

ENG 781 001 82280
Major Figures World Lit
TOPIC: UMBERTO ECO AND THE SEMIOTIC TRADITION
R 4:30p-7:10p Location: HL302

Dr. Salvatore Attardo
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Office hours: M-F 8:00am-5:00pm (Please come by appointment.)
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Course objectives:

1. Students will understand Umberto Eco's work, as a fiction writer
2. Students will understand Umberto Eco's work as a linguist/semiotician
3. Students will understand the relationships between the two.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The students will demonstrate the capacity to analyze Eco's work, as evidenced by their capacity to build a critical argument about it in a paper and a presentation.
2. The students will demonstrate the capacity to research, draft, and finalize a research paper, that meets the threshold of potential publication in a scholarly journal.

Required texts:

Umberto Eco. *The Name of the Rose*. Any edition, in any language, provided it includes The Postscript (*Postille al Nome della Rosa*).

Umberto Eco. *The Prague Cemetery*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Trade
ISBN-10: 0547577532 ISBN-13: 978-0547577531
[any other edition/translation OK]

Umberto Eco. *Six Walks in the Fictional Woods*. Harvard University Press (1998)
ISBN-10: 0674810511 ISBN-13: 978-0674810518
[any other edition/translation OK]

Umberto Eco. *Interpretation and Overinterpretation*. Cambridge University Press;
(1992) ISBN-10: 0521425549 ISBN-13: 978-0521425544
[available used online for \$5.00]

Michael Caesar. *Umberto Eco: Philosophy, Semiotics and the Work of Fiction* (Key Contemporary Thinkers) [Paperback] Politi. 1999.
ISBN-10: 0745608507 ISBN-13: 978-0745608501

Rocco Capozzi

Reading Eco: An Anthology (Advances in Semiotics) [Paperback] Indiana University Press (1997) ISBN-10: 0253211166 ISBN-13: 978-0253211163 [recommended, not required; available used online for \$3.00]

Grading

Research paper (publishable quality):	50%
Class presentation:	30%
Class participation, discussion:	20%

Research paper grading rubric:

- Does the paper have a clear thesis, which is stated at the beginning of the paper and supported with evidence that comes from the argument developed in the paper?
- Is the argument presented in the paper informed by the relevant literature? Is the relevant literature presented succinctly but clearly in the paper?
- Are the mechanical matters of the paper attended to? (Spelling and grammar, formatting, bibliographic style of the journal, etc.)
- Is the thesis or point made in the paper novel and/or interesting enough to warrant publication? [extra credit]

Class presentation rubric:

- Did the presentation last 15 minutes? Did it go significantly under/over time?
- Was a clear thesis or main point stated at the outset?
- Was a clear and logical argument built in support of the thesis?
- Was good use made of visuals to support the argument?
- Was the verbal presentation smooth and clear? Was it limited to reading powerpoint slides or other handouts, or did it use visuals or handouts as a starting point or support for the presentation?

Class participation/discussion rubric:

- Has the student read and understood the material?
- Is the student engaged and asking relevant questions/contributing relevant information?
- Is the student respectful of the opinions of the other students and participates in the discussion in a civil manner?

Academic Dishonesty Defined. Texas A&M University-Commerce defines “academic dishonesty” in the following way (Procedure A13.12 “Academic Honesty”): Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

“Plagiarism”. Further Specified. The Department of Literature and Languages builds on the university definition of “plagiarism,” given in 1, in the following manner (taken from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices,” undated, pages 1-2, 12 March 2003. <http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9>) Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion.

ATTENDANCE

Participation is a very important component for the final grade.

COMMON DECENCY

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guidebook, Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). In this course debates are welcome, passionate discussions are welcome as well. Quarrels and fights will be not tolerated. You are expected to respect the differences of opinion, sex, religion, beliefs, origin, and mother tongues. Besides, you will be civil and polite.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903)468-8148. StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu.

Last Name

First Name

SSN

I hereby attest I have received, read and understood Dr. Attardo's complete syllabus.
I have been offered a chance to ask questions about it to my satisfaction.

Date Signature

Personal information (to be used if I need to reach you in an emergency):

Phone:

permanent (can reach you during holidays, etc.)

home (if not the same as above)

work (if campus phone, say so)

Mailing address:

Notes: (languages spoken, experience with linguistics, personal circumstances, etc.)