

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2020	
ICS 306	Reading Through the Eyes of the Majority World	Prerequisite:	Yes
		Credits:	3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	W, F	Instructor:	Professor Singh	First day of classes:	Wed, Jan 8, 2020
Time:	4:00 – 5:15pm	Email:	Jennifer.Singh@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 19, 2020
Room:	A2210	Phone:	(403) 410 2000 ext. 6922	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar 9, 2020
Lab/Tutorial	No	Office:	A2050	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 20, 2020
		Office Hours:	W, F 12:30pm - 2:30pm	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 30, 2020
Final Exam	No final exam			Last day of classes:	Wed, April 3, 2020

Course Description

An intercultural studies methods course focused on reading Biblical and other cultural texts. The course will introduce students to various interpretive methods used by Majority World scholars, examining how postcolonial readers have re-read Biblical texts to bring life to those being exploited and abused.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this class, it is expected that students will be able to:

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1. Interpret Biblical and other cultural texts from perspectives informed by scholars from the Majority World.
2. Apply various interculturally appropriate methods for accessing the voices of marginalized people groups.
3. Communicate in a culturally and contextually appropriate manner with illiterate and semi-literate populations.
4. Develop effective and empowering relationships with marginalized people groups.

Textbooks

Gafney, Wilda C., *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah*, (Louisville: John Knox Press, 2017)

West, Gerald O., *Reading Other-Wise: Socially Engaged Biblical Scholars Reading with Their Local Communities*, (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007)

Please bring a modern translation of the Bible to every class such as NIV, NASB, NRSV, ESV, or NKJV (no paraphrases such as the Living Bible or the Message).

Course Schedule

The following is an outline of the units that this course will cover.

Date	Unit
Wednesday January 8 – Wednesday January 22	UNIT 1: Getting Our Bearings This unit will seek to define some of the basic interpretative methods used by Biblical scholars from the Majority World.
Friday January 24 to Friday February 14	UNIT 2: Exploring Selected Old Testament Readings Through the Eyes of the Majority World This unit will explore Majority World interpretations of selected Old Testament texts.
Monday February 17 – Friday February 21	READING WEEK – no classes
Wednesday February 26 – Friday April 3	UNIT 3: Exploring Selected New Testament Readings Through the Eyes of the Majority World This unit will explore Majority World interpretations of selected New Testament texts.

Submission of Assignments

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be handed-in on the class Moodle site. Please submit assignments in **Word format only (NO pdfs)** electronically through Moodle on or before the due date (no later than midnight on due date). **INCLUDE your LAST NAME and FIRST NAME at the BEGINNING of the file name** – e.g.

SmithBevDayofDialogueReading1.doc

Use 12pt Times New Roman, Garamond, or Calibri. Use 1.5 spacing with standard margins, headers and footers (if required by the assignment). Please always use page numbers on the bottom right of the page. **Marking rubrics for each assignment will be posted on Moodle** in order that students are aware of how each assignment will be assessed.

Late Policy

Due dates are valuable for several reasons. Here are three reasons: 1) They allow me, the instructor, to plan my schedule to grade and return your work in a timely and thoughtful manner; 2) They mimic reality, in that most of life involves hard deadlines – student loan payments, project assignments, work schedules; 3) They create a level playing field. It is simply unfair to your classmates if they submit their work on time and you receive an extension without penalty. Therefore, only under extraordinary circumstances (i.e. a life or family crisis, a severe and prolonged illness, etc.; poor time management does not count as a life crisis) will I grant an extension. All requests for an extension must be submitted to me in writing on or before the assignment's due date. Otherwise, any submissions received later than

midnight on the due date will be deemed late. Late assignments will be deducted **one letter grade per every day that the assignment is late** i.e. an A would become an A- if it was turned in one day late, a B- would become a C+ and so on. There will be assignments given in this class where late submissions will not be accepted, and those assignments will be clearly indicated in this syllabus. For these assignments, the late policy will not apply and an automatic zero on the assignment will be given.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation in Class and Ambrose-Wide Events

DUE: Friday March 27, 2020 (5% of final grade)

