

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Winter 2020</b>
EN 270	Popular Fiction	<b>Prerequisite: EN 115</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	W/F	<b>Instructor:</b>	D. Dyck (Ph.D.)	<b>First day of classes:</b>	Tue, Jan 7
<b>Time:</b>	11 am-12:30 pm	<b>Email:</b>	darren.dyck@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	Sun, Jan 19
<b>Room:</b>	A2212	<b>Phone:</b>	Ext. 6931	<b>Last day to request revised exam:</b>	Mon, Mar 9
<b>Lab/ Tutorial:</b>		<b>Office:</b>	L2069	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	Fri, Mar 20
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	W/F 11:00 am-12:30 pm	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	Mon, Mar 30
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Date TBA			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	Thurs, Apr 9

### Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the genres of popular fiction: fantasy, romance, detective, thriller, didactic, science fiction, and others. By attending to the differences between these genres, as well as to the distinctions that may be drawn between popular and literary fiction, students will both explore how popular authors treat such universal themes as love, justice, and mortality, and gain insight into what is meant when a text is called ‘good.’

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- read a variety of texts emblematic of the popular fiction genres detective, science fiction, science fantasy, western, and horror
- practice close-reading in order to elucidate the intentions of a given author
- identify and describe the conventions associated with the popular fiction genres listed above
- explore the differences between what is referred to as “literary” and popular fiction
- further develop the skills required for academic writing

### Textbooks

- Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep* (Vintage)
- N.K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season* (Orbit)
- Charles Portis, *True Grit* (Overlook)
- Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House* (Penguin)

- Additional texts in Readings Package

## Course Schedule

Date	Genre	Reading	Assignment
<b>Jan.</b>			
8	Introductions		
10	"Golden Age" Detective Fiction	Chesterton, "The Invisible Man" (1911) Christie, "The Third Floor Flat" (1950)	
15	"Hard-boiled" Detective Fiction	Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i> (1939), pp. 1-76	
17	"Hard-boiled" Detective Fiction	<i>The Big Sleep</i> , pp. 76-153	
19		Last day to add/drop/change to audit	
22	"Hard-boiled" Detective Fiction	<i>The Big Sleep</i> , pp. 153-231	
22/23	<b>FILM Night</b>	<b>The big sleep</b>	
24	<i>Film: Noir</i>	Hawks, <i>The Big Sleep</i> (1946)	
29			In-Class Essay
31	Science Fiction	Fyfe, "Protected Species" (1951) Bradbury, "A Sound of Thunder" (1952)	
<b>Feb</b>			
5	Science Fiction	Clarke, "The Nine Billion Names of God" (1953) Asimov, "The Last Question" (1956)	
7	Science Fiction	Le Guin, "The Day before the Revolution" (1974)	
12	Science Fantasy	Jemisin, <i>Fifth Season</i> (2015), pp. 1-115	
14	Science Fantasy	<i>The Fifth Season</i> , pp. 116-231	
19	Reading Week		
21	Reading Week		
26	Science Fantasy	<i>The Fifth Season</i> , pp. 232-343	
28	Science Fantasy	<i>The Fifth Season</i> , pp. 344-449 <b>Co-Conversationalists: Beth Stovell &amp; Colin Toffelmire</b>	
<b>Mar</b>			
4	Western	Portis, <i>True Grit</i> (1968), pp. 11-76	
6	Western	<i>True Grit</i> , pp. 77-175	Optional <i>Fifth Season</i> Essay Due
9		Last day to request revised exam	
11	Western	<i>True Grit</i> , pp. 177-224 <b>Co-Conversationalist: Jon Coutts</b>	
11	<b>Film night</b>	<b>True grit (films for faith)</b>	
13	<i>Film: Western</i>	Coen Brothers, <i>True Grit</i> (2010)	
18	Horror	King, "The Man in the Black Suit" (1994)	
20		Last day to withdraw from course	

20	Psychological/ Supernatural Horror	Jackson, <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> (1959), pp. 1-85	<u>Optional</u> <i>True Grit</i> Essay Due
25	ARC		
27	Pysch/Sup Horror	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> , pp. 86-167	
30		Last day to apply for coursework extension	
Apr			
1	Pysch/Sup Horror	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> , pp. 168-233 <b>Co-Conversationalist: Matthew Morris</b>	
1/2	FILM night	The haunting	
3	Film: Pysch/Sup Horror	Wise, <i>The Haunting</i> (1963)	
8	Conclusions		

### Requirements:

20% Reading Responses (10 @ 2% each)

Students must submit ten Reading Responses in EN 270, each worth 2% of their final grade. A Reading Response is a 190-210-word answer to a specific question. The questions to which students will respond and the dates upon which responses may be submitted are on the Reading Responses handout.

15% In-Class Essay

Students will write an in-class essay on January 29th in response to a specific question about the relationship between Chandler's *The Big Sleep* and Hawks's 1946 film of the same name.

There will be an extra-curricular viewing of Hawks's film on the evening of either January 22nd or 23rd. Students who can't attend this viewing should ensure that they see the film before January 24th, on which date we'll discuss it in class. (It is very likely our discussion will generate the in-class essay question to which students will respond.)

Hawks's *The Big Sleep* will be on reserve in the Ambrose library (as will be the Coen Brothers' *True Grit* and Wise's *The Haunting*).

35% Essay

Students will write an essay (2000-2500 words) in which they discuss either Jemisin's *The Fifth Season* (due March 6th) or Portis's *True Grit* (due March 20th).

20% Final Exam

Students will write a final exam (date TBA). Half of this exam will deal specifically with Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* and possibly Wise's 1953 film of the same name.

10% Participation

Participation is your visible engagement with the class and the texts: look alert, bring your texts to class, ask questions, share your thoughts, say 'I don't understand' when you don't understand, and visit me during my office hours.

Attendance is critical both for your success in this course and your participation mark: skip class and your grades will suffer.

### Grade Summary:

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

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

## 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](mailto: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. 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.