



NT 613 Prayer in the Bible
“I will lift up my hands”:
Scripture’s witness to the prayers of God’s people (3)
(May 9-13, 2011)

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.

Class Schedule: May 9-13 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 / 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Rick Love, Ph.D
Office: L 2071
Office phone: (403) 410 2000 ext. 7907
Email: rlove@ambrose.edu

Attendance:

Students who miss more than six hours of class room time will need to see the instructor to obtain additional worksheets to make up for every three hours of class absence (or part thereof) beyond the initial six hours of class absence. Each of these worksheets will be worth two-thirds of a letter grade.

Expected 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: All assignments are to be submitted to the instructor electronically (rlove@ambrose.edu). Please make other arrangements with the instructor if, for some reason, an assignment cannot be submitted electronically.

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

All assignments will be submitted electronically to rlove@ambrose.edu. Each assignment should be submitted as an MS Word file using the following pattern for the title of the file: your last name – initial – assignment name.docx (e.g., when John Smith submits his answers for the worksheets he will save the file as Smith J worksheets.docx or when Sally Jones submits a reading report she will save the file as Jones S rr.docx). This will assist me greatly in keeping track of all submitted assignments.

A.1. Worksheets (60%): Due June 15

Students will receive 9 worksheets to assist in studying biblical prayers, theological reflection, as well as preparation for personal and corporate prayer. These are to be submitted in one MS Word file to rlove@ambrose.edu.

A.2. Prayer Journal (10%): Due July 15

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. Prayer journals are to be submitted in one MS Word file to rlove@ambrose.edu.

A.3. Learning contract: Due May 13 (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 15

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 13. 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). Learning contract assignments are to be submitted to rlove@ambrose.edu unless, by the nature of the assignment, it needs to be submitted as a hard copy (please let the instructor know by email if you have submitted a hard copy assignment).

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.

<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

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/Dates:

Registration and payment in full is open up to noon (12:00pm) of the first day of class.

Students may drop this class and receive a full refund up till noon on 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, up till noon (12:00pm) on the first day of class. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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. All registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office if an Unclassified or Visiting student and through the Student Portal if a current student of Ambrose.

Other:

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.

Paper Format: It is preferred that papers for this course follow the guidelines of A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian. Papers should be double-spaced with regular spacing between paragraphs. Papers must be paginated.

Papers that are unclaimed and/or undeliverable will be held for six months from the due date, then destroyed.

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 appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are 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 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.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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.

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.

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 Ambrose. 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 and become part of the student's permanent record.

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.