Class Attendance throughout the Term: Attendance and active participation in class are vital components of success in this course. Students will be allowed up to two unexcused absences for the term, **except on the following days: Womanist Midrash Film Festival, Postcolonial Preach, and guest-speakers.** After two unexcused absences, students will be deducted 1% from their overall participation grade, per unexcused absence. If a student is unable to attend a class, this must be discussed **in person (not by email)** beforehand with the professor (if it is due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, the student is responsible to speak with the instructor once the illness/crisis has passed). In addition, students are expected to attend several campus-wide events happening in the Winter Term, outlined below. All of these events provide opportunities for students to develop as university students as they engage with people and activities that represent a diversity of voices on particular topics. The participation grade will be entirely based on self-reporting by the student; therefore, this is an integrity mark that each student will assign themselves on a form that is available on Moodle and due by **Friday March 27, 2020.**

Program Day (Thursday January 30, 2020) (1%): There are no classes on this days, as students are expected to attend the events that have been planned in for your respective program. Whether you are a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Theology Student, Program Day is run for all students so please plan on attending. Program Day is a time set-aside to connect with others in your program and to participate in activities related to your program.

One REACH Event (1%): REACH is a student-led group at Ambrose who seek to bring awareness to cross-cultural mission work that is happening in various parts of the world, and locally, and to invite students to learn more about what is happening in the world. REACH will host three 'dinner and conversation' events this term where a speaker engaged in cross-cultural mission work will share and a free dinner is served. Dates will be made available at the beginning of the term and also posted on the student-club poster board on the first floor. REACH will also hold two chapels throughout the term, as well as weekly, half-hour, prayer meetings in the Atrium on Thursdays right after chapel (12:05pm) and would welcome your presence as they intercede for many of the pressing issues in our world today. Students can either attend a 'Dinner and Conversation' event, one of the REACH-led chapels, or one weekly prayer meeting before the end of the term.

Ambrose Research Conference (ARC, Wednesday March 25, 2020) (1%): The Ambrose Research Conference is an annual event where students, faculty, staff and alumni participate by presenting research related to the theme of the conference and is an important event in the life of the community. Classes are cancelled that day with the expectation that all students will attend at least one session throughout the day.

2. Course Reading

DUE: March 27, 2020 (5% of final grade)

Students are required to read both assigned textbooks for this course in their entirety (West and Gafney) and will submit a form close to the end of the term, reporting the percentage of each book they have read. If students read both books in their entirety, they will receive the full 5%. If they read less than this, the percentage assigned will be reflective of the portion that they have read. This is a self-reporting mark and students are asked to exercise integrity when submitting their form. The form can be found on the class Moodle site.

3. Womanist Midrash Film Festival

DUE: February 7 and February 14, 2020 (20% of final grade)

Students will be required to prepare a three-page, promotional piece on three female Biblical characters that Wilda Gafney features in her book *Womanist Midrash*. Students will need to choose two women from the Torah, and one from the 'Women of the Throne' section of Gafney's book. The promotional piece will look like three posters (so one page per Biblical character) used for a feature length film, and students will engage their imaginations by answering the question: 'If a feature-length film was made today about this woman, how would the story be told?' For this assignment, students will need to highlight major points about each of the characters on the promotional piece (e.g. historical, biographical, things that they did or things that happened to them) and then to think through how to culturally appropriate their stories to a particular audience(s) today. For this assignment, students will be required to use Gafney and a minimum of three other sources. It is recommended that students utilize Gafney's book as a bridge into other sources (i.e. use some of the sources cited in Gafney's bibliography).

Students will create their three posters with an intended audience in mind, and have to give some explanation in their presentation as to why the stories of the Biblical characters chosen are particularly relevant to the group of people the film is being marketed to. This assignment will be graded on the degree of creativity exhibited, accuracy of telling the stories of the Biblical characters, and degree of appropriation to a modern-day audience who would benefit from hearing these stories. Students will be required to give a short 5-7 minute presentation showcasing their promotional pieces on one of the presentation days. Detailed instructions for this assignment and a marking rubric will be posted to Moodle.

