



## CS 665

# Christian Studies Educational Travel: Magnificent Ethiopia

Semester: Winter, 2016  
Days: Jan. 13-Apr. 13, 2016

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:  
None

Instructor: Charles Nienkirchen  
Email: @ambrose.edu  
Phone: 403-410-2000 ext. 5905  
Office: L2069  
Office hours: By appointment

### Course Description:

This course is a multi-dimensional travel study experience designed to explore early Christian landscapes in Ethiopia.

Church buildings, perched on precipitous hilltops, or cut deep into the rock, offer some of the most dramatic sights in Ethiopia. Of great variety and often of impressive workmanship in comparison to surviving domestic architecture, they constitute an important part of Ethiopia's heritage today. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church that they represent is the most ancient institution surviving in the country...For visitors to the historical sites of Ethiopia, the churches and the ceremonies that surround them are among the most striking features of the highland northern and central Ethiopians' way of life.

Stuart Munro-Hay, *Ethiopia, The Unknown Land*. (2002).

The Church in Ethiopia, while having under [the] Apostolic Church of St. Mark the Evangelist in Alexandria, holds to also have an Apostolic foundation with the Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew. There, he preached the teachings of Christ but he apparently arrived after the Ethiopian eunuch had been baptized. The story is based on the Abyssinian version of the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles, attributed to a certain Abdia and apparently written in Arabic.

Abba Abraham Buruk Woldegaber and Mario Alexis Portella, *Abyssinian Christianity*. (2012).

### Important Dates:

First day of classes – January 13, 2016

Last day of classes – April 13, 2016

---

---

## Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that the student acquires the following:

1. a knowledge of sites and landscapes germane to the study of early Ethiopian Christianity;
2. an appreciation of the dynamic interplay between the history, geography and spirituality in the development of early Ethiopian Christianity.

## Outline:

The student will receive a detailed daily itinerary of the sites to be visited from Jan. 13-28/2016

## Requirements:

### A. a research paper (40% of the final grade)

A research paper (approximately 12-15 pages) not including bibliography, which does the following:

1. investigates a subject pertinent to the travel study course itinerary in consultation with the professor (please submit an outline of your paper with supportive bibliography before you begin to write);
2. develops a thesis in response to a critical question raised by the paper;
3. follows an acceptable form of scholarly documentation;
4. includes a comprehensive bibliography with a minimum of 20 entries consisting of books (or monographs) and scholarly, journal articles.

### B. a guided book review (6-8 pages) (30% of the final grade)

A guided book review (approximately 6-8 pages) of Graham Hancock, *The Sign and the Seal*. 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; (3/4-1 page/5 marks);
  2. a discussion of the development of the thesis; (2-3 pages/10 marks);
  3. a critical analysis of 3 strengths and 2 weaknesses of the book with specific references to book's content to support your arguments. (2-3 pages/10 marks);
  4. an overall evaluation of the book including what was most of interest to you and why; (3/4-1 page/5 marks).

**C. an evaluation paper (30% of the final grade)**

An evaluation paper (6-8 pages) which includes the following:

1. a description of 3 of your most profound 'epiphany' moments with an assessment of how each of them has affected your perspective relative to the subject; (2-3 pages/10 marks)
2. an identification of 3 of your most interesting learning experiences with an outline of further new areas of study suggested by what you learned; (2-3pages/10 marks)
3. an overall assessment of the personal value of *Magnificent Ethiopia...* as an educational experience. How did it contribute to your understanding early Christianity. What do you want to study further as a result of this travel study experience? (2-3 pages/10 marks)

**Submission of Assignments:**

**DUE DATE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS: Friday April 1/2016 (no extensions will be granted except in the case of extenuating circumstances determined by the professor). Please submit in hard copy to the professor.**

**Evaluation:**

Research Paper (40%)

Guided Book Review (30%)

Evaluation Paper (30%)

**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

---

---

---

---

**Textbooks:**

Philip Briggs, *Ethiopia (Bradt Travel Guide)*. (2013).

Graham Hancock, *The Sign and the Seal*. (1993).

Stuart Munro-Hay, *Ethiopia, The Unknown Land*. (2002).

---

---

## 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](mailto: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.