



A M B R O S E

## **DVST 310 International Community Development (3 credit hours)**

**Winter 2012**

### **Class Schedules**

Time: Mondays, 6:30-9:30 pm

Location: Room: A2131

### **Instructor Information**

Instructors: Roland Vanderburg, MSc and Ary Vreeken, MSc

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Office: Room #2160

Office hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is designed as an introduction to community development theory and practice, both internationally and locally. Definitions, principles and approaches to community development will be discussed, with an emphasis on holistic transformation from a Christian perspective. This course will also review best practices and relevant issues in the field of community development, with a focus on real world experience, applications and impact. Case studies and participatory learning methods will be utilized. Topics to be covered in this course include the following:

- 1) The role of faith, mission and values
- 2) Diverse approaches to community development
- 3) Development in contrast to relief work
- 4) The key principles of community development
- 5) The community development process
- 6) Community profiling and needs assessments
- 7) Servant leadership
- 8) Best practices in literacy, health, environment, gender and business development
- 9) Appropriate technology
- 10) The demonstration effect
- 11) Adult education theory and practice
- 12) Participatory learning methods
- 13) Results based management and impact assessment

## **Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Understand the basic principles and definitions of community development
- Have an understanding of poverty and integral development
- Understand some of the key approaches utilized by development practitioners in the field.
- Critically evaluate the issues associated with development approaches, including values, faith, goals and impacts.
- Understand a variety of techniques for implementing community development, including asset analysis, needs assessment, and impact measurement
- Have a basic familiarity with best practices in the areas of health promotion, education, business development, environment and microfinance.
- Improve personal skills in research, analysis, writing and presentation

## **Required Text & Materials**

Textbooks:

Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practice of Transformational Development  
by Bryant Myers

Two Ears of Corn: A Guide to People-Centered Agricultural Improvement by  
Roland Bunch (Hesperian Foundation)

Supplementary Reading:

Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing  
a Community's Assets  
by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight

Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Friere, (Continuum)

Journal of the Community Development Society (Columbus, Ohio).

In addition, news articles, guest speakers, simulation exercises and audio visual presentations may also be used occasionally to supplement lectures and course materials.

## **Course Requirements**

Course grading and evaluation will be conducted according to the following elements:

Book Review	5%
Midterm exam	20%
Community Profile Report	10%

Draft Case Study Report	10%
Final Case Study Report and Presentation	20%
Class participation & contribution	15%
Final exam	20%

Examinations:

A mid-term examination will be held in class on March 12, and a final examination on April 14, encompassing all topics covered to that point in the course. Further details will be provided at a later date. The final exam will take place during the exam period as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Graded examinations will only be made available for supervised review, at the request of the student.

**Final exam date: 6:30-9:30pm on Sat, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

The last day to request a change in the exam schedule with the Registrar's Office is **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

Community Profile Report:

At the midpoint in the course, each student will submit a three page community profile which provides a description of the community chosen for the case study. The community selected may be one with which the student is familiar or can research, or it may be a realistic fictional community, in a developing country (rural or urban). The profile must include the relevant community information for the case study report to be completed by the end of the course. The relevance of the information is more important than its accuracy or veracity.

CASE Study Report and Presentation:

Students will be required to write a report (approximately 12 pages in length: 12 point font, 1½ line spacing) that presents a community development case study based on the previously prepared community profile. The community development principles and approaches discussed in class will be applied to this community. Each student will present their case study to the class utilizing creative means and multi-media and allowing a discussion period. The presentation and discussion should last approximately 30 minutes. Further details regarding the case study report and the class presentation will be provided in class.

Class Participation:

Participation in class discussions and group activities will be a key component of learning throughout this course, given the importance of participation in community development. Students are expected to attend all classes, having read assigned materials ahead of time and prepared for class in order to actively participate in these discussions. In addition, onus will be placed on each student to take initiative and contribute as much as possible to participatory class dynamics and activities.

If external circumstances or illness prevent you from attending or adequately preparing for a class, please let the professor know so that this can be taken into account, as absences from class will negatively impact a student's individual participation grade. Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

## **Grading**

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<i>% Grade</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>
95% to 100%	A+	
90% to 94%	A	Excellent
85% to 89%	A-	
80% to 84%	B+	
76% to 79%	B	Good
72% to 75%	B-	
68% to 71%	C+	
64% to 67%	C	Satisfactory
60% to 63%	C-	
55% to 59%	D+	
50% to 54%	D	Minimal Pass
0% to 49%	F	Failure

To pass the course, students must achieve an overall grade of at least 50%. Failure to submit an assignment or write an exam on the assigned date without legitimate reason (i.e. evidenced illness) or prior approval of the instructor may result in a failed grade for the course. In the case of legitimate or approved absence, and at the instructor's discretion, the assigned date may be rescheduled to a later date, or if this is not practically possible, the marks reallocated to other components of the course grade. All hand-in assignments and exams must include the student's name, ID number and contact email address.

Please note that final grades will be available on the student portal. 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.

## **Important Dates for Registration, Withdrawal, and Course Auditing**

*January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, is the last day to enter a course without permission or to withdraw from a course without incurring a financial penalty in terms of tuition refund. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date.*

*Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund.*

*Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the “drop” date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a new policy, beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.*

*March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, is the last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty. A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.*

*Course withdrawal forms are available from the Registrar. Students who do not follow the proper withdrawal procedures will be recorded as having failed the course. 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.*

### **In-class Use of Electronic Devices**

*The use of personal electronic devices by students in-class is purely at the discretion of the instructor. Typically, laptop or notebook computers may be utilized for taking notes or reviewing course materials if necessary. However, if laptop use becomes a distraction for other students in the class, or is used for activities that are not class-related (i.e. browsing the Internet, emailing, playing videos, etc.), the instructor will ask the student to stop using the laptop and put it away, and make a deduction to that student’s class participation grade. The use of cell phones, PDAs, music players, headphones or any other personal entertainment devices will not be allowed in-class. Audio or video recording of class lectures is strictly prohibited without the prior expressed consent of the instructor.*

### **Important Notes**

#### *Academic Policies*

*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](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 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."

### *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 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.*

*Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.*

**DVST 310 – Winter 2012  
Weekly Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and course overview; Define Poverty - R	M Ch 3
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Causes of Poverty and Christian Worldview, Witness - A	M Ch 2,3,8
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Approaches to Community Development, Stages - R	M Ch 4,5,6
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	PLA, PRA, AI Tools; Process and Innovation - A	M Ch 5,7
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Appropriate Technology, Sustainability - A	B Ch 7 – 11
Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No class</b> – Mid-semester break	
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Participation and Planning - R	B Ch 1-6
Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Impact Assessment, Logic Models, RBM - R	Papers
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Review, Mid-term exam	
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Best Practices in Community Development – Education - A	
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Best Practices in Community Development – Business – R	Papers
Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Best Practices in Community Development – Health - A	Papers
Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>	Presentation of Case Studies, Discussion	
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam	

*Note: The dates and order of topics outlined in this schedule may be subject to change at the instructor's discretion throughout the term. Any changes will be communicated in advance.*