the Minefields and Release the Potential of Women in Your Church – 2019 by Kadi Cole**

Go Deeper:

Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry – 2018 by Ruth Haley Barton

Course 5: Team Building & Practices

Diana Anton (Executive Director of Lifesprings International)

Teaching Objectives:

- Provide practical tools for ministry leadership: formulating a vision, assessing needs, setting SMART goals, analysis (SWOT chart), planning and implementing, and reviewing.
- Show how to help team members thrive by helping them discover their GRAPES: gifts, roles, areas of influence, passion, experiences, and style.
- Present the building blocks for a strong team foundation: beliefs, values, mission, vision, goal, action plan, and commitment to ministry within a ministry.
- Present a strategy for building a volunteer team: God's call, recruiting, uniting, building with love, discipling, and developing a team.
- Present team as a transforming community that pursues God's will together.

Learning Outcomes:

- Know how to: craft ministry vision and mission statement, skillfully create SMART goals and assess ministry with SWOT analysis.
- Understand the foundation of a team and what goes into building a volunteer team.
- Understand their own calling, spiritual gifts, and uniqueness for ministry, and how to help others identify and grow in these areas.
- Learn how to be a team that functions as a spiritual community

Required Reading: **Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups – 2012 by Ruth Haley Barton**

Go Deeper:

Leading Women's Ministries: A Guide to Effectiveness and Excellence in Serving Women – 1999 by Pamela Hoover Heim

Course 6: Gospel Proclamation

Instructor: TBA

Teaching Objectives:

- Give a biblical description of shalom and the gospel.
- Give a diverse overview of Gospel Proclamation – who is an evangelist and how evangelism is done.
- How to be salt and light in the world: prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, building relationships, recognizing barriers, knowing your mission field, telling your story.
- Present basics for how to tell your story (and why it is important to tell your story).
- Discuss how apologetics can and should be used in the context of evangelism.

Learning Outcomes

- Incorporate prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit in all forms of Gospel proclamation.
- Identify personal evangelistic style.
- Create a personal and holistic model of Gospel proclamation to implement into their ministry project.

Required Reading: **Models of Evangelism – 2020 by Priscilla Pope-Levison**

Go Deeper:

The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right – 2017 by Lisa Sharon Harper

Don't Invite Them to Church: Moving from a Come and See to a Go and Be Church – 2010 by Karen Wilk

Course 7: The Spirituality of Fundraising

Greg Henson, MBA (President of Kairos University)

Teaching Objectives:

- Present transformational stewardship which is God honoring and Kingdom building.
- Understand the choice between the two kingdoms and the difference between philanthropy and generous stewardship.

Learning Outcomes:

- Present a compelling vision of “giving and asking” as God honouring.
- Gain tools to practice stewardship as an act of love that reflects the image of God.
- Grow in the ability to be generous stewards who can impact their communities with their stewardship practices.

- Grow as stewards by being:
 - Relational. Nurturing existing relationships and building new relationships.
 - Invitational. Come, see, join us in what the Lord is doing.
 - Celebrational. Celebrating the work of God and giving thanks.
 - Discipling. Investing in God's future work and people.

Required Reading: **The Sower: Redefining the Ministry of Raising Kingdom Resources – 2010 by R Scott Rodin & Gary G. Hoag**

Go Deeper:

A Spirituality of Fundraising – 2011 by Henri Nouwen

Course 8: Responding to a Suffering World

Instructor: TBA

Teaching Objectives:

- Explore a biblical view of suffering in the context of injustice.
- Explore how the Bible has been misused to increase the suffering of women.
- Present how suffering is the result of human systems, choices and behaviours.
- Present contemporary examples of suffering in the church, local communities and globally: domestic violence, human trafficking, loneliness and isolation, poverty, addictions, language barriers, religious and cultural pressures, war and refugee crisis, etc.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand a biblical view of suffering in the context of injustice and identify how the Bible has been misused to increase the suffering of women.
- Develop personal, practical goals that will help alleviate this form of suffering in their communities.
- Consider how suffering/injustice could be addressed in their ministry project.

Required Reading: TBA

Go Deeper:

Addressing Domestic Violence in the Church – 2017 by Bob and Helga Edwards

Course 9: Spiritual Formation: Its Focus and How it Works

Julianne Gilchrist, MDiv (Spiritual Director at Gilchrist Coaching & Adventures)

Teaching Objectives:

- Explore the importance of healthy leader self-care and continuing spiritual formation.
- A look at the goal of spiritual transformation and how it works.
- Present the several types of Spiritual Disciplines.
- Outline the stages of faith and spiritual growth.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand that life with Christ is a life of continual formation and transformation.
- Learn what spiritual disciplines are and how to use them to cultivate an inner life that is strongly connected with God.
- Understand the various stages of faith one moves through throughout their lifetime.
- Be able to evaluate where a person (including oneself) might be on their faith journey to better help them along.
- Discover a passion for personal growth in authentic, Christ-like holiness.

