



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

FACULTY OF  
THEOLOGY

**WM 511 *Cultural Anthropology* (3)**

**Fall 2007**

**Instructor: Emma Karin Emgård**

**Contacting the Instructor**

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**Thursdays 8:15 – 11:00**

**Course Description**

In today's world it is almost impossible to have a relationship with anyone without crossing some cultural barrier. Therefore, cultural awareness is essential for everyone interested in ministry, regardless of location.

This course is an introductory study of cultural anthropology including the concept of culture, language, status and role, marriage and the family, kinship, legal systems, social groups, etc. Students will also learn how to do participant-observation, which is the research method particular to anthropology.

The format of the course will be lectures, group projects and individual research in different areas of Calgary, and we will see a few of movies.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to define, understand, and apply key cultural concepts and models to his or her own context in order to exegete culture critically.

**Required Texts**

Miller, Barbara D., Penny Van Esterik, and John Van Esterik. *Cultural Anthropology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian ed. Toronto: Pearson, 2007.

Kraft, Charles H. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Orbis Books, 2002.

Cornes, Alan. *Culture from the Inside Out—Travel and Meet Yourself*. Yarmouth, ME, Intercultural Press, 2004.

A few chapters in the following books available on reserve in the library.

Hiebert, Paul, G. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Baker Books, 1994.

## TENTATIVE Course Schedule (might change depending on guest speakers)

Date	Topic	Reading Miller & Van Esterik
September 6	What is Anthropology? Cultural Factors	Ch 1,
13	Economic Organization	Ch 3-4
20	<b>No class</b>	
27	Kinship Organization	Ch 8
October 4	Social and Political Organization	Ch 9-11
11	Ethnography	Ch 2
18	<b>Midterm</b> / Life cycle	Ch 5-6
25	Ideological Organization	Ch 7, 12
November 1	Communication I	Ch 13
8	Communication II	
15	Shame and Guilt	
22	Migration, Change	
29	Prep for finals	Ch 14
December 6	TBA	

### Course Requirements

All written reports must be submitted via the drop box before midnight. You must clearly mark the submissions: use the title used in this syllabus and include your name in the title. So the title of your submission might be "1<sup>st</sup> progress report. Joe Smith". **Failure to do this leads to 5% overall grade deduction each time.** Remember to keep the assignment on your computer at least until you receive the grade for the assignment. Please be aware that one minute past midnight means that the assignment is one day late and will receive a late penalty.

#### 1 Exams

##### ➤ Midterm

- ◆ The midterm will cover everything we have dealt with in class and text books up to the point of the exam.

##### ➤ Take Home Exam

- ◆ This exam will cover all the main parts of the course, not just what we have dealt with in class since the mid term. The final exam will cover the text book and lectures.

#### 2 Book Reviews

- You will read 1600 pages including the text books. For additional books, you will choose an area of the world that interests you or a specific ministry and email a suggestion of books and articles for approval. You do not

necessarily need to read a whole book, but you can choose a few chapters in a few books. You must include at least one article from *Missiology* and at least two from *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*.

- Kraft's book. For each chapter you will write an informative summary sentence that explains the key thought in the chapter and one sentence where you formulate a question that the chapter prompted in you, but did not answer.
- For each additional book/article you will submit a 20-250 word review. If you have two articles dealing with the same subject you can do one review for the two of them. Use the format suggested on this webpage.  
[http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/book\\_reviews.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/book_reviews.shtml)

### 3 Ethnography

- A written report from you participant observation. You will write an ethnography about a topic of your own choosing. We will spend time in class discussing how to do both the participant observation and the write-up.
- You will start with doing two short assignments: "Ethnography—obvious" & "Ethnography—map" more explanation in class. For the final ethnography you will have done a total of at least 10 hours observation, and at least twenty hours of analysis. Please note that time for transportation is not included in the time allotment.
- You will read two ethnographies from the library reserve shelf. While you will not be graded on this reading, it will help you with both participant observation and writing the ethnography.
- You will include an appendix detailing how you spent your time.
- You will include a Title Page (sample at the end of this syllabus)
- **Grading**
  - ◆ You will be graded on the quality of your observations, analysis and flow of the paper.
  - ◆ You will use the MLA writing manual and you will be graded on format, English and quality of data analysis. Therefore, make sure you have your paper edited.
  - ◆ I will grade the ethnography on the basis of what I estimate an average student will be able to produce after thirty effective hours of work.

### Course Grade

Note that you must complete **ALL** assignments in order to get a passing grade in the course.

Activity	Percentage of grade	Due Dates
Midterm Exam	15	October 25
Final Exam	30	TBA
"Ethnography—obvious"	1	October 10
"Ethnography—map"	1	October 13
Ethnography	23	December 6
Book Reviews	30	December 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Grading:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	
A+		95%
A	Excellent	90-94%
A-		85-90%
B+		80-84%
B	Good	76-79%
B-		72-75 %
C+		68-71%
C	Satisfactory	64-67%
C-		60-63%
D+		56-59%
D	Minimal Pass	50-55%
F	Failure	below 50

## Important Notes

- ◆ It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to Ambrose Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current Catalogue.
- ◆ Late policy:  
Any assignment that is not emailed on time will receive a penalty, 10% for the first day and then 3% for each of the following 10 days (including holidays). After that the paper will receive 0 points, unless otherwise stated in the syllabi. (This penalty relates to any assignment.)

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and 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.ca](mailto:privacy@ambrose.ca).

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." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. 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 and the Student Handbook 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.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.