

## ENGL 4339-110 Film Theory and Criticism

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### **Office Hours:**

Available by appointment. Appointments can be made through my TAMUCT email.

### **Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course is a 100% online course, which means that all required interactions will occur in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

### **Course Description:**

This course examines the theoretical and critical approaches common to the study of film. Specific attention is given to the approaches to understanding film from the position of the spectator.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- define the history of film theory and criticism within distinct periods
- discuss a variety of theoretical perspectives used to interpret moving images
- use the viability of these theoretical perspectives as a means to make film more meaningful
- examine the limits of the scholarly arguments introduced
- select a set of theoretical perspectives to produce a critical analysis of a set of films

### **Required Texts:**

We will have one required textbook, Kevin McDonald’s *Film Theory: the Basics*, published by Routledge (2016), ISBN—9781138797345.

In addition to this text, I will upload a book chapter or article for nearly every assignment. These uploads are also a required part of the course. Students will not succeed in this class unless they work through all assigned readings.

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**Course Requirements:**

This course expects students to read theoretical arguments and to respond to those arguments in clear and concise responses. As such, this course most generally relies on good reading and writing skills. The specific requirements for each assignment are listed in CANVAS.

**Grading Rubric**

We have thirty (30) assignments in this class. Each assignment is worth a particular point value. Most assignments are worth five (5) points. Two early assignments are worth fewer points. Three later assignments are worth more points. The specific value of each assignment is listed in CANVAS.

There are a total of one-hundred and seventy (170) points in all.

To earn an A, a student needs to earn 153 points.

To earn a B, a student needs to earn 136 points.

To earn a C, a student needs to earn 119 points.

To earn a D, a student needs to earn 102 points.

101 points or fewer will result in a grade of F.

Grades will not be “rounded up.” Students will earn the point total they earn. To avoid the frustration of “just missing” a higher grade, please perform your best on every assignment and ask questions when necessary. There are spaces in CANVAS for you to post questions about the course and assignments.

**Course Outline and Calendar**

Please see the calendar under the Syllabus tab in CANVAS for our course calendar. As a rule, students are expected to submit an assignment most every Sunday and Thursday. The schedule could change, so please do routinely check the deadlines for upcoming assignments. Should a change need to occur, an announcement will be made at least three days before the new due date. Failure to notice a change will not be a reason to miss an assignment or to submit an assignment late.

**Late Work**

I will not accept late work in this class. Any student who misses an assignment, regardless of reason, will receive a zero for that assignment. Students should “work ahead” to whatever extent they need to do so to ensure they submit all assignments on time.

**Posting of Grades**

Individual assignments will be graded in CANVAS. Students will receive a grade and some comments on every assignment. Students should pay particular attention to the comments they are given as these mean to eliminate deficiencies rather than explain or justify a grade. As such, the comments become an important part of the instruction in this course. Every grade will also be recorded in gradebook in CANVAS. Students should contact me immediately if they see a discrepancy in their grade.

**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].

The Registrar’s Office will provide on the University Calendar a deadline 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. 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. Please note that professors cannot drop students; drops are the responsibility of the student.

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Students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline published on the academic calendar should drop the course. Should a student encounter an unexpected, life altering circumstance after the drop deadline, that student may be eligible for an incomplete so long as all work due before the circumstance has been submitted and the student has a reasonable chance to pass the course should the work be completed as soon as the circumstance resolves itself. No student should expect to receive an incomplete.

### **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 could 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, using another student's work, collusion, and abuse of resource materials. Any instance of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will also be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to violate those standards or expectations.

### **The University Writing Center**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students between 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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. 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.

Students may arrange a one-to-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 [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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.

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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/].

### **Program Assessment**

The English program uses student assignments to determine if they are meeting departmental learning outcomes. To that end, some of the projects you complete for this course may be used for programmatic assessment. An effort is made to remove all identifying markers from any artifact used in this manner. Your identity should, therefore, be protected. Still, please let your instructor know by the end of the first week if you do not want your work used in this way. Contact your instructor if you have any questions or concerns about this process.

### **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/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

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.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].

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. 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>

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to

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provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

**911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Copyright Notice.**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author. Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author (instructor). Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.