Required Reading: **Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for the Spiritually Exhausted – 2021 by Gretchen Ronnevik** **OR:**

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation – 2006 by Ruth Haley Barton

Go Deeper:

Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us – 2015 by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

Soul Care in African American Practice – 2020 by Barbara L. Peacock

The Deeply Formed Life: Five Transformative Values to Root Us in the Way of Jesus – 2021 by Rich Villodas

Optional mini course: **Developing a Rhythm of Life**

Instructor: **TBA**

Teaching Objectives:

- Define a Rhythm (Rule) of Life and why it is beneficial to have one.
- Teach how to write a personal Mission Statement.
- Teach how to frame, form, and put together a ROL.

Learning Outcomes:

- Know what a ROL is and why it is important.
- Learn how to create a ROL.

Go Deeper:

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation – 2006 by Ruth Haley Barton

The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction – 2019 by Justin Whitmel Earley

Course 10: Peace Amid Conflict

Audrey Jose (lead of the Peace Amid Conflict Training for Lifespings)

Teaching Objectives:

- Provide a basic understanding of conflict.

- Present two processes for dealing with conflict: three-way listening and branching and weaving (branching out in thinking and weaving together differing viewpoints).
- Present how to recognize and assess levels of conflict.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what happens to the mind and body when faced with conflict.
- Learn how to actively listen to others by mirroring, validating, and empathizing.
- Learn how to gather information to understand another person's views and opinions (branch out).
- Learn how to bring together (weave) differing viewpoints, perspectives, positions, and values into one solution.
- Learn how to assess the level of conflict and what to do in each situation.

Required Reading: **Peacemaking Women – 2005 by Tara Klena Barthel & Judy Dabler**

Go Deeper:

The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace – 2010 by Thomas Porter

Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart – 2013 by Christena Cleveland

Course 11: What Christians Believe

Nikayla Reize, MA (lead pastor, Biblical scholar, professor)

Teaching Objectives:

- Provide an overview of the theological beliefs of Christians within Orthodoxy.
- Provide the historical roots of theological traditions.
- Explore worldview, doctrine of revelation, doctrine of Jesus Christ (Christology), doctrine of the Holy Spirit (pneumatology), doctrine of sanctification (regeneration and Christian conduct), doctrine of the church (ecclesiology), and doctrine of last things (eschatology).

Learning Outcomes:

- To know and understand God more fully.
- To be able to train others in the realities of our faith.
- To gracefully engage others from various traditions within Orthodoxy.

Required Reading: **Ragged A Flexible Faith: Rethinking What it Means to Follow Jesus Today – 2018 by Bonnie Kristian**

Go Deeper:

For the Life of the World – 2019 by Miroslav Volf & Matthew Croasmun

Bullies and Saints: An Honest Look at the Good and Evil of Christian History – 2021 by John Dickson

Course 12: Worldview, Culture and the Bible

Panelists: TBA

Teaching Objectives:

- General overview of how a person's worldview impacts their belief system.
- Become aware of how we unknowingly read our cultural understandings into Biblical text.
- Present the challenges and opportunities in cross-cultural ministry.
- Identify why it is important to learn from the Biblical marginalized people, and how to learn from the marginalized around us today.

Learning Outcomes

- Celebrate God's redemptive story, good for all people in all times, preparing all women for evangelism and discipleship/mentoring in a variety of styles and worldviews.
- Identify their personal worldview and how it has shaped their understanding of Scripture.
- Identify marginalized people in the Bible and understand why it is important to listen to those on the margins today.
- As women in the global body of Christ, to increasingly add our unique voices to the discipleship dialogue in our churches and to take advantage of our unique opportunities for disciple-making in our communities and world.

Required Reading: **Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible – 2012 by E. Randolph Richards**

Go Deeper: Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels – 2007 by Kenneth Bailey
Paul Through Mediterranean Eyes: Cultural Studies in 1 Corinthians – 2011 by Kenneth Bailey

Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us about Wisdom, Persistence, and Strength – 2021 by Kat Armas

Hope Abundant: Third World and Indigenous Women's Theology – 2010 by Kwok Pui-lan

Reading the Bible from the Margins – 2013 by Miguel A. De La Torre

Vindicating the Vixens: Revisiting Sexualized, Vilified, and Marginalized Women of the Bible – 2017 edited by Sandra Glahn

Finding God in the Margins: The Book of Ruth – 2018 Carolyn Custis James

Structure of Assignments

Pre-course Primer: A brief assignment to prepare you for the upcoming lecture

Read & respond: A lengthier assignment, usually written, based on the reading and lecture

Reflection and/or prayer: A personal reflection &/or prayer based on the course content

Field study/practical application: Putting the course content into action