



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF  
ARTS & SCIENCE

**BUS 499 *Business Issues in a Christian Perspective* (3)**  
**Winter 2011**  
**Instructor: Sean Quinn**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Office:** # 2050 **e-mail:** [squinn@ambrose.edu](mailto:squinn@ambrose.edu)  
**Class Times:** Monday 1:00 – 3:45 **Office Phone:** 410-2000 ext 6909  
**Class Location:** Classroom # 2212 **Cell #** 403 803-1012

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment

**Course Description**

This course provides students the opportunity to reflect on how business and Christianity interact. Topics include business ethics and Christian values, the value of business activities as vocational provision, and the compatibility between the market economic system and Christian perspective. These issues are explored using business cases, guest speakers, and readings.

Prerequisites: 4<sup>th</sup> year business student

**Course Objectives**

Learning Outcomes:

- Critically analyze business on the grounds of ethical standards, effectiveness, viability and sustainability
- Practice skills for more effective communication and interaction with others
- Reflect of the interaction between Christianity and business

**Required Texts**

*Supplemental Reading: as assigned/provided by the professor*

**Course Requirements and Grade**

Instructions for course assignments not outlined in the syllabus will be distributed during class throughout the semester. Unless otherwise indicated all assignments are posted on Moodle. Students should include their school ID# only on the assignment cover page. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in an F (0%) grade. Students must receive a passing grade (min 50%) on all individual assignments in order to pass the course. All individual and group assignments must be submitted for final grade. Assignments will not be accepted after in class discussion. If you do not take part in the in class portion of the assignment you cannot complete the written portion of the assignment.

<b>Individual Assignments</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Date</b>
Research Project Individual major assignment	30%	Per class schedule
Journal (Moodle) - 10 Postings	20%	March 21, 2010
Theology Paper - Christianity and Business	30%	March, 28, 2010
Personal mission statement	10%	April 4, 2010

### **Group Assignment**

Event Plan - Place of Rescue	10%	Feb. 14, 2011
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Philanthropy Project

**Class Participation** +/- 10%

The instruction style used for this course will be an interactive approach. For this reason, class participation is a critical component of this course. A large component of the course is based on participative learning. For example, there are numerous group and individual class room presentations, case study discussions and simulations that take place during the course. All of these situations work best or at all with a minimum number of participants. Due to the small number of students it is imperative that you attend each class in order for yourself and the other classmates to gain the most from the interaction over the semester. If you are required to be away for a class, please notify the professor prior to class time so that any necessary adjustments can be made.

Class participation includes but is not limited to the following items:

- Completing work assignments by due date, required for in class exercises
- Being prepared for and contributing to class discussions and simulations
- Group Presentation Skills and involvement

*Quality is given more weighting than quantity!*

### **Important Notes**

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to all Ambrose Academic Policies, which are stated in the current Catalogue.
- Assignments will be returned to students within 2 classes of due date.

- Publication manual of the APA American Psychological Association is traditionally used for business for referencing. It is critical that you reference material. You must distinguish between your own ideas and others in order to avoid, even the perception of, plagiarism.

## **Research Project - Individual major assignment**

This assignment is not a reflection paper, but rather a research paper. The purpose of the assignment is to give the student an opportunity to learn more about a subject that has significance to that individual. Once the student has identified a topic of interest it is expected that the student will research the subject and become the resident expert on the subject matter. It will be the responsibility of the student to moderate the class in which this topic is being discussed. In order to do this the student must complete a lesson outline. In consultation with the instructor the student will determine the outline for the class. This will include but is not limited to: lecture presentation on the subject, in-class discussion materials, assignments, case studies). This consultation must be complete 2 week prior to the class. Each student should keep notes for their individual major topic based on other in-class discussions. Effort should be made to integrate other student presentations into the individual major assignment.

### *Outline (20%)*

The student must complete a one page lesson outline of what the student plans to discuss and present to the class. In consultation with the instructor the student will determine the outline for the class. This will include but is not limited to: lecture presentation on the subject, in-class discussion materials, assignments, and case studies. This consultation must be complete 2 weeks prior to the class.

