



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

EN 485 Capstone Seminar (3)
Winter 2010
Dr. Tim Heath

Office: L2065

Class Times: 2:30 – 3:45 W/F

E-mail: theath@ambrose.edu

Office Phone: 403-410-2000 ext. 5904

Class Location: L2082

Office Hours: T/Th 10:00 to 1:00 or by
appointment

Required Texts

<i>After Theory</i>	Eagleton, Terry	Penguin
<i>Wise Blood</i>	O'Connor, Flannery	Farrar
<i>The Courage to Teach</i>	Palmer, Parker	Jossey-Bass
<i>Falling Into Theory</i>	Richter, David	Bedford

Note: the instructor will supplement texts with class handouts as needed.

Course Description

EN 485 is an integrative capstone course designed to consolidate faith and learning in the realm of literary studies. Delivered in seminar format, the course integrates the methods, academic content, and pragmatic application of literary studies to explore vocation and service in the world community. A variety of methodological, theoretical, and practical questions will be addressed.

Course Objectives

This course proceeds from two broad assumptions that lead to you answering several questions: As one of the last courses you will complete in your English degree, it is imperative that you reflect on the cumulative achievement of your work in this field of study. What have you learned about the literary dimensions of life? How have you come to know what you know? How have your expectations of what you should or would learn over the course of your degree been realized (or not)? How has your study of literature complimented, extended, contrasted, or conflicted with your faith and your sense of vocation?

The course should be unlike every other English course you have taken because it will be *about* English or English studies. The course should serve as a capstone of your English major because it is my hope you will learn that you have been thinking a good deal about what you have studied for some years and how your studies shape your intellectual, spiritual, and aesthetic map and how these elements point toward the next leg of your vocational journey.

This course builds itself around readings, research activities, and reflections that aim to help build your own self-awareness as a practicing literary critic, your acumen as a scholar, and your researching abilities.

Course Requirements

Participation	20%	
Précis and Critique	10%	Due Date _____
Scholarly Project	40%	Due Date _____
Reflection Paper	15%	Due Date _____
Presentation of Reflection Paper	<u>15%</u>	Due Date _____
	100%	

Participation

All students earn the full twenty percent for participation for attending all classes, leading the discussion twice, and discussing their scholarly project at least once. Missing any class, not participating in discussion, not leading discussion, and not talking about the major project decreases the participation mark in five percent increments for each item skipped or mishandled.

Précis and Critique

Read Eagleton's book then write a précis of the text, and critique it. The précis should reflect that you have mastered the book's content, and the critique should indicate your affirmation of the book's strengths and your identification of its weaknesses. Two to four pages each.

Scholarly Project (40% of grade)

Each student will undertake a scholarly research and writing project culminating in a fully researched and documented essay of some twenty-five to thirty pages on any topic of your choosing within the discipline of English. Your paper must be thoroughly researched and must demonstrate your engagement with the scholarship on your subject. It must follow correct MLA style for documentation and citation of your sources. You should have at least ten sources in your paper, including your primary text(s).

I urge you to seek out something you love—some interest that emerges from deep within you. It is my conviction that the best scholarship comes from those depths within us where the things we most care about reside. The best scholarship is something we *need* to write.

You may focus your project on a favourite text or author, a problem or issue you have encountered in your study of English, a film adaptation of a literary text, an analysis of a film or the works of one director as texts. You may engage in popular culture studies or cultural studies of a literary period that holds particular fascination for you. You may bring your favourite critical perspective to bear on a text or texts (for example, new criticism, reader-response, feminism, post-colonial criticism and so on). You may wish to cross some disciplinary boundaries to contextualize your work with literature

in other disciplines (for example, art history, music history, biblical studies, theology, and so on). If you foresee a clear vocational road ahead your project may be tailored to feed that interest.

I will serve as a project advisor to each you. I will read your first draft, make suggestions for revision, and provide timely benchmarks for building the paper sequentially over the term.

Topics

Topics should be chosen before **29 January**. Feel free to meet with me to discuss the topic.

Provisional Thesis

Your provisional thesis should emerge while completing your working bibliography. The working thesis should be drafted and submitted by **12 February**.

First Draft for Advisor Review

This element of EN 485 is purely optional. That said, I will read and interact with a complete draft of your thinking through your material at any point over the course. Certain gaps, rough ground, and boggy spots are permissible at this stage, but aim for completeness, particularly in its documentation—both parenthetical and in the works cited because detail work here will save you many steps as you refine the draft.

Final Draft

This iteration should be a full revision in view of your advisor's comments, your peer's comments, and any suggestions you may have received from others. At this point the format of the paper should conform accurately to MLA guidelines.

Reflection Paper

As the culmination of your experiences in the capstone study and the English program, you will write a final paper eight to twelve pages in length in which you formulate your answer to the question, "What is English?" The paper should reflect on the readings for the course, our discussions, and responses and the ideas generated in your research paper and your broader course of studies in English. Note that your paper may also reflect on what English should be, and you may also use your paper to reflect on your experiences as a student of English. A brief presentation, some thirty to thirty-five minutes, that presents the key aspects of your answer is also required as part of the reflection paper. Note: the reflection paper is by nature a less formal undertaking than the research paper, but use MLA form even though you may engage in a freer manner of prose than you might in research paper.

Final grades for the course appear as letter grades. The table below shows the percentage equivalents for each letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	96-100
A	91-95
A-	86-90
B+	82-85
B	75-81
B-	72-74
C+	68-71
C	63-67
C-	60-62
D+	59-59
D	50-55
F	0-49

Important Notes

- Last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty: **15 January 2010**
- Last day to withdraw voluntarily from a course or change to audit without academic penalty: **12 March 2010**

Please note: because this course serves as a graduation requirement, no extensions on course work are possible.

Academic Policies

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.

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.

Proposed Course Schedule

5 January course goals, expectations, procedures, assignments	7 January Richter "Introduction: Falling into Theory" (Heath) "Part One: Why We Read" (_____)
12 January Helen Vendler, <i>What We Have Loved, Others Will Love</i> " (_____)	14 January During, "Teaching Culture" (_____)
19 January Herrnstein Smith, "Contingencies of Value" (_____)	21 January Said, "The Politics of Knowledge" (_____)
26 January Gerald Graff, "Disliking Books at an Early Age" (_____)	28 January (class cancelled: Community Day)
2 February Eagleton, <i>After Theory</i>	4 February Eagleton, <i>After Theory</i>
9 February Eagleton, <i>After Theory</i>	11 February Eagleton, <i>After Theory</i>
16 February (class cancelled: Reading Week)	18 February (class cancelled: Reading Week)
23 February Ohmann, "The Function of English at the Present Time" (_____)	25 February Eagleton, "The Rise of English" (_____)
2 March Menand, "The Demise of Disciplinary Authority" (_____)	4 March Scholes, "A Fortunate Fall" (_____)
9 March <i>Wise Blood</i>	11 March <i>Wise Blood</i>
16 March <i>Wise Blood</i>	18 March <i>Wise Blood</i>
23 March Seminar Presentation I (Heath, <i>What is English?</i>)	25 March Levine, "Reclaiming the Aesthetic" (_____) Bérubé, "Aesthetics and the Literal Imagination" (_____) Nussbaum, "The Literary Imagination" (_____)
30 March Seminar Presentation 1 (_____)	
	1 April Palmer, <i>The Courage to Teach</i>
6 April Seminar Presentation 2 (_____)	8 April Seminar Presentation (Heath)