



AMBROSE SEMINARY

OT/NT 613 Prayer in the Bible
“I will lift up my hands”:
Scripture’s witness to the prayers of God’s people (3)
May 4 - 8, 2009
Instructor: Rick Love

Contacting the Instructor

Office: Room L2071
Class Times: May 4 - 8 9:00 – 12:00 / 1:00 – 4:00
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Course Description

A detailed study of the prayers of Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, Paul and others, focusing on the theology prominent within narrative prayers. Study of the Biblical text is accompanied by reflection concerning the implications of these prayers for contemporary public and private prayer. Understanding the ways in which ancient men and women used different kinds of prayers in diverse situations will help us know how to pray when we are angry, depressed, terrified, confused, frustrated, sorrowful, joyful, or thankful.

Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- A. Grow in their knowledge of Old and New Testament prayers.
- B. Gain skill in the interpretation and application of texts in which biblical prayers are found.
- C. Write public and private prayers based on the warrants for prayer found within the prayers of the Bible.

- D. Analyze and critique contemporary prayer.
- E. Plan and organize gatherings for prayer.
- F. Grow in passion, zeal, and love for God, His Word, His Church, and the world as a result of time spent in prayer with God.
- G. Grow in the spiritual discipline of prayer.

Course Requirements / Learning Activities & Course Grade

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS (70% OF TOTAL GRADE)

A.1. Worksheets (60%): Due July 10

Students will receive 9 worksheets to assist in studying biblical prayers, theological reflection, as well as preparation for personal and corporate prayer.

A.2. Prayer Journal (10%): Due July 10

Each student will keep a prayer journal in which they offer twenty (20) prayers to God which are informed by what is learned from the in-class and out-of-class learning activities for this course. On average, the student should expect to spend about 15-20 minutes typing or writing a daily prayer of a little less than one page, double spaced. I am more interested in the quality of each prayer than the length of each prayer. At the top of each page, please include the written biblical text (and reference) of the warrant you will be using to compose each prayer. Number your prayers to make it easier for the instructor to quantify.

A.3. Learning contract: Due May 8 (see below)

Students will prepare a learning contract indicating which of the optional learning activities you are planning to do (see below). Provide enough detail so that your plans are clear to the instructor.

B. LEARNING CONTRACT ASSIGNMENTS (30%): Due July 10

In consultation with the instructor, students will compose a learning contract to assist them in achieving the desired learning outcomes for this course. The learning contract is due May 8. Examples of some possible learning activities are found below. Details of this learning contract will be discussed during the first class session. All written assignments must: 1) be double-spaced, 2) be paginated, and 3) include an indication of the percentage the student considers that assignment to be worth (as approved by the instructor).

Examples of contract assignments:

B.1. Additional Prayer Journal Entries (5% - 20%)

Students may choose to write additional prayers to include in their Prayer Journal. Please follow the guidelines for Prayer Journal entries as seen in section A.2. above. In an attempt to apply a grade to this exercise, students will earn 0.5% toward their final grade for each daily prayer. Students may choose to write 10 additional prayers (5%), 20 additional prayers (10%), 30 additional prayers (15%), or 40 additional prayers (20%).

B.2. Planning and leading prayer meetings (5% each to a maximum of 20%)

Students may choose to plan and lead prayer meetings. It is expected that the student will explain what they planned for each prayer meeting, report on and evaluate each prayer session, and discuss what they have learned from these activities and what they want to do to improve the quality of the prayer meetings in the future.

B.3. Prayer Calendar (10%)

Students may choose to develop a prayer calendar for a church or some other ministry situation. The prayer calendar will include a plan for various prayer activities, with a thematic focus guided by particular biblical texts for the various prayer sessions.

B.4. Prayer Meeting Evaluation (2.5% each to a maximum of 10%)

Students may choose to evaluate prayer meetings which they attend. Prepare a 2 page report for each session explaining what was done well and what could be improved in the future.

B.5. Prayer Kit (10%)

Students may choose to prepare a prayer kit which consists of illustrations on prayer, organization of Bible texts and themes in a way to prepare for prayer meetings, sermons on prayer, and other materials which would be useful for leading the church in prayer.

B.6. Paper (15%)

Students may choose to write a 7-8 page paper (double-spaced) in which they explain a theme related to the study of prayer in the Bible. All research materials are to be properly noted.

