



A M B R O S E

NT 608 CL - Prison Epistles

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2012

Sam Tsang, Ph.D

Course Description

An exploration of Paul's theology as it comes to expression in Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon. Attention is given to the historical, argumentative, and literary contexts of each letter. Particular attention is given to Paul's theology of Christ, his theology of ministry and the church, as well as pastoral and hermeneutical concerns that arise in applying these books today.

Class Schedules

June 18-22, M/T/W/Th/F 9:00am-4:00pm in classroom L2100

Instructor Information

PhD University of Sheffield, Associate Professor of New Testament and Preaching in Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. Email: samtsang@hkbts.edu.hk

Textbooks

Fung, R. Y. K., *Philippians* (Cupertino: Tian Dao, 1995)

Tsang, Sam, *Colossians* (Hong Kong: Ming Dao Press, 2009)

_____, *Ephesians* (Hong Kong: Ming Dao Press, 2010)

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each day of week module classes. Given that this is a module course, it is extremely important that you attend all of the class time.

Course Outline

Monday – Introduction to the Prison Epistles; Colossians

Tuesday – Colossians and Philemon

Wednesday – Ephesians

Thursday – Ephesians and Philippians

Friday – Philippians and Summary

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Exposure to various critical methods, thus developing a personal exegetical strategy with clearly delineated presuppositions.
2. Appreciation for various interpretive traditions, thus gaining their insights and avoiding their pitfalls.
3. Learning Paul's use of worship material to fortify his arguments.
4. Application of principles that follow the legacy of the Pauline message in our community.
5. Intellectually, students should be able to think in the theological, historical, social, rhetorical, and literary context of Paul's world.
6. Students will gain a critical mind with which to discuss interpretations from academic traditions different from our own.
7. Students will learn to appreciate the introductory issues and to solve the "problems" in Pauline Epistles.
8. Students will learn to be comfortable in the exposition and application of a Pauline text.

Course Requirements

Reading: Read the Epistles twice in the first three weeks. One more detailed reading must follow the progression of lectures. Read 500 pages of journal or dictionary (e.g. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*) articles relating to the Epistles in addition to required texts. At the end of the semester, each student will turn in a pledge that s/he has read all of the assignments. If not, whatever percentage read must be given.

Papers: 1) The student will write a 15 page argument paper of Ephesians. 2) From a wide range of reading, the student will write a 15 page paper with full footnotes on one of

the following topics: the function of the imperial theme in the Epistles; the different interpretations on the Christ hymn in Phil. 2; the rhetorical function of hymnic materials in Prison Epistles. Turn in papers on August 10. There will be no grace period.

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

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.

Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter this course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from this course without financial and academic penalty (**drop**): 4 PM of the first day of classes. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. If you wish to drop a class, please stop by the Registrar's Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the “drop” date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. If you wish to change to audit, please drop by the Registrar’s Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (*withdraw*): 1 pm on the fourth (4th) day of your class. A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s 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.

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 engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please 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. 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 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.

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 July 17, 2012. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

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 College 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 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 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 and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Note:

- The Ambrose Library will be open from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm during the Spring courses.
- The Ambrose Bookstore will be open from Monday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm