

**Texas A&M - Central Texas**  
**ENGL 5388 Film History: Nations on Film**  
**Spring 2020, Second 8 Weeks**  
**ONLINE**

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**Office Hours:**

Available by appointment. Appointments can be made through my TAMUCT email. Students can expect me to respond to email within twenty-four hours. Most responses will arrive much quicker.

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course may be online for as much as 100% of the course. We will have to wait to see if that is true or not. I want us to respect the need for social distancing. I also want to give us the most interactive course I can. Should that mean, later in the semester, that we can meet in person, either collectively or individually, we will do so to the extent that each person is comfortable doing that. Students can successfully complete this course, though, without any face-to-face meetings.

Because this will, at minimum, be a course with online components, if not a fully online course, you will need to access 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 Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing

This course will work as an interdisciplinary exploration, which means that some part of the course will feel unnatural to every student. Please be quick to ask your professor or your peers for clarification when you need it. Together, we will discover how what you know can apply to what we are trying to do.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the historical development of the concept of a national cinema. The course treats film as an industry and major modern art form. Attention given to important movements,

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periods, and nationalities. This particular section is especially interested in the expected rewards of looking at a set of films as a subset of some national cinema.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to contribute to the following conversations by the end of the semester.

- Discuss some of the reasons one would want to describe a national cinema
- Distinguish the competing priorities of the various disciplines contributing to descriptions of a national cinema
- Scrutinize the concerns that have spurred and shaped an examination of national cinemas
- Judge the implications of framing a set of films as a subset of a national cinema
- Develop an essay length discussion applying some ideas from scholars investigating the value of national cinema

### **4.0 Required Texts:**

Chu, Yingchi. *Hong Kong Cinema: Coloniser, Motherland, and Self*. Routledge, 2002.

Hayward, Susan. *French National Cinema, second edition*. Routledge, 2005.

Hjort, Mette and MacKenzie, Scott (editors). *Cinema & Nation*. Routledge, 2000.

Vitali, Valentina and Willemen, Paul (editors). *Theorising National Cinema*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

### **Course Requirements:**

This course asks students 1) to read our four required books, 2) to write a series of responses to the sections in these books, and 3) to select, watch, and to write an essay length paper using the ideas from this class to discuss a set of at least three films. Specifics for each assignment are presented in CANVAS.

### **Grading Criteria Rubric**

Final Grades will emerge from two assignments:

*Responses*, which will be reconstructions of the chapters we read, contributes 80% of your grade.

One *essay*, briefly described above, contributes 20% of your grade.

### **Complete Course Calendar**

The specific due dates for each assignment will be posted in CANVAS. As a rule, we will have one week of reading and one week of writing. So, for example, we will read our first book in week one and write about it in week two. We will follow this schedule for the first half of the class for sure. The third and fourth books will not get a whole two weeks to themselves, so that we can have time in the last week to work on our essay. Specifics will be posted in CANVAS. Please check in to CANVAS at least three times a week to ensure that you are aware of what is due and when.

### **Late Work**

We will not need a late work policy. Students will complete work as close to the schedule as they can. The only hard deadline will be the end of the class. When the class ends, so, too, does the time to submit assignments. This stance is quite a bit different from my normal stance to late work. I take this revised stance given our current crisis. Please do not let this newfound freedom hurt you in the end. You will realize the best results staying as close to our stated schedule as possible.

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### **Submitting Assignments and Posting of Grades**

Individual assignments will be submitted in CANVAS, at least in the early parts of the class. Students will receive a grade and some comments on every assignment. Students should pay particular attention to the comments as these mean to celebrate successes and sharpen some scholarly focus rather than explain or justify a grade. As such, the comments become an important part of the instruction in this course. Failure to read the comments is akin to failure to come to class.

### **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.

My normal stance is that students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline published on the academic calendar should drop the course. Each of us is facing just such a circumstance before our class ever begins. As such, I would encourage to you to stay in the class unless it just becomes impossible for you to do so. I pledge to work with you to whatever extent I can and still give you a meaningful graduate class experience. All that said, I do want to be clear that 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. Given the unique situation we are in, the UWC is planning to offer online, synchronous tutoring for the next 8 weeks. This could change. If it does, I will let you know. Until then, those wanting to use the UWC should do so by visiting [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/], or by emailing the director, Dr. Bowles [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

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## **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].

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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), 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

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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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), 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.

### **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.