

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2018
EN 485	Capstone Seminar (directed study)	Prerequisite: 6 credits EN; final year of English BA
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Monday	Instructor:	J Goossen, PhD	First day of classes:	Thu, Jan. 4
Time:	2:30-5:15 pm	Email:	jgoossen@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan. 14
Room:	RE 104; L2065	Phone:	403-410-2000 x5960	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar. 5
Lab/ Tutorial:	N/A	Office:	L2065	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar. 16
		Office Hours:	T Th 2:00-3:00 pm	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar. 26
Final Exam:	N/A			Last day of classes:	Wed, Apr. 11

### Course Description

*From the calendar:* Run as a seminar, this course serves as an occasion for graduating students to integrate and consolidate their literary training by undertaking a research topic under the supervision of their instructor. The seminar will also provide a forum to help students make appropriate transitions to the next season of their professional lives.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

As one of the final courses in your English degree, Capstone requires you to reflect on the cumulative nature, effect, and achievement of your work as a student of literature, combining scholarly and personal deliberation. By the end of the course, you should be able to provide clear and thoughtful answers, both directly and through literary analysis, to the following questions:

- What is the study of literature about?
- What makes literature good? What good is the study of literature?
- How does Christian faith aid, alter, and conflict with the study of literature? How does the study of literature aid, alter, and conflict with Christian faith?
- What effect will the study of literature have on my future life and work?

### Textbooks

Felski, Rita. *The Use of Literature*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Jacobs, Alan. *A Theology of Reading: The Hermeneutics of Love*. Avalon, 2001.

## Requirements and Evaluation

Because of the unique nature of a small-enrollment directed study:

- Attendance at every class period is mandatory.
- All readings and presentations must be completed or prepared before the class for which they are assigned. There can be no extensions.

Presentation on Felski	10%
Presentation on Jacobs	10%
Discussion Participation	10%
Essay 1 (8-10 pp.)	15%
Essay 2 (8-10 pp.)	15%
Research Project (30-40 pp.)	40%

## Assignment Descriptions

### *Presentations*

In an informal presentation, teach the material in the assigned chapters to the other members of the directed study. This will involve:

- adequately summarizing, explaining, and expanding on the chapters' main concepts and arguments;
- assessing and critiquing the validity of those concepts and arguments;
- describing your own practical experience of those concepts and arguments as a student of literature, including your own agreement or disagreement;
- guiding discussion.

Those who are *not* presenting must also give careful thought to their own practical experience of these concepts and arguments and must actively contribute to discussion of them. Doing so will constitute much of your "Discussion Participation" grade.

Presentation 1:	Felski, Chapters 1 & 2, <b>January 29</b> __ <b>Laura Holden</b> __ Felski, Chapters 3 & 4, <b>February 5</b> __ <b>Jared Poon</b> __
Presentation 2:	Jacobs, Chapters A, 2, B, 3, <b>February 26</b> __ <b>Laura Holden</b> __ Jacobs, Chapters C, 4, D, 5, <b>March 5</b> __ <b>Jared Poon</b> __

### *Essays*

Write two 8-10 pp. essays that answer the questions "what makes literature good?" and "what good is studying literature?" respectively. To do so, you will need to draw on:

- both the literature and literary theory you have studied to date in your degree;
- Felski's and Jacobs's books and others on these topics;
- your own experience as a student of literature.

Essay 1 "What makes literature good?" **due end of day February 19.**

Essay 2 "What good is studying literature?" **due end of day March 12 .**

### *Research Project*

Each student will undertake a scholarly research project that culminates in a fully researched and documented essay of at least thirty pages on any topic of your choosing within the discipline of English literary studies. Choose something you have grown to love: a favourite text, author, genre, movement, period, or a problem or issue that fascinates you after four years' of literary studies. You may also wish to cross disciplinary boundaries, considering your literary topic in the light of philosophy, fine arts and their history, or biblical studies and theology, for example. If you foresee a clear vocational road ahead, your project may also be slanted to serve that end. In any case, your

paper must be thoroughly researched and must demonstrate engagement with the scholarship on your subject. You should engage with at least fifteen sources in your paper, including your primary text(s).

You will also adapt and present a portion of this project at the Ambrose Research Conference on April 4.

In order to help you succeed in completing a project of this magnitude, it will be **due in stages**:

- *Abstract*: Write a one page description of your project that identifies your motivating question or problem, describes its scope and context, identifies the central texts and concepts necessary to answering that question, and provides a provisional thesis. **Due February 5.**
- *Presentation at Ambrose Research Conference*: Identify a component of your project that could be reasonably addressed in an 8 pp. conference paper. In keeping with the ARC guidelines, draft and submit a paper proposal, then draft and present that paper at ARC. **Proposal due to professor for preliminary review February 12; Proposal due to ARC Feb. 20; Presentation at ARC on April 4.**
- *Complete draft*: Submit a complete draft of your project to me. I will read and provide feedback on it. Certain gaps, rough ground, and boggy spots are to be expected at this stage, but aim for completeness, particularly in its documentation—both parenthetical and in the works cited—because detailed work here will save you many steps as you refine the draft. **Due March 26.**
- *Final version*: **Due April 9.**

### Grade Summary

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	96-100	Excellent
A	91-95	
A-	86-90	
B+	82-85	Good
B	75-81	
B-	72-74	
C+	68-71	Satisfactory
C	63-67	
C-	60-62	
D+	56-59	Poor
D	50-55	Minimum Pass
F	0-49	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.