



DVST 404

Educational Travel Study

Semester: Winter, 2015

Days: n/a

Room: Guinea, W. Africa

Lab – day: n/a

Lab–Room: n/a

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:

30 credits

Instructor: Dr. Miriam Charter

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Office By appointment

hours:

Course Description:

This educational travel study course offers a cross-cultural, experience-based learning opportunity for students and development workers to see first-hand how international development impacts individuals and communities in various regions around the world.

Further Course Information:

The focus of this course, which is specific to Guinea, West Africa, will consider how an issue critical to the establishing of communities of faith is impacted by the context of international development.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. To develop observation skills and a basic facility in doing ethnographic/ qualitative research in a cross-cultural context among expatriate mission workers and national workers.
2. To collect information (data) on an issue critical to the cultural context, a topic agreed upon by student and professor, appropriate to the field of international development and to the overarching topic chosen for the research focus of the course.
3. To build a bibliography on the topic from a combination of library research and ethnographic research in the field

Important Dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2015

Registration revision period: January 18, 2015

Last day to request revised examination: March 2, 2015

Last day to withdraw from course: March 20, 2015

Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: March 30, 2015

Last day of classes: April 10, 2015

Final Exam: n/a

Time: n/a

Room: n/a

Requirements:

Course grading and evaluation will be conducted on the basis of the following elements:

1. **20% -- Qualitative/Ethnographic Research:**
 - a. Reading of one or more good texts on Qualitative/Ethnographic Research
 - b. Identification of critical issues/questions being discussed in the context
 - i. by **mission workers** who are church planting in Muslim contexts
 - ii. by **national church leaders** involved in church planting among Muslims
2. **15% -- Building of a Bibliography:** Building of a bibliography on a specific question being discussed by church planters, both expatriate and national, upon which it is determined that the research will focus. This bibliography should be as extensive as the context permits with the added input of research once the student has returned to Canada and has access to Library and journals.
3. **25% -- Required Reading** – 500 pages on the chosen critical issue which emerges from the research.
4. **40% -- Research Paper** – A research paper, appropriate to the field of international development on one of the major critical questions/issues being discussed by those seeking to establish communities of faith that are contextually appropriate and sustainable in developing contexts that are predominantly Muslim. This paper should be minimally 20 pages (excluding bibliography).

Submission of Assignments:

All hand-in assignments must include the student's name, ID number and contact email address and are submitted by email to the instructor, unless other arrangements are made.

Evaluation:

Please provide the weighting of the composite grade.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<i>% Grade</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>
95% to 100%	A+	
90% to 94%	A	Excellent
85% to 89%	A-	
80% to 84%	B+	
76% to 79%	B	Good
72% to 75%	B-	
68% to 71%	C+	
64% to 67%	C	Satisfactory
60% to 63%	C-	
55% to 59%	D+	

50% to 54%	D	Minimal Pass
0% to 49%	F	Failure

To pass the course, students must achieve an overall grade of at least 50%. Failure to submit an assignment on the assigned date without legitimate reason (i.e. evidenced illness) or prior approval of the instructor will result in a 0 grade on that assignment.

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

Textbooks:

1. In collaboration with the Instructor, access one good resource on QUALITATIVE RESEARCH through the *ebrary* resources on the Ambrose Library website. If the internet is readily available, browse through several of these resources until you have a rudimentary understanding of Qualitative Research. Two that are recommended are:
 - a. *Understanding Qualitative Research and Ethnomethodology*, by Paul ten Have
 - b. *Doing Qualitative Research: Circles within Circles*, by Margot Ely
2. Books on the critical issue upon which instructor and student have agreed, books recommended by both nationals and mission workers in the context.

Required equipment:

For this course you will need a small reliable hand-held tape recorder and a laptop

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “**Course Extension**” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control”.

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.