

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	
Days:	T/Th	Instructor:	D. Dyck (BA, MA)	Last day to add/ drop/change to audit:	Wed., Jan. 6, 2016
Time:	1:00-2:15	Email:	darren.dyck@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Sun., Jan. 17, 2016
Room:	L2084	Phone:	Ext. 6931	Last day to withdraw from course:	Mon., Feb. 29, 2016
Lab/Tut:		Office:	L2062	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Fri., Mar 18, 2016
Final Exam: 16 April 2016, L2100, 9-12		Office Hrs:	T/Th 2:30-3:30	Last day of classes:	Mon., Mar. 28, 2016
					Wed., April 13, 2016

Textbook:

- Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (9780062073563)
- King, Stephen. *Different Seasons* (9780451167538)
- A Text TBD
- Additional Readings (on Moodle: **print** and bring to class)

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:

- To introduce students to the major genres or popular fiction, concepts, and terms
- To teach students literary analytical techniques with which to understand literature for their profit and delight
- To build competence in writing through the study of popular fiction, giving close attention to mechanics, structure, argument, editing, and research techniques

Date	Topic/Genre	Readings
Jan.		
7	Introductions	No Assigned Readings
12	'Hard-Boiled' Detective Fiction	M: Hammett, "Arson Plus" (1923) M: Chandler, "I'll Be Waiting" (1939)
14	'Hard-Boiled' Detective Fiction	M: Chandler, "The Simple Art of Murder" (1950)
19	The 'Golden Age' Mystery	Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> (1926), pp. 1-99
21	The 'Golden Age' Mystery	<i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> , pp. 100-202
26	The 'Golden Age' Mystery	<i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> , pp. 203-286
28	Program Day	No Class
Feb.		
2	'Literary' Fiction: A Sample	M: Banville, <i>The Book of Evidence</i> , pp. 5-25 (1989)
4	'Popular' Fiction	King, <i>Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption</i> , pp. 15-58 (1982)
9	'Popular' Fiction	<i>Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption</i> , pp. 58-107
11	Midterm	No Assigned Readings
16	Mid-Semester Break	No Class
18	Mid-Semester Break	No Class
23	'Popular' Fiction SC: Submission Deadline	M: Tolstoy, "God Sees the Truth, But Waits" (1872) & "Where Love Is, God Is" (1885)
25	'Astounding' Science Fiction	M: Fyfe, "Protected Species" (1951) M: Clark, "The Star" (1955)
Mar.		
1	'Astounding' Science Fiction SC: Final Round of Voting	M: Le Guin, "Vaster than Empires and More Slow" (1971)
3	'Astounding' Science Fiction	M: Moore, "Vintage Season" (1946)

8	'Astounding' Science <i>Fantasy</i> ?	M: Vance, "Magirian the Magician" (1950) M: Martin, "The Way of Cross and Dragon" (1979)
10	A Catch-Up Day Short Paper Due	No Assigned Readings
15	The 'Desert' Romance	M: Hull, <i>The Sheik</i> (1919)
17	The 'Desert' Romance	M: Hull, <i>The Sheik</i> (1919)
22	The 'Desert' Romance	M: Hull, <i>The Sheik</i> (1919)
24	'To the Gentlewomen ...'	M: Riche, "First Dedicatory Epistle" (1581) & "Of Gonsales and His Virtuous Wife Agatha"
29	Students' Choice Final Essay Proposals Due	TBD
31	Students' Choice	TBD
Apr.		
5	Students' Choice	TBD
7	Students' Choice	TBD
12	Conclusions	No Assigned Readings

Requirements:

- Attend class. Always bring the relevant readings to class. If the relevant reading is a PDF (available on Moodle), print it out and bring it in hard copy.
- Extensions may be granted on written assignments in exceptional circumstances. The late penalty is one refined letter grade per class day late.
- All assignments must be submitted to receive a passing final grade.

Attendance:

Students should attend class consistently and punctually. Unexcused absences will negatively affect not only your comprehension of course content but also your participation grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a fellow student, to acquire any handouts, and to discover whether any changes were made to the syllabus.

Grade Summary:

15%	Short Writing Assignments (5 @ 3%)
5%	Students' Choice Submission and Vote
20%	Midterm Exam
20%	Short Essay
30%	Final Exam or Essay
10%	Participation

Course Work:

Short Writing Assignments

At least seven times over the course of the term, I will ask you to write a short response to a specific question about our readings. Some of these questions will be provided in advance, in which case a carefully crafted response is invited and will be due at the beginning of the following class; others will be asked and require an immediate in-class response. Responses that are off topic, incoherent, illegible, or give no specific evidence of your having done the assigned readings will score poorly. Dates for in-class responses will **not** be announced in advance; likewise, questions calling for responses to be handed in in the following class will **not** be circulated digitally; if you miss it, you miss it. Your **best five** marks will count.

Students' Choice Submission and Vote

In the spirit of *popularity*, the final text of the course will be determined by democratic process. Each of you is required to propose a text for us to study and to vote on the final list of texts proposed (see 'Students' Choice' handout for further details).

Midterm Exam

This exam will consist of short answer questions covering our readings, lectures, and discussions up to the exam date. It will not be open-note or open-book. Make-up exams will be arranged only in cases of appropriately documented medical, etc. emergencies.

Short Paper

Students will write 1000-1250 words on a text studied between Feb. 23rd and Mar. 8th.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of mostly short-answer questions and an essay. It will cover material from the entire term; it will not be open-note or open-book.

Final Essay Option (instructor's approval required)

Students who receive grades of at least a B- on both the midterm exam and the short essay (or as the average of the two) may request to write a final essay in lieu of the final exam. Requests must be submitted no later than **March 29th** and must include a 200-word formal proposal. The **due date** will be the same as the exam date.

Participation

Participation takes many forms. Endeavour to discover as many of these as you can.

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 College-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.

Other

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.

Exam Scheduling

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.

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.

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 college. 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.