

Course ID:	Course Title:	Spring 2018 ONE WEEK MODULE
PV502	Human Rights and Poverty: Theory, Theology and Practice	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	M-F	Instructor:	Derek Cook, B.A., M.Sc., RSW	First day of classes:	June 4
Time:	9:00	Email:	Derek.Cook@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	End of the first day
Room:	A2131	Phone:	403-410-2913	Last day to request revised exam:	n/a
Lab/Tutorial:		Office:	L2072	Last day to withdraw from course:	1 pm on 4 th day
		Office Hours:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	One month before final due date
Final Exam:	n/a			Last day of classes:	June 8

Course Description

This course will provide a sound understanding of poverty from a human rights perspective. The course will focus on the role of international human rights law in addressing the structural causes of poverty and how a human rights framework fits within a Judeo-Christian framework. A theological framework and critique of the human rights approach will be explored.

Expected Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe the United Nations human rights system and the covenants and structures that frame various rights.
- Apply an understanding of the obligations of governments to ensure enjoyment of socio-economic rights to advance social change locally and nationally
- Articulate how human rights are situated within Judeo-Christian theology and how might they be augmented / adapted.
- Apply an understanding of human rights to facilitate collaboration between secular and faith-based work.

Textbooks

- Regan, E. (2010). *Theology and the Boundary Discourse of Human Rights*. Washington: Georgetown Press.
- Clement, D. (2016). *Human Rights in Canada: A History*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press.

Course Schedule

- Monday, June 4 Poverty and Human Rights: The Building Blocks
- Tuesday, June 5 A Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction
- Wednesday, June 6 Human Rights Challenges & Me: Where Do We Go from Here?
- Thursday June 7 Theological Foundations and Engagement with Rights
- Friday June 8 Human Rights: A Moral Language for a Secular Age

Requirements:

- Book Review: 20%
- Major Paper: 50%
- Presentation: 20%
- Attendance / Participation: 10%

Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

Class time will consist of a combination of lecture and “seminar” type activities (highly participative; discussion based). Therefore, participation in discussions and group activities will be a key component of learning throughout this course. 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, the 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 your instructor know in advance (via email) so that this can be taken into account, as absences from class will negatively impact a student’s individual participation grade.

Presentation (20%)

Working in groups, prepare a plan to address either inadequate housing / homelessness, food insecurity or the feminization of poverty. The strategy can be either federal, provincial / territorial or municipal, along with an accompanying public education campaign. Students will present the plan to the class on the third day of the course.

Book Review (20%)

Select and read a relevant book of your choice and prepare a book review that summarizes the key points of the book, its relevance to human rights and the content of the course, and your personal reaction to the book theologically and what it means to you in your ongoing development as a student or professional. Suggested books for review include:

- Akhavan, P. 2017. *In Search of a Better World: A Human Rights Odyssey*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press.
- Block, P., W. Brueggemann and J. McKnight. 2016. *An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture*. Hoboken, NJ.: John Wiley and Sons.
- Hoang, B. and K. Johnson. 2016. *The Justice Calling*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press.
- Ruston, R. 2004. *Human Rights and the Image of God*. London: SCM Press.
- Vanier, J. 1998. *Becoming Human*. New York: Paulist Press.

The paper should be 6 – 8 pages in length.

Major Paper (50%)

Select a particular human rights issue (right to work, food, housing, social security etc...). The paper should:

- Provide an overview of the issue in Canada.
- Discuss the issue from a human rights perspective, including the relevant human rights conventions.
- Reflect on the theological implications of the right.
- Discuss how the issue could be addressed from a human rights perspective. You may include recommendations from the UN ESR Committee.
- Discuss the roles of respective duty bearers, with special attention to the potential role of the church.

The submission should be 12 – 15 pages in length.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Please let me know if you have a reason to miss a class. 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

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

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. 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.