

Course ID:	Course Title:	Spring 2017
CH645	Historical Theological Shifts & Church Planting Implications	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

MODULE FORMAT CLASS

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	1 week Intensive.	Instructor:	Domenic Ruso PhD	First day of classes:	May 8th 2017
Time:	9:00am-4pm	Email:	Domenic.Ruso@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	End of the first day
Room:		Phone:		Last day to request revised exam:	n/a
Lab/Tutorial:		Office:		Last day to withdraw from course:	1 pm on the 4 th day of classes
		Office Hours:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	June 15, 2017
Final Exam:				Last day of classes:	May 12th 2017

Course Description- as found - <https://ambrose.edu/seminary-spring-course-offerings>

This course will explore significant historical shifts within Christian intellectual history and culture with a focus on the changing dynamics of Christian witness. In so doing, students will become acquainted with ecclesiological realities that will help inform present day church planting initiatives. Consequently, this course will equip students to explore their own leadership contexts with a rooted understanding of the past with a passion to explore new church expressions.

Expected Learning Outcomes

On completing this class with serious engagement with class content & discussion students will

- be better equipped to discern their how the shifts in our culture might be impacting their own church/ministry context.
- have an appreciate of the way key shifts in church history have adapted to cultural changes for the sake of kingdom expansion
- be more familiar with key authors and thinkers leading the way in the field of new church planting movements and important role that leadership, history and biblical theology plays in this regard.
- be inspired to start a new conversation within their local context related to re-engaging the secular spaces of our culture and listening a new for God's presence in their midst

Textbooks

John D. Caputo. *What would Jesus Deconstruct? : The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Richard Kearney and Jens Zimmermann Eds. *Reimagining the Sacred: Richard Kearney Debates God*, New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2016.

Mark Noll. *From Every Tribe and Nation: A Historian's Discovery of The Global Christian Story*. Grand Rapids: MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

James K. Smith. *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016.

Course Schedule

This course has been created to take advantage of the week intensive class dynamic. The tentative outline for the week will explore diverse theological shifts that impact questions about faith, church planting and the complexity of an emerging secularized culture. Here are some salient topics that will shape lectures and class conversations.

Mon. The Landscape of Doubt , Disbelief and Disenchantment

Tues. How theology shapes culture and how culture returns the favor

Wed. History Lesson on Blind-spots: What we never see coming

Thurs. Reversing Ecclesiology : Who, What and Where, Why, before How .

Friday. Where from here: Why Church planting matters more than ever.

Requirements:

Class Participation: 10%

Attend and be on time for class. Participation in lecture and class discussion based on assigned reading for each day.

Take home Quiz: 30%

This quiz will address the most salient themes explored throughout the week and must be returned by email by the end of May. More details in class.

Book Report: 20% (approx. 5pages)

Due on the last day of class and must hand in as a hard copy.

Mark, Noll. *From Every Tribe and Nation: A Historian's Discovery of The Global Christian Story*. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids: MI. 2014.

The book report is not a review, but a engagement with the author's overall ideas and how they might impact the larger conversation related to church planting, 'missional' engagement and theological dialogues in our changing landscape.

Major Essay: 50% (Approx 2000wds)

Expounding on the nature and narratives of Unbelief (a key theme that will explored in class) write an essay on the role of the church and the tension you notice and feel worth addressing as it pertains to belief and unbelief in a secular culture. This assignment must include key insights from different authors (some which will be discussed in class).

* Students must firm up thesis with instructor.

This assignment is due 1 month following the last day of class.

Attendance:

Participation in lecture and class discussion based on assigned reading for each day. Two miss more than two class will require a special meeting. The student is responsible for all the class content they miss in class. See Ambrose Attendance Policy related to intensive classes for more information.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent - 100-86%
A-	
B+	
B	Good - 85-70%
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory 69-65%
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass 64%-50
F	Failure 50%

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

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. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may 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 or record. 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" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their 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.

Exam Scheduling

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) the student has 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 use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. 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. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in 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 (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.

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 Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal 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. 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 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 college. 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.

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