B.7. Sermon or Lesson plan (15%)

Students may choose to write a sermon or detailed lesson plan on prayer, based upon one or more biblical texts.

B.8. Reading and reading report (10% or 15%)

Students may choose to read 200 pages (10%) or 300 pages (15%) from the reading list of books on prayer found later in this syllabus. In your reading report indicate the pages read from each book and the percentage of those pages which were read carefully. Students will record and rank the eight (8) most important ideas from their reading (if reading 200 pages) or ten (10) most important ideas from their reading (if reading 300 pages), state the reasons why you view these ideas as most significant, and discuss the significance of these ideas for your own ministry. Conclude by stating five (5) questions which you think skeptical readers of this book / these books might ask the author(s). The reading report should be approximately 4 pages (10%) or 6 pages (15%).

B.9. Other learning activities that students would like to pursue for this course can be negotiated with the instructor.

C. Attendance at all class sessions is required and expected.

Books on Prayer and the Bible

Balentine, Samuel E. Prayer in the Hebrew Bible. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.

Brandt, Robert L. and Zenas J. Bicket. The Spirit Helps Us Pray: A Biblical Theology of Prayer. Springfield, Missouri: Logion, 1993.

Carson, D. A., ed. Teach us to Pray: Prayer in the Bible and the World. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Chester, Timothy. The Message of Prayer. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2003.

Clements, Ronald E. In Spirit and in Truth: Insights from Biblical Prayers. Atlanta: John Knox, 1985.

Dumm, Demetrius. Praying the Scriptures. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Gaebelein, Arno C. Prayer: An Examination of Prayer in the Light of the Scriptures. New York: Our Hope, 1926.

Greenberg, Moshe. Biblical Prose Prayer As a Window to the Popular Religion of Ancient Israel. Berkeley: University of California, 1983.

Kroll, Woodrow. Empowered to Pray. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

Law, Philip. Praying with the Old Testament. London: Triangle, 1989.

McFadyen, John Edgar. The Prayers of the Bible. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1906.

Miller, Patrick D. They Cried to the Lord: The Form and Theology of Biblical Prayer. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

Newman, Judith H. Praying by the Book: The Scripturalization of Prayer in Second Temple Judaism. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars, 1999.

Osiek, Carolyn and Donald Senior, ed. Scripture and Prayer. Wilmington, Delaware: Michael Glazier, 1988.

Thompson, Michael E. W. I Have Heard Your Prayer: The Old Testament and Prayer. Peterborough, U.K.: Epworth, 1996.

Important Notes

Registration and Financial Policies

Registration and payment in full is due for all modular classes by 10 a.m. on the first day of class. Students may withdraw from modular classes and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 1:00 p.m. on Monday, of the first day of class). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline. Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, or the fourth day of class). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of "F." All Registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or can be downloaded (www.ambrose.edu).

Academic policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of Ambrose as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar and Catalogue (www.ambrose.edu). 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.

Submission of Course Work

All coursework due after the end of modular classes is to be marked clearly with your name and student number, as well as the full name and code of your particular course, and delivered to the following address:

Ambrose University College
Attn: Rick Love
150 Ambrose Circle SW
Calgary AB T3H 0L5

Please note: Ambrose cannot assume responsibility for papers lost in the mail. Students are therefore strongly advised to retain a photocopy (or backup copy) of all work submitted.

Return of Course Work/Papers

Students with an on-campus mailbox at the time graded assignments are returned (approximately one month after the coursework due date) will receive their assignments via the regular on-campus mail system.

Students who do not have an on-campus mailbox and who wish to have their papers returned **must** provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope (*large enough to mail all assignments submitted*) with sufficient postage, together with their coursework assignments. Unreturned assignments will be retained in the Dean's Office for one year then destroyed.

Coursework due dates

Unless otherwise stated, all coursework requirements are due July 10. Coursework submitted after the due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for Time Extension, will receive a grade of "F." Requests for a Time Extension will be considered only in the following circumstances: 1) the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory; 2) circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; and 3) the student submits a Time Extension application to the Registrar on or before two weeks prior to the due date, as indicated in the course syllabus.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

The seminary is 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 seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. 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.