



AMBROSE

## EN 420 - 1 Ecocriticism (3)

Fall 2011

Dr. Tim Heath

**Office:** L2065

**Class Times:** T/Th 2:30-3:45

**E-mail Address:** theath@ambrose.edu

**Office Phone:** 410-2000 ext. 5904

**Class Location:** L2082

**Office Hours:** T/Th 9:45 to 11:00 or by appointment

### Required Texts

Abbey, Edward. *Desert Solitaire*. Ballantine Books. (0345326490)

Armbruster, Karla and Kathleen R. Wallace. *Beyond Nature Writing: Expanding the Boundaries of Ecocriticism*. Scholarly Book Services. (0813920140)

Cook, Meira. Ed. *Field Marks: The Poetry of Don McKay*. Wilfred Laurier UP. (0889204942)

Lopez, Barry. *Arctic Dreams*. Vintage. (0375727485)

McFarlane, Robert. *Mountains of the Mind*. Vintage. (0375714065)

Wiebe, Rudy. *A Discovery of Strangers*. Vintage. (978-0394280837)

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

### Course Description

Ecocriticism approaches literature to study the relationship between humans and the non-human. Although this last category might be expressed as the physical environment or creation, defining ecocriticism as a means of examining our relationship to that which is not human foregrounds the need to analyze critically the term human to understand the values, assumptions, and actions that characterize our treatment of the world in which we live. Ecocriticism, then, is much more than a vogue that responds to a broadly felt and articulated set of environmental concerns that are associated particularly with the last five decades of human history. Rather, ecocriticism serves as a fitting means not merely to read differently, but also to think differently about ourselves and the ways that literature represents ourselves, the environment, and the non-human.

### Course Objectives

- to provide students a variety of ecocritical interpretive strategies
- to orient students to the depth and breadth of ecocriticism and ecocritical activity
- to examine critically the strengths and weaknesses of ecocriticism
- to apply ecocriticism to canonical literary texts and to lesser known literary genres
- to mindfully examine “what is man”
- to examine the intersection of literary inquiry with other disciplines such as ecology and philosophy

## Course Requirements

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion. I look forward to lively discussions.
2. Students are required to keep an extra copy of each assignment (digital, hard copy, or both). Students are advised to keep back-up versions of essays while composing and completing them. Translation: technical problems should not be cited as an excuse for late, missing, or garbled work.
3. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Missed exams will only be made up if supported by the appropriate documentation (for example, a doctor's note).
5. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated. All instances of plagiarism will be forwarded to the Academic Dean.
6. Students may not submit work done for another class.
7. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
8. Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. More than three (3) unexcused class absences will reduce participation grades by two percentage points. 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.
9. Essay assignment sheets for each paper will provide format details, length requirements, due date, course weight, topics, and other relevant details.
10. Essays must be submitted as a hard copy to the instructor at 8:15 on the date due, and an electronic copy must be submitted to the Moodle site for EN 420-1 by 2:30 p.m. on the same date. Electronic files must be standard formats such as MS Word or PDF.
11. Papers must be printed single-sided, in a conventional twelve-point font such as Times New Roman or Garamond and double-spaced, with one-inch margins all sides. In the upper left corner list your name, my name, the course number, and date, all on separate lines. At the centre of the next line, please provide a title designed to prepare your reader for your argument. I will not read papers whose pages are not numbered and stapled. The same goes for papers that do not follow the format and documentation guidelines of the Modern Languages Association (MLA).
12. I find e-mail an inadequate way to discuss paper topics and theses, so I ask that you meet with me, either during office hours or by appointment, to talk about papers. Please come in before your paper is due. I will gladly meet with you up until two days before the paper is due, so please plan your writing with this timeline in mind.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	25%
Mid-term	20%
Critical response 1	15%
Critical response 2	15%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100

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 Dates:

- Registration revision period 7-18 September
- Last day to enter a course without permission;  
withdraw from a course; change to audit and receive  
tuition refund 18 September
- Last day to withdraw from course without academic penalty 14 November

### 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](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

#### Important Notes about Dates:

The last day to enter a course without permission and/or to withdraw voluntarily from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) is Sunday, September 18, 2011 (Fall semester) or Sunday, January 22, 2011 (winter semester). These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a **new policy**, beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**) – Monday, November 14, 2010 (Fall semester) or Friday, March 23, 2011 (Winter semester). A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s 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.

### **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 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.”

### **Examinations**

Final examinations for regular semester classes are held during a scheduled time period at the end of the semester and are scheduled by the Registrar. Please consult the exam schedule for Fall 2011 at [www.ambrose.edu/registrar](http://www.ambrose.edu/registrar) for the times and dates of your final exams.

Please note: Students may request revised final exams if they have three exams in one 24-hour period or two exams at the same time. Final exam schedule revision request forms are available at the Registrar’s Office and must be handed in by Monday, November 28, 2011 (Fall semester) or Monday, April 9, 2012 (winter semester). If you do not have your request in by this date, all exams within a 24-hour period will have to be written as scheduled. If you have two exams at the same time, you will be given four hours to write both exams.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student. Please contact your instructor.

### **Appeals**

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 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 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 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 and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

## Proposed Course Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday
	September 8 Introduction
September 13 humans and the non-human; Hilbert, "Beyond" in <i>Beyond</i>	September 15 <i>Arctic Dreams</i> ; Horne, "Samuel Johnson" in <i>Beyond</i>
September 20 <i>Arctic Dreams</i> ; Raglon and Scholtmeijer, "Heading Off" in <i>Beyond</i>	September 22 <i>Arctic Dreams</i>
September 27 <i>Arctic Dreams</i>	September 29 <b>Spiritual Emphasis Day, no class</b>
Tuesday	Thursday
October 4 <i>Mountains of the Mind</i>	October 6 <i>Mountains of the Mind</i>
October 11 <i>Mountains of the Mind</i>	October 13 <i>A Discovery of Strangers</i> <b>(essay 1 due)</b>
October 18 <b>Mid-term exam</b>	October 20 <i>A Discovery of Strangers</i>
October 25 <i>A Discovery of Strangers</i>	October 27 <i>A Discovery of Strangers</i>
Tuesday	Thursday
November 1 <i>Desert Solitaire</i>	November 3 <i>Desert Solitaire</i>
November 8 <i>Desert Solitaire</i>	November 10 Critical Response
November 15 <i>Field Marks</i>	November 17 <i>Field Marks</i>
November 22 <i>Field Marks</i>	November 24 Critical Response <b>(essay 2 due)</b>
November 29 Critical Response	
Tuesday	Thursday
	December 1 Critical Response
December 6 Critical Response	December 8 review
<b>No Final Exam</b>	