

Texas A&M University Central Texas
Department of Humanities

Summer 2018

History and Film:

Early America on Film

HIST 3361-110

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis

Meeting Room: Founder's Hall 212

Office: 217C

E-Mail: themmis@tamuct.edu

Phone: 254-501-5931

Office Hours: By Appointment



Course Description and Objectives:

This course will examine issues in Early American history through the media of film. A majority of the class will be an intense look at films set before the Civil War. Instruction will include watching movies, lectures, readings, online posting, and discussions. Personal opinions and perspectives are both welcomed and desired in the class discussions; however, students are expected to know the issues and interpretations presented in the readings, videos, and the lectures. Ultimately, the course provides an introduction into history of Early America while providing a different lens to understand the fact. Film and History often rewrite the memory of these events for modern spectators today and as historians we must learn to separate fact from fiction.

The course objectives for are therefore:

- To draw connections between the past and the present.
- To understand historical debates.
- To critically analyze a historical films
- To write clear and coherent essays that develop a historical argument.
- To determine the difference between fact and fiction

Required Texts

There is no required text book, but there will be other articles and book chapters that the Professor will provide electronically each week.

The Films we will be watching:

The New World, USA, 2005, 136 mins.

Black Robe, Canada, 1991, 101 mins.

The Last of the Mohicans, USA, 1992, 112 mins

Mary Silliman's War, USA, 1994, 93 mins.

The Buccaneer, USA 1958,119 mins

Jeremiah Johnson, 1972, USA 116 mins.

Amistad, USA 1997, 154 minutes

The Free State of Jones, USA 2016, 140 minutes

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Assignment	Total Points	Your Grade
In-Class Participation/Attendance	100 points	
Final Essay - Historical Event	200 points	
Five Reaction Essays	500 points (100 points each)	
Online Discussion	200 points (25 points each)	
TOTAL	1000 points	

Scoring:

Final Grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A	=	900-1000 points
B	=	800-899 points
C	=	700-799 points
D	=	600-699 points
F	=	Below 600 points

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are crucial elements of the learning experience. Attendance is your responsibility. Attendance will be taken daily. In addition, attendance means staying for the whole class. Do not leave early without speaking to me beforehand. Failure to regularly attend class will result in dire consequences such as failing the class. Please come to class prepared and ready to discuss the readings assigned for the day.

Writing Assignments

Reaction Essays:

There will be five reaction essays in the class. Students will watch the movies and after watching the film, students will be responsible to write a reaction essay. Over the course, students will be responsible for five (5) reaction essays about the movies we watch in class. These essays will be 700-800 words and how they respond to the film and the readings of that week.

Historical Event Screen Play Essay:

Students will have a pick a historical event or person in Early America that would make an excellent screen play. Students will have to analyze why the event or person is worthy of a movie and use references to back up their claims. The essay will be 8-10 pages with a bibliography (not included in the page count).

Online Discussion Posts:

Each week students will be asked to participate in a reading discussion post. Each post is worth 25 points each. These posts require a deeply engaged discussion (A substantial response is 400-500 words with references) of the reading or primary source posted on Canvas. Students will be responsible for engage at least one other of their classmates during this discussion.

Important Reminder

Late Papers will not be accepted.

FORMATTING

Essays must comply with the following formatting guidelines. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Essays must be submitted as hard copies (electronic copies of papers will not be accepted).

Your papers must be typewritten, with 12 pt. font in Times New Roman and double-spaced lines. The header of your paper should be single-spaced and in the following format:

Your Name
Paper, HIS 343
Dr. Timothy Hemmis
janedoe@yahoo.com
Due Date

Your paper should have 1" margins on the top and bottom and 1.25" margins on the left right margins. Evidence must be cited using footnotes. Use of alternate forms of citation, such as the MLA format, is not acceptable. Finally, your essays must be stapled (no "dog ears," paper clips, or binders) and the pages numbered! If you have questions about the proper format of your essay, please see me during my office hours.

The essay must include evidence from the text, and you must cite that evidence using footnotes. Use the following examples as models:

First citation:

¹ Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 45.

Subsequent citations:

⁵ Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 74.

Unexcused/ Late Work or Absences from Exams:

The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in a paper or homework on time are illnesses requiring medical care, required university activities, religious holidays, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation is required. In certain other circumstances, I will allow you to turn in an assignment early or take an exam in advance, but you must see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last possible minute.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access

and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at lmDavis@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

The University Writing Center.

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from June 4- July 26th Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; also have online only hours Monday-Thursday 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring

session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

Course Schedule

Week 1: A New World for All **Class meets ONLY ONLINE this week

Film *New World* on Canvas

Online Discussion

Week 2: New France and the Jesuits

Film *Black Robe* in class

Online Discussion

Week 3: Seven Years War and Film

Film *The Last of the Mohicans* in class

Online Discussion

Week 4: The American Revolution and Society

Film *Mary Silliman's War* in class

Online Discussion

Week 5: War of 1812 and Memory

Film *The Buccaneer* in class

Online Discussion

Week 6: Mountain Man and the Western Experience

Film, *Jeremiah Johnson* in class

Online Discussion

Week 7 Atlantic World and Slavery

Film *Amistad* in Class

Online Discussion

Week 8 American Civil War from the bottom up

Film *Free State of Jones* in Class

Online Discussion

Historical Event Essay Due