

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2022
MI 645	Special Topics in Missions: Orality: Effective Story-Telling	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	Directed Study	Instructor:	Dr. Charles Cook	First Day of Classes:	
Days:	N/A	Email:	ccook@ambrose.edu	Last Day to Add/Drop:	
Time:	N/A	Phone:	403.410.2000 ext.7901	Last Day to Withdraw:	
Room:	N/A	Office:	L2045		
Lab/Tutorial:	N/A	Office Hours:	By appointment	Last Day to Apply for Extension:	
Final Exam:	N/A				

Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar> .

Course Description

This *Special Topics in Missions* Course will examine the principles of effective story-telling and how these principles can be adapted and used in cross-cultural communication. This course will also explore aspects of the science of orality that inform effective story-telling in order to better understand the significance of the methodology used. A key component of the course will be to understand the role that oral hermeneutics plays in personal development, community development and church planting.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- 1 To be able to evaluate and articulate the role of oral hermeneutics in encouraging self-theologizing in church planting among oral cultures.
- 2 To be able to articulate the science behind the value of story for learning.
- 3 To be able to formulate a culturally relevant story in order to communicate a specific message.
- 4 To examine the application of story-telling methodology to communication not traditionally viewed as story in Bible teaching, i.e. prophecy, epistles.

Required and Recommended Textbooks and Readings

Haven, Kendall. *Story Proof: The Science Behind the Startling Power of Story*. Westport: Libraries Unlimited, 2007.

Steffen, Tom, and William Bjoraker. *The Return of Oral Hermeneutics: As Good Today as It Was for the Hebrew Bible and First-Century Christianity*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020.

Walsh, John. *The Art of Storytelling: Easy Steps to Presenting an Unforgettable Story*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2013.

Course Schedule

Self-Directed

Requirements:

- 1. Book Reviews on the Three Texts.** The learner will be expected to describe the thesis of each of these books and the significant principles to be gleaned from each text. Each book review should be three to five pages in length.
 - Book 1 due **October 13th**,
 - Book 2 due **October 20th**.
 - Book 3 due **November 3rd**.
- 2. Annotated Bibliography on Diaspora Missiology.** The learner will be required to develop an annotated bibliography with a minimum of 25 references each to be developed in accordance with the standard format for annotated bibliographies. An annotated bibliography is a two-to-three line statement developed along with the bibliographical data, in which the primary thesis of the book, video, magazine etc. is explained.
 - Due date: **November 24th**
- 3. Major Research Project.** The learner will develop a research paper of a minimum of 30 pages in which they demonstrate their knowledge of the literature associated with orality. A clear description of the scientific, historical and cultural factors should provide a groundwork for this project. Theological reflection and practical application of the research should be clearly described in the learner's findings and conclusion. The paper should be written in good Seminary format and in keeping with the requirements of the Ambrose Seminary.
 - The project will be due **December 2nd** .
- 4. Presentation:** of the findings related to effective story-telling. The learner, in conjunction with the professor, will mutually agree on a format in which the learner might present this information. This could take the form of an oral presentation, a sermon, an internet web page, an article, or whatever venue the learner desires. Confirm the type of format with the professor and be as creative as you wish! The idea is to take this material and put in a form that that will be used to have an impact in a church, or in society.
 - The project will be due **December 12th** .

Attendance:

N/A

Grade Summary:

1. A book analysis and summary (7% for each book for a total of 21%)
2. Annotated Bibliography (12.5%)
3. Research Project (48.5%)
4. Presentation (18%)

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Comprehensive understanding of subject matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-developed understanding of subject matter.	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing understanding of subject matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited understanding of subject matter	1.30
D		1.00
F	Failure: Failure to meet course requirements	0.00

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	98 - 100	Mastery: Comprehensive understanding of subject
A	95 - 97	
A-	90 - 94	
B+	86 - 89	Proficient: Well-developed understanding of subject
B	82 - 85	
B-	79 - 81	
C+	76 - 78	Basic: Developing understanding of subject
C	73 - 75	
C-	69 - 72	
D+	66 - 68	Minimal Pass: Limited understanding of subject
D	63 - 65	
F	59	Failure: Failure to meet course requirements

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

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

Other: (see next page)

Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

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.

Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class. Please refer to your professor regarding their electronic etiquette expectations.

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.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

Privacy

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.

Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. Normally, Course Extension Applications will be considered only when all of the following conditions are met:

- the quality of prior course work has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond your control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for you to complete the course work on time; and
- you submit *Coursework Extension Application* to the Office of the Registrar on or before the deadline specified in the Academic Schedule.

If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. A temporary grade of TX will be assigned until a final grade is submitted in accordance with the new deadline. A final grade of F will apply to:

- all course work submitted after the end of the semester unless a coursework extension has been granted; and all course work submitted after the revised due date provided by an approved extension to coursework.

Academic Success and Supports

Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services. Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that

may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

Ambrose Writing Services

Ambrose Writing services provides academic support in the four foundational literacy skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also assists students with critical thinking and the research process. Throughout the academic year, students can meet with a writing tutor for personalized support, or they can attend a variety of workshops offered by Academic Success. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. Academic Success serves all students in all disciplines and at all levels, from history to biology and from theatre to theology. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/writing-services>

Ambrose Tutoring Services

Ambrose Tutoring Services provides support in specific disciplinary knowledge, especially in high-demand areas such as chemistry, philosophy, math and statistics, and religious studies. These tutors also coach students in general study skills, including listening and note-taking. During the academic year, Ambrose Tutoring Services offers drop-in tutoring for courses with high demand; for other courses, students can book a one-to-one appointment with a tutor in their discipline. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/tutoring>.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention Skills and can help you access mental health support. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crisissupport> for a list of staff members.
- For additional wellness resources go to the Ambrose wellness page: <https://ambrose.edu/wellness>

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Alberta Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced gender based sexual violence in the past or while at Ambrose. Many of the staff, faculty, and student leaders have received Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need and you can access information about reporting. Information about the Sexual Violence policy and on and off campus supports can be found on our website— ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Alberta's Oneline for Sexual Violence - 1-866-403-8000 call or text
- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888
- Chat: www.calgarycasa.com

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.