

ENGL 3335-110 Film Studies

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Office Hours:

Available by appointment. Appointments can be made over 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

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.

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.

Course Description:

This course examines movies both as dramas – involving plot, characterization, theme, etc. – and artistic productions – involving shots, cuts, and other cinematic techniques.

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Define and discuss cinematic techniques of narrative and style
- Utilize the concepts of cinematic narrative and style to produce informed descriptions of film
- Situate films within the technological, industrial, and economic concerns in which they exist
- Demonstrate an ability to assign form (the final shape of film) rather than simply receive it
- Criticize the cultural ideologies at work within a film

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- Relate a film to the narrative strategies used in Classic Hollywood films
- Compose a descriptive analysis of the stylistic choices made in a film

Required Text:

Bordwell and Thompson, *Film Art: and introduction*, 11th edition, McGraw-Hill, 2017, ISBN 9781253534959

This course also makes use of a number of other texts and film clips. This can be found in the professorial remarks set in each unit in CANVAS as needed. Please regard each of these materials as an important part of our class.

Course Requirements:

This course has five gradable categories of assignments:

Definition Assignments

The definition assignment offers you the opportunity to prepare a very specific type of academic paragraph over one of twenty key concepts discussed in an assigned chapter. The list of items for each chapter can be found on the discussion board created for the first seven units. Please follow the directions for claiming and posting your item to the discussion board. Items that have not been claimed will not be evaluated.

Each presentation is worth up to five points. We have seven definition assignments, one for units two-seven, which means that the definition assignment can contribute up to 35 points toward your final point total.

Short Responses

Short responses offer you the opportunity to explore a specific film clip using the concepts presented in the text book and the professorial remarks. A link for each short response is in the corresponding unit. You can submit your short response by clicking on the short response link and entering your text.

Each response is worth up to five points. We have six short responses, one each for units two-seven, which means that short responses can contribute up to 30 points toward your final point total.

Original Responses

Original Responses are similar to practice responses in that they offer you the opportunity to connect the ideas in the reading to a specific moment in film. The difference is that you choose the film to discuss in the original response. Ideally, you will write all six original responses over the same film. A link for each original response appears just below the short response link in each corresponding unit. You can submit your original response by clicking on the original response link and entering your text.

Each original response is worth ten points. We have six original responses, one for units one, two, and four through seven, which means that original responses can contribute up to 60 points toward your final point total.

First Short Essay

The First Short Essay offers you the opportunity to measure your film (anything released after 1980) against the six characteristics of classic Hollywood narratives. The emphasis of this assignment is to measure a film against these characteristics rather than a simple compare and contrast essay. Few films align or depart from these traits entirely. Most films follow these traits

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in degrees and depart from them in similar fashion. Your job on the First Short Essay is to discuss these consistencies and departures in the film of your choice.

Specific guidelines for this assignment are provided in the assignment tab in CANVAS. There is also a link to this assignment in the third unit, the unit in which this assignment is due. You will submit your assignment in the way you submit your short and original responses. The First Short Essay is worth up to 20 points.

Second Short Essay

The Second Short Essay offers you the opportunity to produce a descriptive analysis of the stylistic choices your film makes and proposes some function and/or motivation for those choices.

Specific guidelines for this assignment are provided in the assignment tab in CANVAS. There is also a link to this assignment in the eighth unit, the unit in which this assignment is due. You will submit your assignment in the way you submit your short and original responses. The Second Short Essay is worth up to 20 points.

Grading Rubric

Final Grades will be calculated using the following rubric:

Unit 1 Definition	5 points
Unit 2 Definition	5 points
Unit 3 Definition	5 points
Unit 4 Definition	5 points
Unit 5 Definition	5 points
Unit 6 Definition	5 points
Unit 7 Definition	5 points
Unit 2 Short Response	5 points
Unit 3 Short Response	5 points
Unit 4 Short Response	5 points
Unit 5 Short Response	5 points
Unit 6 Short Response	5 points
Unit 7 Short Response	5 points
Unit 1 Original Response	10 points
Unit 2 Original Response	10 points
Unit 4 Original Response	10 points
Unit 5 Original Response	10 points
Unit 6 Original Response	10 points
Unit 7 Original Response	10 points
First Short Essay	20 points
<u>Second Short Essay</u>	<u>20 points</u>
TOTAL	165 points

The distribution of final grades is as follows:

- 149-165 cumulative points earns an A
- 132-148 cumulative points earns a B
- 115-131 cumulative points earns a C
- 99-114 cumulative points earns a D
- 0-98 cumulative points equals an F

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A point system does not yield “borderline” grades. Students will earn the letter grade their real point total designates. Point totals that are close to the next letter grade do not warrant the next letter grade. Please take every assignment seriously to avoid the frustration of just missing a grade.

Course Outline and Calendar

Please see the calendar under the Syllabus tab in CANVAS for an outline and calendar of our course. Students should regularly check this calendar some due dates may change. Any change to the schedule will be posted 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.

Posting of Grades

Students will be able to track their grades throughout the semester using the gradebook in CANVAS (note: I will have to add the grades for annotations during the semester. I will do this once in early November and again at the end of the class).

Late Work

This course does not accept late work. A zero will be recorded for any assignment that is missed. Should a student know a class will be missed, that student can send an email with an attachment of the work due for that particular day. Emails must arrive at or before 2:29pm on the day the class meets to be accepted. Late emails will be ignored.

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; drops are the responsibility of the student. 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.

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 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.

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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.

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. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Ideally, by providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, the tutors can highlight the ways in which a text will be read and interpreted, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process.

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/].

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].

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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](#) 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 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.

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.

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