



<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Winter 2022</b>
SC 645	The Craft & Discipline of Spiritual Writing	<b>Prerequisite: None</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	Feb 22-26	<b>Instructor:</b>	Mark Buchanan. BFA (UBC), MCS (Regent)	<b>First day of classes:</b>	Mon, Jan. 10
<b>Time:</b>	9:00-3:30	<b>Email:</b>	mbuchanan@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	Sun, Jan. 23
<b>Room:</b>	L2100	<b>Phone:</b>	403-410-2000, 7907	<b>Last day to request revised exam:</b>	Mon, Mar. 7
<b>Lab/</b>	In-class & online	<b>Office:</b>	L2071	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	Fri, Mar. 18
<b>Tutorial:</b>		<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	Mon, Mar. 28
<b>Final Exam:</b>	None			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	Thurs, Apr. 14

## Course Description

An exploration and practice of various forms of spiritual writing, drawing on biblical genres as well as historical and contemporary examples to deepen and sharpen students' writing skills. The focus will be on the aims, strategies and craft of good writing, especially as it relates to spiritual themes.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

By fully participating in this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Define spiritual writing and understand its forms, aims and strategies
2. Analyze, understand, and practice a variety of forms, aims and strategies of spiritual writing – i.e., prophetic writing, poetry, narrative, polemic, etc.
3. Learn and exercise the art of lovingly critiquing another's work and humbly receiving another's critique of their own work
3. Hone their writing craft to express spiritual themes clearly and evocatively
4. Appreciate how writing of this kind shapes and deepens their own relationship with God

## Required Textbooks

- Andrew T. Le Peau, *Write Better: A Lifelong Editor on Craft, Art, and Spirituality*
- Leland Ryken, *The Christian Imagination: The Practice of Faith in Literature and Writing*
- Vinita Hampton Wright, *The Art of Spiritual Writing*
- Various other readings will be assigned throughout the course

## Recommended Texts

- Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life*
- Benjamin Dreyer, *Dreyer's English*
- Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style*

## Course Schedule

<b>Tuesday, Feb 22</b>	The Craft & Discipline of Good Writing
<b>Wednesday, Feb 23</b>	What is <i>Spiritual</i> Writing?
<b>Thursday, Feb 24</b>	The Poetic & the Prosaic
<b>Friday, Feb 25</b>	The Evocative & the Emotive
<b>Saturday, Feb 26</b>	The Prophetic & the Apocalyptic

## Requirements

### Assignment 1 – Due Wednesday, March 9, 5 pm; Worth 20%

Read all of **Part One** of the Ryken's *The Christian Imagination* and write your own 1200-word Philosophy of Christian Literature (also known as a Christian Poetics).

### Assignment 2 – Due Wednesday, April 6, 5 pm; Worth 35%

- a. Choose three genres (poetry, fiction, non-fiction, etc.) and, within each, perhaps identify a sub-genre (prophetic, polemic, memoir, parabolic, etc.) and write one well-crafted piece in each. Each work must demonstrate a grasp of the aims, strategies and techniques of that specific genre and sub-genre as well as show signs of the writing craft explored through the course. Poetry can be of any length. Other writings must each be a minimum of 1000 words each and a maximum of 1500 words each, to a total of between 3000 and 4500 words.

Or

- b. Begin a book in any genre. The work must demonstrate a grasp of the aims, strategies and techniques of that specific genre (and sub-genre, if chosen) as well as show signs of the writing craft explored through the course. With poetry, submit 10-12 poems. With prose, submit all or excerpts from two to four chapters. Total to not exceed 5500 words.

### Assignment 3 – Due Wednesday, April 13, 5 pm; Worth 20%

Complete all required and assigned readings plus any supplemental readings to total 1000 pages; provide the instructor with a single paragraph (between 25-150 words) on each work or section of work (for instance, in the Ryken book, which is divided in 10 parts, you could provide a 25-word summary of each of the parts you read).

## Attendance & Participation – Throughout; Worth 25%

This includes each student reading portions of their writing out loud in class as well as completing all on-line and in-class assignments. Each student will also be required, through online forums, to share some of their own writing and to respond to other students' writings.

## Evaluation

Assignment 1 (due Mar 9, 5 pm)	20%
Assignment 2, a or b (due Apr 6, 5 pm)	35%
Assignment 3 (due Apr 13, 5 pm)	20%
Attendance & Participation (throughout)	25%

## Grade Summary

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

### Percentage to Letter Grade Conversion

- 93-100 = A+
- 89-92 = A
- 85-88 = A-
- 78-84 = B+
- 74-77 = B
- 70-73 = B-
- 66-69 = C+
- 62-65 = C
- 58-61 = C-
- 54-57 = D+
- 50-53 = D
- 0-49 = F

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

## Assignment Formatting, Submission & Late Policies

### Submission Policy

Please submit all assignments (unless others arranged with instructor) through **Moodle** in **Word** format on or before the due date.