### *Presentation 80%*

The student is responsible for moderating the class. This includes engaging the class in discussions surrounding the topic. Based on the outline and research the student will determine the materials needed to facilitate learning and encourage debate. The outcome should be that the class ends up with an enlightened position on the issues we face as Christian's in business.

## **Journal - (10 Postings)**

The purpose of this journal (3 responses) is to give the student an opportunity to reflect on the course material prior to class discussion. The student scheduled to complete their individual major assignment will post the journal topic one week in advance of class. All other students must complete the journal entry before the beginning of the following class. The material from the journal entries will be used in determining part of the class lecture. The student is encouraged to write from a place of discernment. Passion and honesty will deepen our discussion in class. During the course we want to get below the superficial answers and delve into the more significant issues facing Christian's in business. The entry is due the Sunday before class at midnight. Assignments will be graded pass/fail based on completing all entries.

Six (6) postings must be submitted during the semester equally from the Economist and Harvard Business Review magazines. Each student is expected to find articles from these subscriptions and write a theological position to the business article. Each student must write at least one (1) response to one other students posting. Each posting (6) will not exceed 500 words and responses (4) are not to exceed 250 words.

\* NOTE: The student will not be responsible for a journal entry when they are doing the individual major assignment on the same subject.

**Group assignment: Event Plan      Date: Feb. 14, 2011      Grade: 15%**

The group is responsible for writing a 10 page event plan for Place of Rescue. A 2-page Executive Summary must accompany the assignment. The specific event premise will be explained by the company executives. A full marketing event plan must be completed for the event.

## **Presentation**

On Feb. 14, 2011 the group will provide a 15 minute presentation to the Place of Rescue organization. All group members must participate. The group should be prepared to present and defend your ideas.

## **Theology Paper: Christianity and Business (1 of 2 options)**

### *OUTLINE 15%*

The student must complete a one-page outline of what the students' research plans. In consultation with the instructor the student will determine the focus of the research. This consultation must be complete 2 weeks prior to the due date of the assignment.

### *Paper 85%*

This assignment is an opportunity for the student to reflect on a theological business issue. For many people business and Christianity should not or cannot be combined. Yet, you are taking a business degree from a Christian University College.

Through engaging with a minimum 10 sources (theological and business) answer the above question. Remember to answer this question from both perspectives. However, you must take a position on the issue and defend your own position on the issue. The objective is for the student to decide if business and Christianity can indeed co-exist. Furthermore, considering that Christianity and business appear to represent totally opposite mandates how can a Christian function within this tension.

It is critical that business material be precise. Make sure your arguments are clear and concise. Consider how the points are related or connected. Critically evaluate your position and recognize any trade-offs in your paper. This paper will be a maximum 8 pages double-spaced. Additionally a 2-page defense of your position will accompany the paper and be read in class.

### **Eulogy**

Each student will write a "eulogy" for a Christian businessperson. The intent is to conduct an historical evaluate with a minimum of 10 sources to reveal how the individual conducted themselves in their life. A multi-generational Christian business family would be an ideal place to start. This is because events in history impact people and how people intend to go is not necessarily how they end up traveling. This research paper will be a maximum 8 pages double-spaced. Additionally, the "eulogy" should be two pages in length. The "eulogy" will be read aloud in class!

### **Personal mission statement**

At the completion of the course the student will formulate a personal mission statement that they can use as a guide for themselves as they graduate. Although I want the personal mission statement to focus on business the student must remember the Hebraic holistic

mindset. Our approach to life should not be compartmentalized. Therefore your Personal Mission Statement can and should be a guide you can use not just in business but in all aspects of your life journey. The mission statement will be posted and read aloud in class.

### **Philanthropy Project**

As a graduating student from a Christian University College there is a responsibility to engage in the community. Therefore, the graduating business class of 2011 will have an opportunity to create a student led philanthropic project. Time will be provided to work on the project. The project must be complete prior to graduation. A one-page project proposal must be submitted to the professor by February 28<sup>th</sup>. The proposal must outline all facets of the project including associated financial costs and implementation process.