



WM 613 – 1

Third Millennium Trends and Issues in Missions

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
PST 161

Semester: Fall 2014
Days: Wednesdays; 8:15-11:00 am
Room: A2212
Lab – day: None
Lab–Room: None

Instructor: Ben Elliott
Email: belliot@ambrose.edu
Phone: 403-410-3993
Office: L2109
Office By appointment
hours:

Course Description:

“This seminar-oriented course is designed to interact on current theological, anthropological, historical and methodological themes that have a bearing on contemporary missions. The course combines individual research, faculty-student dialogue, and an integration of subject material from various course offerings. The diversity of understanding of the church’s worldwide mission as expounded in various traditions will be explored.” (from the Academic Calendar)

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following:

1. An experience of, and practice the life skills related to being, a cultural outsider.
2. Some basic about the cultural background of religious life in Indonesia.
3. Exposure to and critical discussion of issues surrounding Christian mission and religious conversion in the current global cultural milieu.

Important Dates:

First day of classes: September 3, 2014
Registration revision period: September 14, 2014
Last day to request revised examination: October 27, 2014
Last day to withdraw from course: November 12, 2014
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: November 24, 2014
Last day of classes: December 9, 2014

Final Exam: December 15, 2014
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room: A2212

Course Outline:

3 September – Course introduction and syllabus

10 September – Who is my neighbour?

17 September – Indonesia #1: Living locally in Jakarta; In what way is Jakarta still my neighbourhood?

24 September – **No Class** (Spiritual Emphasis Days)

1 October – What are our resources for learning within a new culture?

8 October – Indonesia #2: The cultural context of Indonesia

15 October – What does it look like to live ‘missionally’ within a new culture?

22 October – Excursus: Missions as martyrdom

29 October – Indonesia #3: Boniface, the Sacred Oak, and living as a foreign Christian in Indonesia

Sub-chapter on Boniface (*Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 47-51) due

5 November – Indonesia #4: Discussion of Geertz (and Toer); the cultural history of Indonesia

Geertz and Toer assignment: learning from cultural history, due

12 November – Indonesia #5: What can Evangelicals learn from Islamic philosophy?

19 November – Presentations

‘Not My Language’ Project and Presentations due

26 November – Presentations

3 December – Conversion: Obstacles, strategies, application; Course Summary

15 December, 9:00-12:00 – Final exam

Requirements:

Purchase a small notebook

Reading, attendance, and in class participation; including *Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* notebook – 20%

Students are expected to be present and to participate in all class sessions, and to complete 100% of the assigned readings for the course.

Each week, every student will read three sub-chapters from *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, and make a few short notes in their notebook. Students will be selected by lot, each week, to share from their notes the fruit of their reading with the class, that is, one of the missionaries they read about, a very brief summary of their life and ministry, and one insight which the student gleaned from the former’s experiences.

Please read the chapter on Boniface (pp 47-51) in preparation for our class discussion on 29 October.

Geertz and Toer assignment: learning from cultural history – 20%

Each student will read *Islam Observed* by Clifford Geertz and *This Earth of Mankind* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, and prepare a four to five page typed discussion of their reading. Please, no summaries or plagiarism. Instead, the student should address themselves to these three questions: What could I learn (or extrapolate) about the contemporary culture of Indonesia by reading about its background? How do I think that it would feel to live in that culture as an outsider? How would the cultural history of Indonesia affect the way that I ‘lived missionally’ in that context. It is expected that this short paper will be of very high quality.

Due 5 November, prior to class discussion.

‘Not My Language’ Project and Presentation

Each student is required to join a new club, or begin a new hobby—one with which they have no previous experience—and participate in it for the duration of the semester. Students may select any hobby or club, so long as it contains a strong social element (knitting is out; joining the community knitting club is great).

Students are expected to participate (wholeheartedly) in their new hobby a minimum of four hours every week, and to record the times of their participation as well as their experiences—and their own feelings and insights about their new hobby or club—in their notebook. Each week, some students will be chosen by lot to share an excerpt of their experiences and reflections with the class.

At the end of the semester, each student will prepare a ‘trifold’ and a 10 to 15 minute presentation based on their experiences and upon their informed reflections about them, addressing these three questions: What did I learn about my new hobby or club (language, culture, interesting tidbits, etc)? How did it feel to be a part of this community in particular, and to be an outsider in general? How would I live if God made this community my own neighbourhood, and how has my experience shaped my understanding of ‘living missionally’ in general?

Due 19/26 November

Final exam: 20%

15 December, 9:00-12:00

Submission of Assignments:

All assignments are to be completed on time. It is not acceptable to be unprepared for class or to complete assignments late. If have a serious concern about any particular assignment, please contact the instructor ahead of time via email and a good solution can be worked out.

Attendance:

It is expected that students will be present and on time for all classes. If the student is going to absent for any reason, please send an email ahead of time to the instructor at the address above.

Evaluation:

Reading, attendance, and in class participation; including *Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* notebook – 20%

Geertz and Toer assignment: learning from cultural history – 20%

‘Not My Language’ Project and Presentation – 40%

Final exam – 20%

Grade Summary:

<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

Textbooks:

Clifford Geertz. *Islam Observed: Religious Development in Morocco and Indonesia*. University of Chicago, 1968.

Ruth A. Tucker. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Second ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer. *This Earth of Mankind*. New York: Penguin, 1996.

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.

No recording of class lectures is permitted without the prior permission of the instructor.

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.