For Immediate Release
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Ian Balfour, the M.H. Abrams Distinguished Visiting Professor of English, To Lecture on Romanticism and Freedom

ITHACA, N.Y. – On Thursday, February 10, 2011, Ian Balfour, Professor of English and of Social & Political Thought at York University, will present “Romanticism and the Forms of Freedom: On the First Person Among Others.” The lecture begins at 4:30pm in Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall.

Balfour, who is currently the M.H. Abrams Distinguished Visiting Professor at Cornell, has academic interests ranging from Romantic literature and 18th-century literature to contemporary theory and criticism and philosophy. At Cornell this spring, he is teaching a graduate level course on Romanticism and freedom; in the fall he taught upper level courses in Romantic literature and film noir.

Professor Balfour’s most recent book is The Rhetoric of Romantic Prophecy; in addition, he has been editor and co-editor of several publications and has written numerous essays on popular and unpopular culture. He has twice been a Fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and was a Fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell in 1989-90. He is currently completing a book on the sublime.

The M.H. Abrams Visiting Professorship was established in 2006 by Stephen H. Weiss (’57) in honor of Class of 1916 Professor Emeritus Meyer H. Abrams. The professorship allows the department to bring in esteemed senior academics whose work can benefit both students and faculty. Professor Balfour is the fourth person to hold the post.

For more information on the February 10th lecture, email kek77@cornell.edu or call 607-255-7847.