### Format Policy

All papers must:

- Be double-spaced (except for reading reports, which can use 1.5 spacing).
- Use *Times New Roman*, *Arial* or *Garamond* 12-point font.
- Be numbered.
- Cite sources properly. **NOTE:** The student can use his/her preferred style (Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, etc.), but must remain consistent throughout the entire paper.
- Use inclusive language. The student is encouraged to avoid the consistent use of masculine terminology in reference to people in the general sense. For example, prefer using the terms "humanity" or "people" or "humankind" over the terms "man" or "mankind" when referring to the human race.
- Include a title page.
- Be in Word format (No Pdfs)

### Late Policy

Due dates are valuable for several reasons. Here are three: 1) They allow me, the instructor, to adequately schedule my time to grade and return your work in a timely and thoughtful manner; 2) They mimic reality. Most of your life involves hard deadlines - mortgage payments, project assignments, work schedules. This is like that; 3) They create a level playing field. It's simply unfair to your classmates if they submit their work on time and you receive an extension without penalty. **Therefore**, only under extraordinary circumstances (i.e., a life or family crisis, a severe and prolonged illness, etc.; poor time management does not count as a life crisis) will I grant an extension. **All requests for extension must be submitted to me in writing on or before the assignment's due date.** Otherwise, any submissions received later than midnight on the due date will be deemed late and penalized at a 5% deduction per day. Any submission later than a week past the due date, unless negotiated with me (and on final assignments with the Registrar), will automatically receive an F.

**PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY**

### Bibliography

- Barfield, Owen. *History in English Words*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Poetic Diction: A Study in Meaning*.
- Bryson, Bill. *The Mother Tongue: English & How It Got That Way*.
- Buechner, Frederick. *Speak What We Feel (Not What We Ought to Say): Reflections on Literature & Faith*.
- Burgess, Anthony. *Language Maid(e) Pla(i)ne-*
- Brueggemann, W. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*.
- Coles, Robert. *The Call of Stories: Teaching & the Moral Imagination*.

- Collins, Billy, ed. *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry.*
- Cron, Lisa. *Story Genius: How to Use Brain Science to God Beyond Outlining and Write a Riveting Novel.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook the Reader from the Very First Sentence.*
- Darnton, John, ed. *Writers on Writing: Collected Essays.*
- Dillard, Annie. *Living by Fiction.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Writing Life.*
- Dreyer, Benjamin. *Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style.*
- Forster, E.M. *Aspects of the Novel.*
- Frye, Northrop. *The Educated Imagination.*
- Gardner, John. *On Becoming a Novelist.*
- Gibson, R.H., et al. *Charitable Writing: Cultivating Virtue Through Our Words*
- Goldberg, Natalie. *The True Secret of Writing: Connecting Life with Language.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within.*
- Johnson, Paul. *Creators: From Chaucer & Durer to Picasso & Disney.*
- Keillor, Garrison, ed. *Good Poems.*
- \_\_\_\_\_, ed. *Good Poems for Hard Times.*
- King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft.*
- Kundera, Milan. *The Art of the Novel.*
- Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing & Life.*
- L'Engle, Madeleine. *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith & Art.*
- Le Peau, Andrew T. *Write Better: A Lifelong Editor on Craft, Art, and Spirituality.*
- Mass, Donald. *The Breakthrough Novel: Insider Advise for Talking Your Fiction to the Next Level.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Write the Story Beneath the Surface.*
- O'Connor, Flannery. *Mystery & Manners: Occasional Prose.*
- Oliver, Mary. *A Poetry Handbook: A Prose Guide to Understanding & Writing Poetry.*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Rules of the Dance: A Handbook for Reading & Writing Metrical Verse.*
- Pinker, Steven. *A Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets...*
- Ryken, Leland. *The Christian Imagination: The Practice of Faith in Literature and Writing.*
- Santayana, George. *A Sense of Beauty: Being the Outlines of Aesthetic Theory.*

- Stiller, Karen. *Craft, Cost & Call: How to Build a Life as a Christian Writer.*
- Strunk & White. *The Elements of Style.*
- Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation.*
- Ueland, Brenda. *If You Want to Write: A Book About Art, Independence & Spirit.*
- Wright, Vinita H. *The Art of Spiritual Writing: How to Craft Prose that Engages and Inspires Your Readers.*
- Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: An Informal Guide to Writing Non-fiction.*

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

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, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may 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 or record. 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" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their 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.

### Exam Scheduling

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) the student has 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 use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. 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. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in 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 (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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](mailto: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 Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal 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. 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 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 acknowledge 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. 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.

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