



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF  
THEOLOGY

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

**Winter 2012 (W/F 4:00-5:15)**

**Instructor: Dr. Ron Brown ([ronbrown@ambrose.edu](mailto:ronbrown@ambrose.edu))**

Office: 333 – 30 Springborough Blvd. SW /Calgary

#### **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.

#### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop an appreciation for the cultural commonalities and diversities of others and ourselves.
2. Examine and assess the basic concepts and findings of cultural anthropology.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge and appreciation of man's cultural diversity.
4. Relate anthropological insights to the problem of interacting with people of differing cultural backgrounds both at home and abroad.
5. Acquire a basic understanding of cultural anthropology and its relationship to Christian mission.

#### **Required Text**

Howell, Brian H. and Jenell Williams Paris. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

#### **Recommended Texts (\*highly recommended)**

- \*Hiebert, Paul. *The Gospel in Human Contexts: Anthropological Explorations for Contemporary Missions*. **Grand Rapids:** Baker Books, 2009.
- \*Hiebert, Paul. *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of how People Change*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008
- Hiebert Paul. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

- Hiebert, Paul, R. Daniel Shaw and Tite Tienou. *Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1985.
- Miller, Barbara, Penny Van Esterik and John Van Esterik. *Cultural Anthropology*. Toronto: Toronto: Pearson, 2010.
- \*Muller, Roland. *The Messenger, The Message, The Community*. CanBooks, 2006.
- \*Spradley, James and David McDurdy. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Toronto: Pearson, 2012.
- Winter Ralph and Steve Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Reader* (articles on cultural issues). Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2009.

### Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
January 11	Introduction	
January 13	What is Anthropology?	Ch. 1
January 18	The Concept of Culture	Ch. 2
January 20		
January 25	Language	Ch. 3
January 27		
February 1	Social Structure – race, ethnicity, class	Ch. 4
February 3		
February 8	Gender and Sexuality	Ch. 5
February 10		
February 15	Production and Exchange	Ch. 6
February 17	MIDTERM	
February 22&24	Mid semester break	
February 29	Authority and Power	Ch. 7
March 2		
March 7	Global Impact day	
March 9	Kinship and Marriage	Ch. 8
March 14		
March 16	Religion and Ritual	Ch. 9
March 21		
March 23	Globalization and Culture Change	Ch. 10
March 28		
March 30	Theory in Cultural Anthropology	Ch. 11
April 4		
April 6	Good Friday	
April 11	Anthropology in Action	Ch. 12
April 18	Final Exam	
NB	Adjustments in scheduling topics may be made as needed	



## Course Requirements

### 1 Cross-cultural worship (10%)

Attend two worship services different than your own and write up a reaction paper with reflections on how it felt to be the minority in the group; how you were or were not able to enter into the worship; what was the most meaningful part of the service for you; were there things in that service that you would enjoy in your own worship service; what were the barriers to you worshipping and other observations. In your report be sure to specify the exact date, time and location of the two services you visited. **Due: February 29, 2012**

### 2 Ethnography (10%)

Ethnographic Project: Working with a partner or in groups of three, students will conduct original ethnographic research by doing participant observation. This will be presented orally in class. There will be no written portion of the assignment, other than a single page reflection on the process. Details will be given in class. **Due: February 17, 2012**

### 3 Case study processing (20%)

Read four case studies and write a one page reflection/solution for each. **Due: March 30, 2012**

### 4 Reading (20%)

From the list of recommends read 500 pages (not counting the class text) and submit a one page review of each book, article or individual chapter/section if just reading part of a book. **Due: March 16, 2012**

### 5 Exams (40%)

**Midterm** The midterm will cover everything we have dealt with in class, including the weekly assignments, and text book up to the point of the exam. **February 17, 2012**

**Final Exam** The final 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 full semester. **April 18, 2012**

## Important Notes

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 3 days (including holidays).

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.

