

Course ID: 491	Course Title: Advanced Literary Theory	Winter 2023
		Prerequisite: 6 credits of EN
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	In Class	Instructor:	Rita Dirks, BA, MA, PhD	First Day of Class:	January 9, 2023
Days:	M	Email:	rita.dirks@ambrose.edu	Last Day to Add/Drop:	January 22, 2023
Time:	1-4 PM	Phone:	(403) 410-2000, ext. 5900	Last Day to Withdraw:	March 31, 2023
Room:	RE 146	Office:	L2067	Last Day to Apply for Coursework Extension:	
Lab/Tutorial:	n/a	Office Hours:	1:30-2:30 PM T/Th	Last Day of Class:	April 3, 2023
Final Exam:	n/a				

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

A continuation of EN 390, this course will explore more deeply several late-twentieth- and twenty-first century theories, including feminisms, intersectionality, ecocriticism, postcolonialism, and indigenous and race theories. All theories will be taught in conjunction with readings from literature.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be comfortably versed in major literary theory trends of the last 25 years
2. Students will be able to apply feminist, postcolonial, gender, race, and ecocritical theories to literary texts
3. Students will be able to present papers, using contemporary literary theories
4. Students will be able to write upper-level essays, utilizing said literary theories

Textbooks

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*. Third Edition. Volumes 1 and 2. New York: Norton, 2007.

Suggested Reading List

Abel, Elizabeth. *Female Subjects in Black and White*

Ashcroft, Bill, ed. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*

Baym, Nina. *Woman's Fiction*

Bray, Abigail. *Hélène Cixous: Writing and Sexual Difference*

Buell, Lawrence. *A Sense of Place*

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

---. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*

Christian, Barbara. *Black Feminist Criticism*

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality, and the Self*

---, ed. *Religion and the Body*

Collins, Patricia Hill, and Sirma Bilge. *Intersectionality*

Daly, Mary. *The Church and the Second Sex*

De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*

Donovan, Josephine. *Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism*

Eagleton, Mary. *Feminist Literary Criticism*

Eagleton, Mary, ed. *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*

Felski, Rita. *Uses of Literature*

Fetterley, Judith. *The Resisting Reader: A Feminist Approach to American Fiction*

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schüssler. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*

Garrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism*

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic*

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism*

Gilmore, Leigh. *Autobiographics: A Feminist Theory of Women's Self-Representation*

Glotfelty, Cheryll, and Harold Fromm. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*

Green, Joyce, ed. *Indigenous Feminism*

Greer, Germaine. *The Female Eunuch*

---. *Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition, Rejection and the Woman Poet*

hooks, bell. *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*

Horvitz, Deborah M. *Literary Trauma: Sadism, Memory, and Sexual Violence in American Women's Fiction*

Humm, Maggie. *Feminist Criticism*

Irigaray, Luce. *Key Writings*

Isla, Ana, ed. *Climate Chaos: Ecofeminism and the Land Question*

Jacobus, Mary. *Reading Woman: Essays in Feminist Criticism*

Johnson, Barbara. *The Feminist Difference*

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*

Kaufmann, Linda, ed. *Gender and Theory: Dialogues on Feminist Criticism*

Lazarus, Neil. *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*

Lodge, David, and Nigel Wood. *Modern Criticism and Theory*

Madsen, Deborah. *Feminist Theory and Literary Practice*

Meese, Elizabeth A. *Crossing the Double-Cross*

Morris, Pam. *Literature and Feminism*

Newman, Shirley, and Glennis Stephenson, eds. *Reimagining Women; Representations of Women in Culture*

Nochlin, Linda. "Why Are There No Great Women Artists?"

Poovey, Mary. *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer*

Robbins, Ruth. *Literary Feminisms*

Ruthven, K.K. *Feminist Literary Studies*

Schroeder, Joy A., and Marion Ann Taylor, *Voices Long Silenced: Women Biblical Interpreters Through the Centuries*

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. From *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Cristian Origins* (1983). In *The Christianity Reader*, edited by Mary Gerhart and Fabian Udoh, 144-146

Sellers, Susan. *Feminist Criticism: Theory and Practice*

Showalter, Elaine. *A Literature of Their Own*

Showalter, Elaine, ed. *The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature and Theory*

Solnit, Rebecca. "Men Explain Things to Me"

