		T 403-410-2000 TF 800-461-1222 info@ambrose.edu	
		ambrose.edu	Fall 2019
Course ID:	Course Title:		
CS 662	Prayer Paths to God	Prerequisite: N/A	
		Credits:	3

MODULE FORMAT CLASS

150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary, AB T3H 0L5

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Tuesday Nov 12– Saturday, Nov 16/19	Instructor:	Charles Nienkirchen, PhD	First day of classes: Tuesday, Nov 12/19	
Time:	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Email:	cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit: 4 pm, Tuesday, Nov 112/19	
Room:	A2210	Phone:	403-410-2000 EXT. 5905	Last day to request revised exam: N/A	
Lab/ Tutorial:	N/A	Office:	L2064	Last day to withdraw from course: 3 pm, Friday, Nov 15	
Office Hours:	By appointment	Office Hours:	By appointment	Last day to apply for coursework extension: Friday, Dec 20/19	
Final Exam:	N/A			Last day of classes: Saturday, Nov 16/19	

Course Description

The course studies the historical theology and practice of Christian prayer through the centuries as it pertains to understanding the role of prayer within the spiritual life. It is taught from an ecumenical perspective and includes 3 practica in *lectio divina*.

Prayer is not an indifferent or small thing. It is not a sweet little privilege. It is a great prerogative far reaching in its effects. Failure to pray entails losses far beyond the person who neglects it. Prayer is not a mere episode of the Christian life. Rather the whole life is a preparation for and result of prayer. In its condition, prayer is the sum of religion. Faith is but the channel of prayer. Prayer is the lungs through which holiness breathes. Prayer is not only the language of the spiritual life, but makes its very essence and forms its real character.

Edward Bounds, The Possibilities of Prayer. (1979)

Expected Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. An understanding of the highlights in the development of the practice and theology of prayer from the first to the nineteenth centuries;
- 2. An appreciation for the value of the 'prayer classics' in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions;
- 3. A heightened appreciation of the centrality of the prayer experience in living a spiritual life;
- 4. An introductory proficiency in the discipline of *lectio divina*.

Textbooks

- 1. Richard Foster, *Prayer.* (Harper/1992) ISBN 0-06-062846-4
- 2. Timothy Keller, *Prayer*. (Penguin/2014) ISBN 978-0-14-310858-0

3. Martin Luther, A Simple Way to Pray (Westminster/John Knox/2000) ISBN 0-66422273-0

Course Schedule

NOTE: No electronic recording devices of any kind are permitted to be used in the classroom without professorial consent. Failure to comply will have serious consequences and possibly lead to expulsion from the course.

Day 1 - Praying with Jesus and the Early Church Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 17-36

Day 2 - Praying with Jesus and the Early Church (cont'd)/ Praying with the Monks Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 37-82

Day 3 - Praying with the Monks (cont'd)/Praying with the Mystics

Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 83-149

Prayer Practicum #1 (Heb. 11)

*the afternoon (including lunch) will be at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre, Cochrane

Day 4 - Praying with the Reformers

Prayer Practicum #2 (Rev. 1)

Foster, Prayer, pp. 150-215

Day 5 - Praying with Evangelical Protestants

Prayer Practicum #3 (Rev. 2)

Foster, Prayer, pp. 216-74

* Please read and reflect on the assigned texts for the lectio divina sessions prior to each session.

Requirements

A. Attendance at all prayer-practica sessions;

- B. A review-response paper (6-8 pages) on Timothy Keller, *Prayer*. which:
 - 1. Explains the relationship between the thesis of the book and its title/subtitle (5 marks/ 3/4 page);
 - 2. Describes the nature of the prayer experience according to the book (10 marks/2-3 pages);
 - 3. Identifies five of the student's most abiding thoughts about prayer inspired by the book with supportive reasons (5 marks/ 1 1/2 -2 pages);
 - 4. Identifies five significant, critical issues which the book raises in the student's mind (5 marks/1 page);
 - 5. Gives an assessment of the overall value of the book including strengths and weaknesses (5 marks/ 1 1/2 pages).

