



BHS 350

Shock Poverty

Semester: Fall, 2015
Days: Thursdays 6:30-9:30 PM
Room: TBA
Lab – day:
Lab–Room:

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
AAA 110

Instructor: Dr. John Rook
Email: jrook@ambrose.edu
Phone: 403-650-5752 Cell
Office:
Office By appointment
hours:

Course Description:

Shock Poverty is defined as instantaneous in its occurrence and devastating in its impact. Shock Poverty can be viewed through two lenses: the global and the personal. What leads to each? How do they impact each other? Poverty is a major theme in Christian Scripture and it is on that base that poverty in the modern world will be examined. In class, through readings and reflection. We will consider the impact of poverty in our world, we will address the question of poverty elimination and consider the root causes of poverty.

Further Course Information:

The class will tour a homeless shelter which will take more than the 1.5 hours of class time. We should be able to ride the C-train and meet in the homeless shelter lobby. Throughout the class we will have numerous guest speakers who both live in and work with poverty.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

1. To explore the implications of poverty, to understand poverty from personal, local, national and international perspectives,
2. To understand the current poverty practices in the context of casual versus symptomatic responses,

Important Dates:

First day of classes:

Registration revision period:

Last day to request revised examination:

Last day to withdraw from course:

Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:

Last day of classes:

No Final Exam

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3. To understand poverty as both a justice and an economic issue,
 4. To develop a strategy to deal with poverty as it confronts our everyday world, and
 5. To discover a Christian response to poverty.

Outline:

What is poverty?

A Biblical Background

International Poverty

Aboriginal Poverty

Social Services and their value

Basic Income and the Game of Monopoly

Student Presentations

Requirements:

Book Review: 25%

Project: 50%

Project Presentation: 25%

BOOK REVIEW – Due October 29

In a reflective critique, assess the impact of either the work of Payne or Bouma-Prediger. What questions arise for you as you read the book? Are there implications for Christian ministry? Is there a particular idea that strikes you? Why? Are there concerns or issues that you wish had been addressed? What are they? Can you suggest a solution to your concerns?

PROJECT – Due in the last class

Your project will be on a poverty issue that you would like to address. It may be presented as a traditional essay, or you may use alternative medium (movie, PowerPoint, art, etc). I will expect good, researched social scientific content and clarity of presentation. So that your project has a practical component, please address the following: “If Ambrose University were to take the lead on solving poverty in Canada, what would that look like?”

PRESENTATION – Due in last two weeks of class

Depending on how many we have in the class, students will present the results of their project to the class in the last 2 or 3 sessions. You will have 10 minutes each. Plan your presentation so that you don’t go overtime and allow for a question or two. After your presentation, you may choose to revise your Project as it is due on December 12.

*Failure to submit all assignments will result in an automatic failing grade

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments are to be submitted in class and if essay form, use double spacing, 2.54 cm margins on all sides, 12 point font and ASA formatting. Book reports can be around 10 pages and the project around 20.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Should you have a conflict on the day we travel to the homeless shelter, please see me ahead of time. We will make an alternate arrangement. Electronic devices are only permitted in the classroom with my permission.

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

Textbooks:

REQUIRED:

Anne Bradley & Art Lindsley, *For the Least of These: A Biblical Answer to Poverty*. WestBow Press, 2014

RECOMMENDED:

Bouma-Prediger, Steven and Walsh, Brian, *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*. William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2008

Payne, Ruby, de Vol Philip, Dreussi, Smith, Tere, *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Community*. Aha! Process Inc., 2007

Wilkinson Richard & Pickett, Kate, *The Spirit Level. Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*. Bloomsbury Press, NY., 2009

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.

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.

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.