

# NT 645 – 1

## Special Topics in the New Testament: The Food Course

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:  
none

Semester: Winter 2015  
Days: distance education  
Room: none  
Lab – day: none  
Lab–Room: none

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Office By appointment hours:

### Course Description:

A course in New Testament on a topic of current interest or specialized study.

### Further Course Information:

Food, our daily bread: calories that sustain us, but also connections to the earth which produces it, to other people with whom we eat, and to God who created and sustains all. The current public interest in food production, distribution and preparation is an opportunity to reflect theologically on all these connections. What does it mean to eat in a holy way? How do we read scripture as faithful eaters? This course will explore “hospitality” in the Gospel of Luke as a biblical concept that encourages theological reflection on these questions.

### Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

1. identify how godliness is manifested in the ways we eat, considering how those habits contribute to our identity in Christ as individuals and communities of faith;
2. interpret biblical texts faithfully and relevantly;
3. reflect theologically on the complex topic of hospitality as it is part of our witness to the new life in Christ in our everyday experience;
4. communicate effectively and relevantly.

### Important Dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2015  
Registration revision period: January 18, 2015  
Last day to request revised examination: n/a  
Last day to withdraw from course: March 20, 2015  
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: March 30, 2015  
Last day of classes: n/a

**Final Exam: No final**

**Time:**

**Room:**

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## Requirements:

A. Two book reviews, each review should be about 6 pages; use published reviews, as available on ATLA database. A book review gives a summary of the argument of the book and then some evaluative comments about the quality of the argument.

1. Pohl, Christine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Reviews on ATLA database:

Wilmer Estrada-Carrasquillo. In *Journal of Latin American Theology*, 8 (2013): 109-114.

Marguerite Van Die. *Touchstone*, 18 (2000): 59-60.

Due: March 9 2015

2. Book of the student's choice.

Due: April 6, 2015

B. Term assignments: do a close reading of four texts from the Gospel of Luke that matter for considerations of hospitality; in the close reading, consider both the context and the content of the passage in Luke. Consider parallel passages where they exist; use at least one commentary to help. The written assignment presents organized observations about the text in Luke (2-3 pages), like a commentary on the text.

1. Hospitable woman (Lk.7:36-50; compare Mt.26:6-13 and Mk 14:3-9)

Due: February 23, 2015

2. Jesus' teaching on hospitality and table fellowship (Lk.14:7-24; compare Mt.22:2-14)

Due: March 23, 2015

3. Jesus' last supper with his disciples (Lk.22:14-38; compare Mt.26:20-29 and Mk.14:17-25)

Due: April 20, 2015

4. Post-resurrection meal after the walk to Emmaus (Lk.24:13-35)

Due: May 4, 2015

Two good commentary choices are:

Green, Joel B. *The Gospel of Luke*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Nolland, John. *Luke*. Word Biblical Commentary, edited by D.A. Hubbard, G.W. Barker and R.P. Martin. Vols. 35a, 35b, 35c. Dallas: Word Books, 1989-1993.

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There will be periodical literature available on these texts in the ATLA database which might also be useful.

C. One synthetic paper on your understanding of hospitality. The reflections should include both the way God's act for us in Jesus Christ may be construed as an act of hospitality and how that calls us to respond hospitably (8-10 pages). You should make use of the material you have read during the term as well as other sources. The paper must take into account eating practices in the first century. This paper can be written in the first person, but should avoid excessive self-reference.

Due: June 1, 2015

### **Submission of Assignments:**

Assignments will all be submitted electronically as attachments to an e-mail.

### **Evaluation:**

Book Reviews: 2 @ 15%      30%

Term Assignments 4 @ 10%   40%

Final paper                      30%

### **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

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

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## **Textbooks:**

### Required Book:

Pohl, Christine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

### Recommended Books:

Wroblewski, Jessica. *The Limits of Hospitality*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press: Michael Glazier Book, 2012.

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. New York: Doubleday: Image Books, 1975.

Yong, Amos. *Hospitality and the Other: Pentecost, Christian Practices, and the Neighbor*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2008.

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## 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.

### 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](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 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.

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**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.

**Other**

*Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.*