

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2023
EN 421	The Medieval Imagination	Prerequisite: 3 credits of English at the 300-level
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	In-Class	Instructor:	D. Dyck (Ph.D)	First Day of Class:	Sept 6
Days:	T/Th	Email:	darren.dyck@ambrose.edu	Last Day to Add/Drop:	Sept 17
Time:	1-2:15 pm	Phone:	n/a	Last Day to Withdraw:	Nov 20
Room:	RE 146	Office:	L2069	Last Day to Apply for Coursework Extension:	
Lab/Tutorial:	n/a	Office Hours:	W 11:15-12 / Th 9:45-11	Last Day of Class:	Dec 8
Final Exam:	Dec 19, 1-4				

Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar> .

Course Description

This course considers the diverse literary forms of the Middle Ages, both in Britain and Europe. Works considered will range from the close of antiquity through to the dawn of the Renaissance. Authors may include Boethius, Dante, and Chaucer, along with texts like *Beowulf*, *The Song of Roland*, *Roman de la Rose*, and various Arthur narratives.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Diligent students will:

- gain a broad knowledge of key medieval authors, texts, and genres;
- become familiar with the literary, philosophical, and theological preoccupations of medieval authors;
- consider the relationship between the imagination and memory (and reason), as well as the common objects and typical modes of expression of the imagination in the Middle Ages;
- improve their oral communication skills through presentations and classroom conversations; and

- further develop critical reading, research, and writing skills.

Textbooks

- Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (trans. Slavitt)
- Dante, *Inferno* (trans. Hollanders)
- Dante, *Purgatorio* (trans. Hollanders)
- Chaucer, *The House of Fame* (mod. Stone) – PDF (but: 9780140444087)
- Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies* (trans. Richards) – PDF (but: 9780892552306)
- Various other texts – PDF

Course Schedule

Date	Date	Readings	Assignments
Sep			
7		Introductions	
12		Lewis , “The Medieval Situation” (<i>The Discarded Image</i>) Bloomsbury Summary of Virgil ’s <i>Aeneid</i>	<i>Image</i> : Dyck
14	524	Boethius , <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Bk. 1 (pp. 1-26)	<i>Image</i> :
19	524	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Bk. 2 (pp. 27-58)	<i>Image</i> :
21	524	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Bk. 3 (pp. 59-105)	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
26	524	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Bk. 4 - Bk. 5.2 (pp. 106-151)	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
28		Various Readings on Allegory	
Oct			
3	6 th C. 12 th C.	Fulgentius , <i>Exposition of the Content of Virgil</i> Bernard Sylvesteris , Excerpts from <i>Commentary on The First Six Books of Virgil’s Aeneid</i>	<i>Image</i> :
5	1321	Dante , <i>Commedia: Inferno</i> , Cos. 1-3	<i>Image</i> :
10	1321	<i>Inferno</i> , Cos. 4-13	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
12	1321	<i>Inferno</i> , Cos. 14-23	Expository Essay Due <i>Image</i> : Presentation:
17	1321	<i>Inferno</i> , Cos. 24-34	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
19	1321	<i>Commedia: Purgatorio</i> , Cos. 1-3	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
24	1321	<i>Purgatorio</i> , Cos. 4-13	<i>Image</i> :
26	1321	<i>Purgatorio</i> , Cos. 14-23	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
31	1321	<i>Purgatorio</i> , Cos. 24-33	<i>Image</i> : Presentation:
Nov			
2		Catch up? Other considerations?	

7		Reading Week	
9		Reading Week	
14	1385	Chaucer , <i>The House of Fame</i> , Bk. 1	<i>Image:</i>
16	1385	<i>House of Fame</i> , Bk. 2	<i>Image:</i> Presentation:
21	1385	<i>House of Fame</i> , Bk. 3, ll. 1091-1525	<i>Image:</i> Presentation:
23	1385	<i>House of Fame</i> , Bk. 3, ll. 1526-end	<i>Image:</i> Presentation:
28	1405	Christine de Pizan , <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> , Pt. I, Chs. 1-13	<i>Image:</i>
30	1405	<i>Book of the City of Ladies</i>	<i>Image:</i> Presentation:
Dec			
5	1405	<i>Book of the City of Ladies</i>	<i>Image:</i> Presentation:
7		Conclusions	Research Essay Due
19		FINAL EXAM, 1:00-4:00 pm, RE146	

Requirements:

Participation (10%)

You should all know what “participation” means by now. In addition to doing what you already know, though, you will be expected to present *informally* a medieval image to the class at least two times during the term. These presentations should be 5 minutes *maximum*.

Presentation (20%)

You will give a formal presentation once during the term. This presentation will take up some detail from the class session’s assigned reading and provide your classmates with greater insight into its place in the text. This presentation should be 20 minutes *and* concise.

Boethius Expository Essay (20%)

Based on your reading of Boethius’s early-medieval *Consolation of Philosophy*, you will write a short essay that explores one of the following: (1) the nature of the imagination, (2) its common object(s), or (3) its typical modes of expression. What makes this essay *expository* is that you will proceed without a thesis; rather, you’ll begin with a question or series of questions about some intriguing detail in Boethius’s text and proceed to *write* your way to some conclusions, however tentative. This essay should be 5-6 pages long.

Dante or Chaucer Research Essay (30%)

You will write a research essay on some aspect of either Dante’s *Divine Comedy* (*Inferno* or *Purgatorio* or, if you get my permission, both) or Chaucer’s *House of Fame*. This essay should be roughly 12 pages long and consider at least five secondary (i.e. scholarly) resources. No specific prompts for this essay will be provided, but I am happy to brainstorm topics and thesis statements with you; just ensure you make your appointment(s) to do so at a reasonable distance from the due date.

