



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

**WM 635.1 Establishing Communities of Faith in a Multi-Cultural World (3)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard P. Gilbertson  
**Class Time:** Fri. Jan 18- 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm LL 124  
Sat. Jan. 19- 9:00 am – 4:30 pm LL 124  
Tue,Wed, Thurs. Feb. 19,20,21 9:00 am – 4:30 pm TBA  
**Contacting instructor:** Office: 2066  
**Email Address:** [rgilbertson@ambrose.edu](mailto:rgilbertson@ambrose.edu)

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*“Establishing Communities of Faith in Multi-cultural World is designed to introduce the learner to the exciting ministry of initiating vibrant communities of faith (the church) in context. Participants will discover culturally relevant ways of applying trans-cultural biblical principles associated with evangelism and the growth of dynamic communities of faith. A theological framework for establishing these communities in their local context is accompanied by relevant methodological and strategic research that informs the way in which these communities are developed in our multi-cultural world.”*

**2. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**2.1 Cognitive . . . what the learner should know and understand.**

- Articulate the theological and biblical foundations for church planting in general and for cross cultural-“pioneer” contexts in particular.
- Present the dimensions involved in “moving into the neighbourhood”, an incarnational approach to church planting.

**2.2 Affective . . . what the learner should feel and appreciate.**

- Esteem the divine aspect of church planting and the resulting implications for both personal spiritual formation and personal spiritual life practices.
- Recognize the importance of a thorough understanding of a “neighbourhood” and its people for contextualizing strategy.

**2.3 Conative . . . what the learner should be able to do and perform.**

- Identify worthwhile resources to inform and guide starting new churches.
- Articulate their own personal philosophy of ministry along with contextual applications for various intercultural settings.

### **3. TEXTBOOKS**

#### **3.1 MULLER, ROLAND**

2010 *The Messenger, The Message & the Community: Three Critical Issues for the Cross-Cultural Church-Planter, 2nd Edition*. Please download a PDF COPY from [http://www.stpt.ca/Messenger-Message-and-Community-ebook\\_p\\_9.html](http://www.stpt.ca/Messenger-Message-and-Community-ebook_p_9.html)

#### **3.2 OTT, CRAIG and WILSON, GENE**

2011 *Global Church Planting- Biblical Principles and Best Practices for Multiplication*. Baker Academic Books, Grand Rapids, MI. (order via Amazon or Indigo- kindle version available)

**3.3 A Compendium of eVersion readings located on the Moodle course site.**

**4. COURSE OUTLINE**      See Appendix 1

### **5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

|   |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| <b><u>The Messenger, the Message &amp; The Community</u><br/>reading response paper</b> | <b>15%</b>  | <b>Feb. 19</b>         |
| <b>Annotated bibliography and integration paper</b>                                     | <b>20%</b>  | <b>Feb. 19</b>         |
| <b>Reading response paper for <u>Global Church Planting</u></b>                         | <b>15%</b>  | <b>Mar. 22</b>         |
| <b>Church Planting Research Project</b>   | <b>45%</b>  | <b>April 15</b>        |
| <b>Exit interview with Instructor + discussion of research project.</b>                 | <b>5%</b>   | <b>Exam week April</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>100%</b> |                        |

#### **5.1 Reading response paper for The Messenger, the Message & The Community (15%) Due date: Feb. 19**

The learner is to read carefully each of the three sections of the book and answer the questions at the conclusion of each chapter. The learner should use some form of note taking for his/her answers. On the basis of the learner's interaction with the material, he/she is to write a two-page response to the content and application for each section for a total of **six pages**. The learner is to discuss his/her response to the content and relate how the material applies to future ministry and possible areas of involvement.

The content of this book will form part of the course discussion during Feb.19-21.

#### **5.2 Annotated bibliography and integration paper (20%) Due date: Feb. 19.**

The learner will find on Moodle a compendium of eVersion reading related to the subject of our course. Each of these readings represents key elements for the practice of establishing new faith communities. The learner is to keep an annotated bibliography for each source and then write a **four page integration paper** based on his/her interaction and synthesis of the combined material read.

The content of this reading will constitute the backdrop to our class discussions during Feb. 19-21.

### **5.3 Critical Analysis of Global Church Planting (15%) Due date: March 22.**

This book is a very well crafted resource that outlines the critical aspects surrounding the theme of establishing faith communities in a multi-cultural world. For each “part”, chose one significant theme that stood out to you and write a one page response as to the importance and/relevance of this theme to understanding and practice of church planting. **(total 4 pages)**

### **5.4 Church Planting Research Project (45%) April 15**

Each student will be responsible to write a fifteen **(15) page** project (not including appendices). The student should consider the content and frameworks discussed throughout the course as a foundation for their research. The paper will present a specific application of the course content to an area of personal interest and passion for the student. The student must read 400-500 pages as part of their research and include a statement indicating they have done so in the bibliography section of the paper.

Choose from the following options:

- Planting a church in a Creative Access Country (choose a specific country and people group)
- Planting a church among new Canadians in Canada (choose a specific group)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Experience of Church Planting: a Case Study
- Planting a church among Muslim background people (or another religious group- Buddhist, Hindu, etc)
- Being involved in “Tentmaking” and the task of cross-cultural church planting. (This may be of particular interest for those who see themselves having a vocation other than “full-time” ministry.)
- Pioneer Church Planting in Teams- the role of teams in cross-cultural church planting.
- A topic approved by Instructor

## 5.5 Exit interview with instructor and discussion of major research project (5 %)

The learner will arrange a 45 minute conversation with the instructor to review his/her insights from both the paper as well as the course content.

## 6. 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% |             |

## 8. IMPORTANT NOTES

- ◆ Class Attendance:
  - The student is expected to attend **all** classes.
- ◆ Submission of Assignments
  - 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.
- ◆ Late Policy
  - Any written assignment that is not submitted on time will receive a penalty of 10% for the first day and then 5% for each of the following 10 days (including holidays). After that the paper will receive 0 points, unless otherwise stated in the syllabi. (This penalty relates to any assignment.)
- ◆ Academic Dishonesty
  - **Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating.** It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to Ambrose Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty. These are stated in the current Catalogue.
    - A plagiarized paper will receive an F and be reported to the Dean's office. You will automatically fail the class.
    - A paper where you have referenced something as a paraphrase but is in fact a direct quote will receive an F but with a possibility of rewriting the paper. Your final grade for the class will be at the most a B-. This plagiarism will be reported to the Dean's office.
- ◆ Important Dates
  - The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntarily withdraw from a course without financial penalty **January 20, 2013**

- The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty **March 22, 2013**
- 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.” Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”
- ◆ Personal Information
  - 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)

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.