3. Listening to the Voices of the Tsuut'ina Nation Sunday February 2, 8, or 23 2020

Written portion DUE: Thursday March 5, 2020 (20% of final grade)

One part of learning how to read through the eyes of the Majority World is honing one's skills of observation and reflection. All students will be required to attend **one** service at St. Barnabas Anglican Church (SBAC) on the Tsuut'ina First Nation and produce a 1500-1800 word reflection paper on: 1) what they observed and experienced; 2) to evaluate the degree to which the church service was an act of decolonization (examining various components of the service); 3) which character (or characters) highlighted by Gafney would you want to share about with this parish and why?; 4) provide a practical example of how you would introduce this character(s) into one aspect of the service; and 5) provide a decolonized prayer for the people of SBAC based on how the student was impacted by the experience. Detailed instructions for this assignment and a marking rubric will be posted to Moodle.

4. Postcolonial Preach

PART I DUE: Wednesday January 29, 2020

PART II DUE: Thursday February 27, 2020

Preaching Dates: Friday February 28, Wednesday March 4, Friday March 13, Wednesday March 18, Friday March 27

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED FOR ANY PART OF THIS ASSIGNMENT

PART I: Students will work with Professor Singh to identify a Biblical text that they will produce a 15-20 minute sermon (approximately 1800-2000 words) for. For the first part of this assignment, students will be limited to Western theological and Biblical commentaries as sources, and will write the sermon for a Western-based audience. Students will have to complete a full manuscript (no bullet points, in full prose) for their sermon which is due on Wednesday January 29.

PART II: The student will take their first sermon and work through a process of 'decolonization' with the original text. Students will need to utilize a minimum of 7 scholarly sources from Majority World writers in their re-write, and provide a bibliography. Students will re-write their sermon for a specific audience that represents the Majority World and in an appendix, explain some specificities of the audience chosen and why the student has chosen to re-write their sermon for this particular audience. The re-write should be 1500-1800 words (excluding the appendix) and the final manuscript of the decolonized version of the sermon is due on Thursday February 27.

Preaching Dates: Students will select one of the four presentation days that have been set aside in the course, and the student will preach their sermon to the entire class. For this assignment, students will be assessed on the quality of their manuscript and their delivery of the manuscript. Detailed instructions for this assignment and a marking rubric will be posted to Moodle.

5. Reading Other-Wise

DUE: Friday January 24, 2020 (10% of final grade)

Professor Singh will assign one chapter of Gerald O. West's *Reading Other-Wise* to each student during the second class and each student will be required to write an 800-1000 word analysis of the chapter which will include: 1) a brief summary of the main arguments; 2) three major new learnings the student has gleaned from the reading; and 3) a brief explanation of where (potential audience) the student might use this reading in order to engage ordinary readers of the Bible. Detailed instructions for this assignment and a marking rubric will be posted to Moodle.

Assessment Summary

Attendance and Participation	5%
Course Reading	5%
Womanist Midrash Film Festival	20%
Listening to the Voices of the Tsuut'ina Nation	20%
Postcolonial Preach	40%
Reading Other-Wise	10%

Grade Summary

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Description
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A+	95-100	Excellent
A	90-94	
A-	86-89	
B+	80-85	Good
B	76-79	
B-	73-75	
C+	70-72	Satisfactory
C	66-69	
C-	63-65	
D+	60-62	
D	55-59	Minimal Pass
D-	50-54	
F	0-49	Failure

Ambrose Electronic Etiquette Policy Appropriated for ICS 205

In accordance with the Ambrose Electronic Etiquette Policy outlined on page 9 of this syllabus, the professor of record for this class, **Professor Singh, will not permit the use of laptops, phones, tablets etc. for any purposes during classes, or give permission for students to use a recording device in any classes.** Hand-written notes will be the primary way in which students may be able to record what they are hearing and learning. If a student requires an electronic device for notetaking due to an academic accommodation, this must be clearly stated on the academic accommodation form issued by the Ambrose Accessibility Office.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

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, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may 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 or record. 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" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their 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.

Exam Scheduling

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) the student has 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 use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. 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. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in 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 (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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 Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal 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. 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 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 acknowledge 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.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.