



AMBROSE SEMINARY

IM 645.6 Compass for the Journey: Christian Spirituality for Global Ministry in the 21st Century **Fall 2010**

Instructor: Richard P. Gilbertson, Th.M, DMin

Class Time: Thursday, 2:30-5:15 pm

Classroom: 2133

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Compass for the Journey: Christian Spirituality for Global Ministry in the 21st century seeks to help participants prepare for the unprecedented opportunities and challenges of serving God outside of Canada. This course builds on the presupposition that the inner life journey is the key to navigating the complex outer world journey of serving God. It seeks to help the participant to delve into and apply Christian spirituality of the Great Commandment to their everyday lives and ministry. Our time together is designed to provide both foundational principles as well as practices for a lifetime of faithful and fruitful service.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

COGNITIVE

1. To understand the nature of the demands of inter-cultural ministry.
2. To develop a spirituality based on the Great Commandments which will enable the student to respond to the rigors and demands of inter-cultural service.
3. To investigate the scriptures in order to develop a foundation for spiritual theology and the dynamics of spiritual formation.
4. To appreciate the role of spiritual disciplines in a believer's journey and develop guidelines for their effective use in sustaining a Great Commandment spirituality.

PRAXIS

1. To experience various types of spiritual disciplines.
2. To develop a working plan for spiritual formation in the next 6 months that will enable the student to live out the Great Commandments.
3. To provide the student with experience on how to connect spiritual life practices with the demands of inter-cultural ministry.

AFFECTIVE

1. To develop a new appreciation for the love of the Triune God and a corresponding response of greater love towards God.
2. To embrace all relationships (upward, outward, inward) through “listening”, “love”, and “wrestling”.

III. TEXTBOOKS

- Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Kotesky, Ronald L. What Missionaries Ought to Know: A Handbook for Life and Service.
Wilmore, KY: New Hope International, 2010. **(e-book distributed in class)**
- Seamands, Stephen Ministry in the Image of God- The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Willard, Dallas Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ Colorado Springs,
NavPress, 2002

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

See Appendix

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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| 1. Pre- Class preparation + in-class participation | 10% |
| 2. Journal | 10% |
| 3. Book Reviews/Critical response paper | 40% |
| 4. <i>Project: “My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth”</i> | 15% |
| 5. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality | 25% |

1. Pre-class preparation + in-class participation- 10%

The professor will assign periodic assignments that the student is expected to complete prior to the subsequent class. Due to the nature and content of the course, in-class participation by the student is highly encouraged.

Compulsory attendance of all classes is expected. With the exception of excused absences (serious sickness, etc.), 10% of the final grade is subtracted for each absence.

2 . Journal-keeping- 10%

Journal-keeping serves as a tool for honest reflection, helps cultivate the discipline of attentiveness to God, and promotes a deeper integration of Christian faith and daily life. You will keep a journal of your reflections and responses to the content of this course along with the broader details of your life as you journey through the Fall semester. You are encouraged to view your journal entries as prayers – written as a dialogue with God.

Guidelines for journal-keeping:

- No one will see these entries.
- Following each class write a brief reflection to the contents and connections with your life.
- Write a daily reflection at least 3 days a week that specifically focuses on your journey with God.
- Keep a journal in whatever form that's helpful for you. An e-version is included on Moodle.

***DUE DEC. 3- At the end of the semester select a few journal entries and write a brief 2 page reflection describing the main areas that you have learned in regards to the Great Commandment and how it relates to your present and future life and ministry. Confidential to the grader.**

3. Book Review/ Critical Response paper- 40% (20% + 20%)

Critical response paper #1 DUE OCT.1 (5 pages) on Seamands, Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service. Organize your report according to the points discussed below.

- a Discuss how the author's discussion on the nature of the Trinity has impacted your own "image of God". (5 marks)
- b Identify each of the key aspects of a theology of the Trinity mentioned in the book and discuss how each of these will transform your perception and practice of vocational ministry. (10 marks).
- c Discuss the role of spiritual disciplines/exercises in cultivating a Trinitarian image of God. (5 marks)

Critical response paper #2 DUE OCT.29 (5 pages) on Willard, Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ . Organize your report according to the points discussed below.

- a. A summary of the thesis of the book and its relationship to the theme of the Great Commandments. (2 marks);
- b. An identification of the critical issues raised by the book with respect to what it means to experience transformation/sanctification. (8 marks);
- c. A reflection and application on the theological / experimental value of the book as it relates to your own journey of spiritual formation. How does the content of this book apply to your concept of: (8 marks)

- i. What is God like?
 - ii. Who God is forming, conforming, transforming you to be?
 - iii. The Spirit's role and your role in the transformation process.
 - iv. The concepts of "listen", "love", and "wrestle" which are talked about in the course.
- d. A critical reflection on the strengths/weaknesses of the book (2 marks)

4. Project: "My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth this Coming Year" - 15%

Due date: **NOV. 26**

Write a **5 page paper**, explaining what you gained from this course and outlining your goals and strategies for continuing this spiritual growth over the next months. To refine these goals use the "Spiritual Growth Planner" found in Appendix 1 of the Spiritual Disciplines Handbook. Where do you want to be?; how are you going to get there; when, where and how will you put into practice specific strategies for attaining your goals? How will you measure your progress, and to whom will you be accountable?

5. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality- 25%

Due date: **DEC. 10**

During class we explored the nature of some of the challenges International workers experience in life and ministry (Kotesky, personal experiences, etc). We have also explored what a Great Commandment spirituality entails. Write a **7-10 page** integration paper in which you reflect on how a GC spirituality relates to these challenges. Choose 2-3 issues faced by International workers/Missionaries. Present a strategy of how you would personally respond to each using spiritual exercises, etc. to maintain GC wellness and continue to serve God and others fruitfully and faithfully.

VI. GRADING SCHEDULE

The available letter grades and percentages for course grades are as follows.

A+	96% and above	(GPA – 4.0)	C+	68 - 71%	(GPA – 2.3)
A	91 - 95%	(GPA – 4.0)	C	63 - 67%	(GPA – 2.0)
A-	86 - 90%	(GPA – 3.7)	C-	60 - 62%	(GPA – 1.7)
B+	82 - 85%	(GPA – 3.3)	D+	56 - 59%	(GPA – 1.3)
B	75 - 81%	(GPA – 3.0)	D	50 - 55%	(GPA – 1.0)
B-	72 - 74%	(GPA – 2.7)	F	Below 50%	

VII. IMPORTANT DATES

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty – Friday, September 17, 2010

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty – Friday, November 12, 2010 (Fall semester).

VIII. IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unless specified otherwise, assignments should be submitted via email as an attachment in a Microsoft Word Document no later than 11:59 pm MST on the due date.
- The title page of **ALL** assignments should include the course name and number, the professor's name, the student's name, and student ID number.
- **All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to pass the course. Any student who is absent for more than 1 day will not be eligible to receive passing credit for the course.**
- Late assignments will lose 5% per day to a maximum of 15%, after which discussion with the professor is required.
- Participation and success in this course requires that students are actively engaged by carefully reading the required material and attentively attending each class. If you are having trouble with any of the assignments or the course material, it is your responsibility to ask questions in class or contact the instructor by email.

IX. AMBROSE POLICY

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and 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.

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 appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook 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.

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 Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook 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 advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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.

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.