Your assignment must have a properly formatted title page. The title of the assignment is Prayer: A Book Review/Response

DUE: Wed. Jan. 15/20 (midnight) (30% of the final grade)

- C. A review/response paper (6-8 pages) on Luther, A Simple Way to Pray. which:
 - 1. Discusses the relationship between the thesis of the book and the title (5 marks/ 3/4-1 page);
 - 2. Summarizes Luther's understanding of the nature and content of the prayer experience (10 marks/ 2-3 pages);
 - 3. Discusses Luther's 'prayer techniques' and their relevance to the student's personal prayer experience (10 marks/2-3 pages);
 - 4. Gives an overall assessment of the value of Luther's treatise and its contemporary relevance/irrelevance (5 marks/ 3/4-1page).

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P

Your assignment must have a properly formatted title page. The title of the assignment is A Simple Way to Pray: A Book Review/Response

DUE: Wed. Jan. 15/20 (midnight) (30% of the final grade)

- D. A prayer journal based on the three prayer practica which includes the following:
 - 1. a separate entry for each practicum (make sure the entries are dated and located);
 - 2. a record of physical and emotional responses, images/insights/impressions/applications to life circumstances received in each session;
 - 3. a written, *lectio divina* styled prayer which arises from the scripture text assigned for each practicum;
- 4. a substantive, overall evaluation (including individual/collective strengths and weaknesses) of the value of this style of prayer for the student's own prayer experience and that of the church collectively.

Your assignment must have a properly formatted title page. The title of the assignment is A Prayer Journal.

DUE: Wed. Jan. 15/20 (by midnight) (20% of the final grade)

E. A reading report on the following four articles:

John H. Coe, 'The Controversy Over Contemplation and Contemplative Prayer: A Historical, Theological, and Biblical Resolution,' *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 7 no 1 (Spring 2014): 40-53.

Grant R. Osborne, 'Moving Forward on Our Knees: Corporate Prayer in the New Testament,' *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 53 no. 2 (June 2010): 243-67.

Christopher Woznicki, 'Is Prayer Redundant? Calvin and the Early Reformers on the Problem of Petitionary Prayer,' *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 60 no. 2 (June 2017): 333-48.

Robert P. Menzies, 'Jesus, Tongues and the Messianic Reading of Psalm 16,' Journal of Pentecostal Theology 23 no. 1 (2014): 29-49.

* The articles can be found in the Ambrose Library electronic journal databases.

Which includes the following for each article:

- a. a full bibliographical citation for each article;
- b. a summary of the thesis of each article (1 mark);
- c. a brief discussion of the main themes developed in each article (2 marks);
- d. an identification of 3 issues/subjects related to the content of each article which require further research/study on your part (2 marks).

Your assignment must have a properly formatted titled page. The title of the assignment should be Four Articles: A Reading Report

<u>DUE: Wed. Jan.15/20</u> (by midnight) (20% of final grade)

Submission of Assignments

All assignments must be submitted in hard copy in class or to the professor's office. They are due <u>by midnight</u> of the due date. Any late assignments which have not been granted an extension must still be turned in by the end of the course and will

receive a two grade penalty provided they have demonstrated an acceptable level of performance. Otherwise they will receive the highest possible failing grade.

Attendance

Students <u>must</u> attend <u>all</u> prayer practica. Any student who misses more than one day of classes without the permission of the instructor which will only be granted for emergency reasons (as determined by the instructor) will be ineligible to pass the course.

Grade Summary

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Description</u>
-100)
-95) Excellent
-90)
-85)
-81) Good
-74)
-71)
-67) Satisfactory
-62)
-59)
-55) Minimal Pass
Failure

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

Selected Bibliography

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. 'God, Christ and the Holy Spirit in Early Christian Praying' in <i>The Place of Christ in Liturgical Prayer</i> ed. Bryan D. Spinks. Liturgical Press Pueblo Books/2008, 51-64.
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Coe, John H. 'The Controversy Over Contemplation and Contemplative Prayer: A Historical, Theological, and Biblical Resolution' *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care*. 7 no. 1 (Spring 2014): 140-53.

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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 devises 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.