Final Exam (20%)

You will write a final exam in which you discuss Christine de Pizan's *Book of the City of Ladies* and either Dante's or Chaucer's text (whichever one you *didn't* write your research essay on).

Optional Poetry Recitation (5%)

You have the option of reciting 75 lines of poetry or prose from the assigned readings. If you choose this option, you may 'remove' 5% from any one of your other assignments—regardless of whether you've received a grade on that assignment already or not. Recitations must be given by the end of November; it is up to you to make an appointment to recite.

Policies:

- The classroom is a professional setting. For this reason, I ask that you call me “Professor” or “Dr. Dyck” and I will, in return, call you by the name you prefer.
- Professionalism (formality) is also required in emails. When you email me, please begin with “Dear Professor ...” and, to the best of your ability, use proper grammar and syntax. Also, please check your Ambrose email account regularly.
- Technological devices are distracting and typically don't actually aid learning: put your laptops, tablets, and phones away—unless you and I have had a conversation, and I've approved your use of some of these. (Obviously, this is not applicable to students with specific accommodations.)
- You are responsible for everything covered in class, including announced changes to our schedule. If you will miss a class, arrange in advance for a classmate to take notes on your behalf.
- Assignments should be submitted by the beginning of class on the date specified. Late assignments will be marked down one refined letter grade per class day late. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances but must be arranged for in advance (or vouched for, after the fact, by appropriate—e.g. medical—documentation). No request for an extension made within 24 hours of the due date will be granted.
- In order to receive a passing grade in EN 421, you must submit both essays, present, write the final exam, and not miss more than nine class sessions.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Excellent	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Good	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Satisfactory	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70

D+	Poor	1.30
D	Minimal Pass	1.0
F	Failure	0.00
P	Pass	No Grade Points

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 Important Information:

Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

Registration

Registration is the process of selecting and enrolling in classes for upcoming semesters. Only students who are registered will be permitted to attend class and receive a grade for the course. You are responsible for ensuring that the courses you take are appropriate for your program, that they do not have any scheduling conflicts, that they have the necessary prerequisites and that they meet all degree requirements.

Withdrawal From A Course

Prior to the Add/Drop deadline: through the student registration system whereby course(s) will be removed with no academic or financial penalty. After the Add/Drop deadline and until the Withdrawal deadline: through submission of the 'Withdrawal from Course' form whereby course(s) will remain on the permanent academic record/transcript with the symbol 'W'. (See ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms.) Students who withdraw from more than 30 credits attempted at Ambrose University will be required to withdraw from their program. Students considering withdrawing from courses are encouraged to discuss with their Faculty Advisor and/or the Office of the Registrar questions relating to their withdrawal decision specifically relating to financial assistance, study permit requirements, prerequisites for subsequent courses, readmission, and/or graduation timeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from a course are still considered registered in the course, even if they are no longer attending classes. In this case, students will be assigned a grade based on coursework completed as per the course syllabus and are responsible to pay the tuition and fees assessed for the course. Under extenuating circumstances, students may request from the Office of the Registrar a course(s) withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline and until the last day of classes. Extenuating circumstances typically consider situations such as medical emergencies, compassionate grounds, or unforeseen conditions/situations beyond the students' control that arise after the start of the semester and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation from a physician or Registered Health Professional must accompany this request.

Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. More conditions apply.

Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination

periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Communication

Your Ambrose email account is the University's primary and official mode of communication with you. Information delivered to your Ambrose email is considered official notification. Ambrose University is not responsible for your failure to receive important information delivered to your Ambrose email.

Lecture Recording

The recording of lectures or any other classroom academic activity, other than an audio recording as an accommodation, is prohibited except at the discretion of the instructor. Any use other than that agreed upon with the instructor constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Permission to allow a lecture recording is not a transfer of any copyrights, so such recordings may be used only for individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class and may not be reproduced, transferred, distributed or displayed in any public or commercial manner. Student must destroy recordings in any, and all formats at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in the class. All students recording lectures, must sign the Permission Form to audio record lectures which is available through the Office of the Registrar.

Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class.

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.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

Privacy

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.

Academic Success and Supports

Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services.

Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

Ambrose Writing Services

Ambrose Writing services provides academic support in the four foundational literacy skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also assists students with critical thinking and the research process. Throughout the academic year, students can meet with a writing tutor for personalized support, or they can attend a variety of workshops offered by Academic Success. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. Academic Success serves all students in all disciplines and at all levels, from history to biology and from theatre to theology. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/writing-services>

Ambrose Tutoring Services

Ambrose Tutoring Services provides support in specific disciplinary knowledge, especially in high-demand areas such as chemistry, philosophy, math and statistics, and religious studies. These tutors also coach students in general study skills, including listening and note-taking. During the academic year, Ambrose Tutoring Services offers drop-in tutoring for courses with high demand; for other courses, students can book a one-to-one appointment with a tutor in their discipline. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/tutoring>.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention Skills and can help you access mental health support. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crisissupport> for a list of staff members.
- For additional wellness resources go to the Ambrose wellness page: <https://ambrose.edu/wellness>

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Alberta Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced gender based sexual violence in the past or while at Ambrose. Many of the staff, faculty, and student leaders have received Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need and you can access information about reporting. Information about the Sexual Violence policy and on and off campus supports can be found on our website— ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Alberta's Online for Sexual Violence - 1-866-403-8000 call or text
- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888
- Chat: www.calgarycasa.com

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.