



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY

IM 645-1 Compass for the Journey: Spiritual Formation for Intercultural Ministry (3)
Winter 2012

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

Class Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-2:15 pm

Classroom: RL 1118

Office: 2049

Email Address: rgilbertson@ambrose.edu

Website: <http://www.cmaconverge.com>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Compass for the Journey: Spiritual Formation for Intercultural Ministry 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)**
- Sittser, Gerald L. Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from early martyrs to modern missionaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- 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 reading + in-class participation | 10% |
| 2. Journal | 10% |
| 3. Spiritual Exercise practice and reflection | 30% |
| 4. Project: <i>"My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth"</i> | 15% |
| 5. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality | 35% |

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

The professor will assign reading and formation 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. A reading completion sheet will be circulated each Tuesday to indicate the completion of assigned material.

Compulsory attendance of all classes is expected. With the exception of excused absences (serious sickness, etc.), 5% 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, your insights from the spiritual formation exercises (see #3 below), and the broader experiences of your life as you journey through the 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. A guideline is posted on Moodle along with an example.

DUE MARCH 29: In combination with #3 below, the participant will review his/her journal entries for the semester plus their reflections from their practice of spiritual exercise practices and write a 7 page reflection paper. Three pages shall be devoted to journal reflections and four pages to reflection on the spiritual exercise practice.

3. Spiritual Exercise practice and reflection- 30%

Each week the participant will be assigned spiritual exercises to practice in their time with God. These exercises will come from either Spiritual Formation Exercises (Moodle e-source) or from Calhoun's Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us. The participant will be assigned or will choose 1 or 2 exercises and practice them 5 times during that week.

DUE MARCH 29: In combination with #2 above, the participant will review his/her journal entries for the semester plus their reflections from their practice of spiritual exercise practices and write a 7 page reflection paper. Three pages shall be devoted to the journal reflections and four pages to reflection on the spiritual exercise practice

4. Project: "My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth during the next 4 months" - 15%

An important skill for intercultural workers is the ability to do self-assessment and to develop proactive steps to promote spiritual vitality. Using the "Spiritual Growth Planner" found in Appendix 1 of the Spiritual Disciplines Handbook and the section "Assessing and Planning for Spiritual Growth" from Spiritual Formation Exercises, the participant will do some self assessment. After reading the above material, the student should discern a major area for spiritual growth for the next 4 months.

Having chosen an area for spiritual growth, the participant will develop a plan for promoting spiritual vitality in this area. Here are some important questions to consider: 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? To whom will you be accountable? Be sure to include these in your plan.

DUE MARCH 8: Write a 5 page paper outlining both your assessment and your plan. More details will be discussed in class.

5. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality- 35%

During class we explored the nature of some of the challenges International workers experience in life and ministry (Kotesky has a whole list of possible areas, personal experiences, etc). We have also explored what a Great Commandment spirituality entails. Choose one or two areas that intercultural workers deal with and write a 10-12 page integration paper in which you reflect on how a GC spirituality relates to these challenges. Present a strategy of how you would personally respond to this area using spiritual exercises, etc. to maintain Great Commandment wellness and continue to serve God and others fruitfully and faithfully.

DUE APRIL 12- IMPORTANT: Your research must consult at least 4 books on the area of intercultural challenge plus 2-3 scholarly journal entries.

EXAMPLES:

*Dealing with team conflict- How I would "love others" in the midst of conflict?
I feel so dry- How do I cultivate my love for God when life is so crazy?
I feel like an idiot- how do I maintain Godly self-identity in the midst of my first year incompetency?*

We will discuss the project on March 22nd.

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 – **January 22nd**.

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty – **March 23**

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.