



A M B R O S E
S E M I N A R Y

WM 641- Introduction to Urban Ministry and Mission

Winter 2011

Course Description

Today about half of the world's population lives in cities. Yet, many Christians fear and avoid the big city. This course aims to help the student understand God's heart for our increasingly urbanized world. This aim will be reached through lectures, literature, and class discussion as well as through observation and involvement with different ministries in the city of Calgary. The student will learn how to evaluate existing ministry models and strategies for reaching our cities with the Good News.

This is a structured seminar so class participation is extremely important.

Class schedule

Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 pm
Classroom 2212

Instructor information

Dr. Richard P. Gilbertson
rgilbertson@ambrose.edu

Office: # L2049

Moodle Site: <http://moodle.ambrose.edu/course/view.php?id=39>

Course Objectives

Students will be inspired and expected to:

Strategic:

- Build and synthesize course content into an intentional strategy for ministry in the City.

Cognitive:

- Gain basic knowledge in urban and city life (socio-political, communal-festival, civil-environmental and religio-spiritual)
- Articulate the biblical and theological framework for urban ministry.
- Define and describe the holistic nature of evangelism in relation to salvation, mercy, compassion and justice.
- Investigate and evaluate various intersecting and overlapping urban church planting/ministry methodologies.

Affective:

- Be challenged to a deeper level of love for people in the City.
- Be moved to integrate her/his calling to ministry with an *intentional* vision for the City.
- Confront attitudes, ideas and values that need to be aligned with biblical teaching in order to maximize personal and urban impact.
- Be impassioned afresh with the Great Commission.

Behavioral:

- Develop the skills to exegete a neighborhood to understand its challenges and opportunities for kingdom movement and growth.
- Assess your giftedness and calling in light of God’s call to evangelize and minister to urban populations.
- The students’ in-class discussion and out-of-class projects will reflect excellent familiarity with the assigned readings and ancillary research material.
- Students will be able to defend and qualify personal opinions.

Required Text + Reading

- Conn, Harvie M. *The Urban Face of Mission: Ministering the Gospel in a Diverse and Changing World*. Phillipsburg, 2002.
- Required reading texts- 2 hr reserve in library (see appendix 1)
- E doc- download via moodle (see appendix 1)

Course outline: See appendix 1 for course outline, dates, and required reading

Course Requirements:*

(For each requirement, the student has the focus to shape the content according to the area or track of their particular passion/interest: ie. Youth, Global, compassion, etc. Please include in your responses the area of particular interest that you have.)

1. REQUIRED READING + CLASS DISCUSSION:

This course will be conducted as a structured seminar. Readings focused on a specific area will be discussed according to the reading schedule provided (see Appendix 1). Each student is expected to be prepared for and participate in every class session.

Seminar format for structured discussion in class: For each reading source, we will apply this 3 part model:

SUMMARY OF READING-

- What does the material say?

REFLECTION-

- What insights does this material provide regarding serving in an urban context?
- What questions or problems do you have in response to what is being said?

PRACTICE

- How do you live this out in your love for Jesus and your service for Him in an urban context?

In addition, each student is expected to complete a 2 page response, bullet format, before each class based on the required reading for that week.

- For each source reading, succinctly respond to the Summary, Reflection, Praxis questions. So, for example, on Jan.19 there are 5 source readings. Respond to each source, writing a bullet point for each of the 3 areas/parts.
- View this 1 page as the basis for your contributions in class as well as study notes for the final exam.
- **Print a hard copy and hand it in to the instructor at the conclusion of the class.**

2. *URBAN MINISTRY PRACTICUM*

Volunteer at an inner-city ministry of your choice (Mustard Seed, Inn from the Cold, Neighbour link, Pregnancy crisis centre, new immigrant services/ESL, inner city youth, etc). You will need to volunteer 10 hours. The activity and ministry qualifies as receiving credit if the following are met: (1) it is an area that links to possible future ministry you are interested in (2) it is in an urban/inner city environment (not suburbs).

