



CS 660

Exploring the Dream Experience in Christian Spirituality

Semester: Winter, 2016
Days: Feb. 16-20/2016
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Room number (TBA)

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
None

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course surveys the significance and understanding of the dream experience in both the eastern and western Christian traditions. Special attention is given to the role of the dream in the spiritual journeys of prominent Christians, the dream and the death experience, as well as developing a Christian approach to dream interpretation. Students gain an appreciation for the value of the dream within a Christian worldview, as well as how to integrate dream interpretation with an understanding of one's own spiritual journey. Limited enrollment.

Historians have generally ignored achievements originating from nocturnal inspiration, perhaps because the sleeping third of our lives is spent in a passive posture, not actively manipulating the external environment. Nevertheless, dreams have had a dramatic influence on almost every important aspect of our culture and history. Dream images have expanded our artistic, musical, and literary horizons, spurred generals to conquer empires, and led to inventions

Important Dates:

Due date for all assignments is Friday, April 15th/2016.

First day of classes: Tuesday, Feb. 16th /2016

Last Day of Classes: Saturday, Feb. 20th /2016

and industrial products that have revolutionized science and society. Dreams have also given us a basis for believing that there is a nonmaterial component to our existence, as well as a continuity of existence which is not interrupted by physical death.

Robert L. Van De Castle, *Our Dreaming Mind*. (1994): 10-11

Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

1. an appreciation of the nature/significance of the dream experience in biblical literature by examining selected dream texts in the OT and NT;
2. a comprehension of the historical perspectives on the dream experience within the eastern and western Christian traditions;
3. knowledge of the role and significance of the dream experience in the lives of individuals from diverse Christian traditions and time periods;
4. a capacity to reflect on the relevance of and guidelines for integrating the dream experience with his/her own spiritual journey;
5. an introductory proficiency in the use of dreamwork techniques applied to his/her own dream experience in a dreamography.

Final Exam: N/A

Outline:

Day 1- A Personal Odyssey in Dreaming/The 'Sin' of Dream Interpretation/Dreaming and the Scriptures

Day 2- Dreaming and the Scriptures cont'd/Dreams in the Eastern Christian Tradition/Dreams in the Western Christian Tradition

Day 3- Dreams in the Western Christian Tradition (cont'd)/Dream Vignettes of Prominent Christians

Day 4- Dream Vignettes (cont'd)/Dreams/Visions and the Death Experience

Day 5- Dreamwork/Dreams and the Spiritual Journey

Requirements:

- A. **a dreamography (10-12 pages) (40% of the final grade)**, the structure/content of which will be discussed in class

OR

A research paper (approximately 10-12 pages) not including bibliography, on some dimension of 'Christian dreaming'. The subject must be chosen in consultation with the professor with respect for the student's disciplinary interests. The paper needs to develop a thesis in response to a critical question raised, follow an acceptable scholarly format and include a bibliography with a minimum of 20 entries including books, monographs and peer reviewed journal articles.

- B. **a review/response paper (6-8 pages) (30% of the final grade) based on Parker, *Healing Dreams*** which includes the following:

1. A brief summary of the thesis of the book which shows the relationship between the book's title/subtitle and the thesis (5 marks/3/4-1 page);
2. An identification of the critical issues raised by the book with respect to a 'Christian' view of dreaming. Think both 'within' and 'beyond' the book (10 marks/2-3 pages);
3. An indepth discussion of the strengths and weaknesses the book (2 strengths and 2 weaknesses) (be specific!!) (8 marks/2-2 1/2 pages);
4. A reflection on the theological /experimental value of the book (4 marks)(1-1/2 pages);
5. A brief discussion of three specific aspects of the dream experience prompted by the book which require further study/consideration on your part. Why? (3marks)(3/4 page).

- C. **a report on 4 peer reviewed articles of the student's choice on the subject of dreaming (20% of the final grade) which includes the following for each article (1/2-2 pages per article)):**

1. A complete bibliographical citation at the beginning of each report ;
2. A summary of the thesis of each article; (1 mark)
3. A brief discussion of the main themes/ideas developed in each article; (2 marks)
4. An identification of 3 critical issues which require further study on your part; (2 marks)

NOTE: if you are in doubt as to whether or not the article you have chosen is eligible for review consult with the instructor for approval so as not to run the risk of having the article disqualified when being

graded! The articles chosen need to demonstrate a disciplinary spread of subjects so as to prevent a reduction of grade.

D. An assessment of the value of Wiebe, *Visions and Appearances of Jesus* (2 pages)(10% of the final grade) in terms of your understanding of the dream/vision experience in Christian perspective

Submission of Assignments:

DUE DATE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS: Friday April 15th/2016 (no extensions will be granted except in the case of extenuating circumstances determined by the instructor). Please submit all assignments in hard copy to the instructor. All assignments must be completed and submitted to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course.

Evaluation:

Dreamography (or research paper) (40%)

Review/Response Paper (30%)

Reading Report (20%)

Assessment Paper (10%)

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+ (96-100)	
A (91-95)	Excellent
A- (86-90)	
B+ (82-85)	
B (75-81)	Good
B- (72-74)	
C+ (68-71)	
C (63-67)	Satisfactory
C- (60-62)	
D+ (56-59)	
D (50-55)	Minimal Pass
F (<50)	Failure

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

Textbooks:

Russ Parker, *Healing Dreams: Their Power and Purpose in Your Spiritual Life* (SPCK Classic/2013)

Robert Moss, *The Secret World of Dreaming* (New World Library/2010)

Phillip H. Wiebe, *Visions and Appearances of Jesus* (Leafwood/2014)

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 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. 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.

Attendance

Any student who is absent more than 1 day from the course for other than emergency reasons (as determined by the instructor) is not eligible to receive a passing grade.