Solnit, Rebecca. *Recollections of My Nonexistence*

Thatcher, Adrian, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Theology, Sexuality, and Gender*

Todd, Janet. *Feminist Literary History*

Walton, Heather. *Literature, Theology and Feminism*

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*

Course Schedule

January	9	Introduction to Advanced Literary Theory
	16	Women and Spirituality: Julian of Norwich, from <i>A Book of Showings to the anchoress Julian of Norwich</i> ; Kempe, from <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> ; Lead, <i>A Fountain of Gardens</i> ; Rossetti, "The Convent Threshold"; Loy, "Portrait of a Nun"
	23	Women and Work: Davis, "Life in the Iron-Mills"; Schreiner, "Woman and Labour"; Woolf, "Professions for Women"; Kincaid, "Girl"; Lorde, "Kitchen Linoleum"; Churchill, "Top Girls"
	30	Ageing and Death: Pitter; "Old Nelly's Birthday"; Lavin, "In a Café"; Kumin, "The Envelope"; Stone, "The Song of Absinthe Granny"; Olds, "The Mortal One"
February	6	Women and Politics: Queen Elizabeth, "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury"; Barrett Browning, "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point," "A Curse for a Nation"; St. Vincent Millay, "Apostrophe to Man"; Ozick "The Shawl"
	13	Women and Creativity: Woolson, "Miss Grief"; Moore, "Poetry"; Laing, "Sonnet to a Sister in Error"; Bishop, "Gender and Art"; Sarton, "My Sisters, O My Sisters"; Marshall, "Poets in the"
	27	Marriage: Landon, "The Marriage Vow"; Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"; Coleridge, "Marriage"; Mew, "The Farmer's Bride"; Wickham, "Divorce"; West, "Indissoluble Matrimony"; Levertov, "Abel's Bride," "The Ache of Marriage"

March	6	Female Sexuality: Behn, “The Willing Mistress,” “Love Armed,” “The Disappointment,” and “On Her Loving Two Equally”; Chopin, <i>The Awakening</i> ; Dunbar-Nelson, “I Sit and Sew”; H.D., “Fragment Thirty-Six”
	13	The Single Woman: Austin, “The Walking Woman”; Atwood, “Asparagus”; Adcock, “Miss Hamilton in London,” “Against Coupling”; Tapahonso, “Leda and the Cowboy”
	20	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity: Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman?”; Hurston, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me”; Bonner, “On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored”; Angelou, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”; Kingston, “No Name Woman”
	27	Women, the Body, and Violence: Barnes, “How It Feels to Be Forcibly Fed”; Swenson, “Bleeding”; O’Connor, “Good Country People”; Sexton, “In Celebration of My Uterus”; Rich, “Power”; Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”; Boland, “Anorexic”; Levertov, “The Mutes”
April	3	The Family: Livesay, “Green Rain”; Wright, “The Sisters”; Plath, “Daddy”; Smith, “Papa Loves Baby”; Essay due

Requirements:

Leading Discussions (four)	40%
Research Essay (12 pages)	40%
Participation	20%

Submission of Assignments

Essays are to be submitted in MLA format.

Attendance:

Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Students are responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class. Although I do not formally take attendance, your absence will affect your participation grade.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

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

Other:

Ambrose University Important Information

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.

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.

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. Please refer to your professor regarding their electronic etiquette expectations.

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.

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. Normally, Course Extension Applications will be considered only when all of the following conditions are met:

- the quality of prior course work has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond your control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for you to complete the course work on time; and
- you submit *Coursework Extension Application* to the Office of the Registrar on or before the deadline specified in the Academic Schedule.

If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. A temporary grade of TX will be assigned until a final grade is submitted in accordance with the new deadline. A final grade of F will apply to:

- all course work submitted after the end of the semester unless a coursework extension has been granted; and all course work submitted after the revised due date provided by an approved extension to coursework.

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.

Learning Services

Learning Services provides support with

- General study skills (e.g., time management, note-taking),
- Research and communication skills (e.g., writing a paper, researching, giving a presentation), and
- Subject-specific skills (e.g., solving a chemistry problem, reconciling a general ledger, understanding a philosophical argument).

We offer workshops, one-to-one tutoring, and more, and all of our services are free to students currently enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/learning-services>.

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 Oneline 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.