Upon completing the lab write a **four page** paper reflecting on what you learned and how it relates to the content of this course. **Due date: MARCH 9, class time**

3. *URBAN RESEARCH PROJECT- "MOVING INTO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD"* **15 page paper along with presentation in class.**

Initial idea to be presented in class Feb. 9, 2 minute overview.

Conduct an intensive research project focusing on a specific neighborhood (5 block radius) **and** map out a strategy for reaching out to this community and a plan to implement the strategy. It is important that the student think in terms of holistic ministry. Be sure to link your strategy to an existing church or the formation of a church/faith community in the neighbourhood. Also, key aspects of the course material should be used to guide the content and format of your paper.

Ideally this "neighbourhood" would be located in Calgary. However, permission may be obtained from the instructor to research another city in Canada or globally.

"How to exegete a city" will be a methodology discussed and learnt in class.

Your research project will have three parts:

PART 1- 4 PAGES (no more than 4 pages)

- Demographic studies, graphs and charts. Ethnicities, median age, marital status, transportation status, education status.
- Ethnographic studies, including but not limited to the following questions:
 - What do they celebrate?

- What do they do in their leisure time?
- What do they worry or fret over most?
- What do they do on Sunday Mornings? Saturday Mornings?
- Favorite Foods?
- Arts?
- Why do they live here? What would be the one thing that would drive them out of the City?
- From the architecture and advertisement what is the City speaking and saying?
- What events draw the biggest crowds?
- Who are the most marginalized and underprivileged within that demographic?
- Where do people derive most of their income from?
- Some statistics or surveys on the prevailing human dilemma in the area. E.g., violent crime (gangs), what is the drug of choice, number of homeless people and ages, sex-slave statistics/sexual preferences, socio-economic stats.
- Some statistics on what the population under consideration sees as the biggest need for the community, for themselves individually, for their city.
- A list of the various non-profits already at work in the area and what they are doing to meet the needs of the neighborhood.
- Interview 2-3 people serving in ministry in this sector as primary source references.

PART 2- 11 PAGES (no less than 11 pages)

The second part of the project will discuss your strategy of holistic outreach to this community. Include at least 4 references to strategies others have used in similar circumstances, the pros and cons from your perspective of each one, and how you would implement aspects of each into your own strategy. If you desire, you may wish to focus on a specific area of ministry you are interested in (ie. Youth, outreach to homeless). However, you must link what you do to the broader strategy for the community.

PART 3- PRESENTATION IN CLASS

Each student will have 20 minutes to present PART 2 of their research project. The goal is to share as a community the application of the content of the course to real life situations and share resources. Creativity and clarity are keys to the class presentation. A 10 minute question and response period will follow the presentation.

DUE DATE APRIL 6TH

4. *FINAL EXAM*

The exam will test your understanding of the key themes of the course. As part of the last class session these themes will be discussed and exam questions will be developed.

The final exam will be held Tuesday, April 26th at 9:00 am in A2141. Please check the final exam schedule to verify that no changes have been made by the Registrar's office.

Grade Distribution

Reading and Seminar participation	25
Urban Ministry Practicum	15
Research Project + class presentation	35
Exam	25
	100

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point	Description
A+	90+	4.0	Excellent: superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A	85-90	4.0	
A-	80-85	3.7	
B+	77-79	3.3	Good: clearly above-average performance with knowledge of subject matter complete.
B	74-76	3.0	
B-	70-73	2.7	
C+	67-69	2.3	Satisfactory: basic understanding of subject matter.
C	64-66	2.0	
C-	60-63	1.7	
D+	56-59	1.3	Poor: marginal performance.
D	50-55	1.0	Minimal pass.
F	49 -	0	Failure: unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Important Notes:

Attendance policy: The instructor expects that the student will be present in every class. Due to the nature of the course (seminar), the participation of each student is extremely important. After one absence, the student's grade will be reduced by 5% for each additional absence.

Late policy: Any written assignment that is not submitted on time will receive a penalty of 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.) Thus, **papers received past midnight of due date are considered one day late.**

Important Ambrose policies

Important dates: The Academic Calendar states the latest date for payment and for entering/withdrawing from a course without penalties.

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as 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.edu.

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 appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). 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.

Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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.

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 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 Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements 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 and become part of the student's permanent record.