



AMBROSE

OT / NT 633 Biblical Theology of Suffering (3) (Winter 2011)

Course Description:

How does the Word of God help us when life is full of pain and trouble? Is our suffering caused by sin? by Satan? Is it part of God's plan? How does God desire for us to respond when we suffer? In this course we will explore the teachings of Scripture to understand God's perspective on these and related questions.

Class Schedule: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Rick Love, Ph.D
Office: L 2071
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Required Texts:

1. Carson, D. A. How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil. Grand Rapids: Baker; Nottingham: InterVarsity, 1990, 2006.

Plus one of the following three books:

2.a. Kreeft, Peter. Making Sense Out of Suffering. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant Books, 1986.

2.b. Lewis, C. S. The Problem of Pain. New York: Macmillan, 1962; San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2001.

2.c. Yancey, Philip. Where is God When it Hurts? Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977.

Attendance:

Students who miss more than three class sessions will need to see the instructor to obtain additional worksheets to make up for the fourth or any subsequent class absences. Each of these worksheets will be worth two-thirds of a letter grade.

Course Outline:

Jan	12	Introduction, syllabus
	19	Discuss worksheet # 1
	26	No class (Seminary retreat)
Feb	2	Discuss worksheet # 2
	9	Discuss worksheet # 3
	16	Discuss worksheet # 4
	23	No class (Mid-semester break)
Mar	2	Discuss worksheet # 5
	9	Discuss worksheet # 6 (Ambrose Global Impact Day)
	16	Discuss worksheet # 7
	23	Discuss worksheet # 8
	30	Discuss reading * Reading report due
Apr	6	Discuss worksheet # 9
	13	Last class - Discuss worksheet # 10
	20	* Paper due

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- A. Interpret and apply Biblical texts in reference to the theme of suffering (as evidenced in the worksheets, class discussion and paper).
- B. Grow in their knowledge of what the Bible as a whole says about suffering, including, but not limited to, such themes as: God's sovereignty, God's goodness, God's justice, the fall, sin, Satan, sickness and health, lament, death, grief, salvation, hell and heaven, retribution, pain, temptation and testing, comfort, poverty, oppression, rewards and punishment, and eschatological blessing (as evidenced in the worksheets, class discussion and paper).
- C. Apply the message of the Bible, especially as it relates to the theme of suffering, to contemporary church and society (as evidenced in the worksheets, class discussion and paper).
- D. Explain to others, in a variety of ways, what the Bible says about suffering.
- E. Demonstrate passion, zeal, and love for God, His Word, His Church, and the world.
- F. Evaluate our success in achieving the desired learning outcomes (during the last class session).

Course Requirements / Learning Activities & Course Grade:

A. Reading and reading report (25%): Due March 30

Students will read:

1. D. A. Carson's How Long, O Lord

and either:

2.a. Peter Kreeft's Making Sense Out of Suffering,

2.b. C. S. Lewis' The Problem of Pain, or

2.c. Philip Yancey's Where is God When it Hurts?

Students will record and rank the ten (10) most important ideas from each of the two books read (include page numbers). 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 informed non-Christian readers of these books might ask the authors. Compose questions that the authors have not already addressed in the books read. The reading report should be approximately six (6) pages.

B. Worksheets to prepare for class discussion (10 x 5% each = 50%)

On the moodle page for this course students will find ten (10) worksheets that will guide them in the study of what the Bible says about various aspects of suffering. Students will answer all of the questions on each worksheet and be ready to submit those at the beginning of the session in which that topic is discussed.

C. Paper (25%): Due April 20

In consultation with the professor, each student will write an 8-10 page biblical and theological analysis of a case study of an example of suffering. Analyze the case study in light of what you learn throughout the semester from your reading for the course, class discussion, and worksheets. Conclude with a discussion of the significance of your case study for contemporary church and society.

Grading:

A. Reading and reading report: 25%

B. Worksheets (10 x 5% each): 50%

C. Paper: 25%

<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

Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter the course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is Friday, January 21, 2011.

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from the course or change to audit without academic penalty is Friday, March 18, 2011.

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.

Bibliography

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