

Course Syllabus
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
English 4338-110 – Film Genres - Fall 2021

Instructor: Charles R. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Office: Online - c.hamilton@tamuct.edu

Phone: (903) 573-5124 (cell) (email or text first for appointment)

Email: Please use TAMUCT email above for all online communications.

Office Hours: Since this is an online course, in-person office hours are not possible. However, I will be available through TAMUCT and CANVAS email, located above, and will respond in 24 hours or less.

Mode of instruction and course access: This course is a 100% online course and uses the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System: [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]

Student-instructor interaction: Messages sent through TAMUCT or CANVAS Course Email at any time will be answered within 24 hours, seven days a week. I will also make myself available between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for quick email responses or online chat when requested.

WARRIOR SHIELD

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

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt-out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan. For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

COURSE INFORMATION

ENGL 4338. Film Genres - 3 Credit Hours.

This course examines genre as a means of production and reception. Attention is given to the recurring characters, actions, and values in films and the cultural role of these stories. Prerequisite(s): [ENGL 1301](#).

3 Semester Credit Hours.

This course requires students to integrate and use fundamental concepts learned in previous courses within the students' degree concentrations including research and analysis of real-world phenomena and problems. Students will participate actively in online class discussions, present written reports, and analytical and summative essays.

From the authors of our text: “This book is designed to provide an introduction to one of the most fascinating, complex and problematic categories of film. Film Noir has generated an enormous amount of academic work over the past few decades and to the student, it can all look rather daunting: a large and increasingly amorphous field of study.”

In this course, students will study the characteristics, visual style, and narrative themes that define film noir along with studying the genre's beginning during the prehistory and wartime of WWII from 1939-45, the postwar period of 1945-50, and the later period of 1950-58. Post WW I, the latter 40 years of the twentieth century and the first 20 years of the twenty-first century will be included. In addition, they will review a case study that is focused on the returning veteran problem and post-WW II film noir.

Students are expected to be familiar with the philosophy, definitions, terms, and procedures of film noir while researching chapters of our text and participating actively in online discussions of the assigned readings and embedded film clip examples. Your final assignment will be to write a summative essay, consisting of a collection of your past reflections, which becomes a discussion of relevant information from chapters and film clip examples you have studied throughout the course, along with comparison scenarios of practices you have chosen to highlight, and situations or genres in which they might apply. As we work our way through the semester, you will be asked to write short reflections, summaries, and analyses of specific selections from the research you have done. At the end of the semester, these reflective analyses will come together, along with other writing elements, to form your formal final research paper. Although this is not a graduate-level course, this is an intensive research-based course, and the rigor is extensive, especially during the last weeks. Do not get behind, or you will not only lose points, but you may find that you have to drop the course.

Student Requirements

1. Examine and then question statements related to Film Noir.
2. Make intelligent observations about the benefits and shortcomings of the material in weekly readings and embedded film examples through both online discussions and in weekly reflections.
3. Collect and evaluate a library of sources concerning film studies issues used in our class text and including a variety of genres.

Course Objectives:

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to differentiate between the common definitions of film noir currently in use and use these studies to conduct research for written reflections on their chosen topic.
2. Students will be able to select and highlight, through online discussions, film study and research methods they choose as most harmful/useful, based on their personal experience, our text, and current research.
3. Students will be able to select the study and research devices they feel best fit strategic approaches to film study through essays in the study film noir.
4. Students will develop the ability to blend forms of study from a variety of genres to fit situations where one mode alone may not be sufficient to be effective and reflect those studies through written essays.

Competency Goals

1. Students will read and respond, both in essay form and through written, online discussion, to a variety of film noir characteristics described in the text and used for the creation of film noir films.
2. Students will read and respond, both in essay form and through written, online discussions, to a variety of film noir practices, described in the text and used in a variety of embedded film clip examples.
3. Students will discover, and apply, their personal choices of the "correct" practices necessary for identifying specific film noir situations.
4. Students will discover their personal philosophies for understanding the form and content characteristic to film noir, through reading, embedded film clips, written reflections, and written discussion responses, and record those in essay format.

Required Textbook

Film Noir: A Critical Introduction. (Ian Brookes, Bloomsbury, 2017, ISBN 978-1-7809-3313-9)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (Use MLA or APA guidelines on all the writing that you turn in. All work must be in Microsoft Word format, and submitted through CANVAS—I will not accept emailed assignments or any other format than MS Word. Also, as a rule, I do not accept late assignments, without prior approval.)

Participating in an online course requires quite a bit of responsibility on the part of the

student (see course calendar). You must log daily in order to check for messages from the professor or other students, read daily postings on discussion forums, respond to prompts from the professor and other students, and remain active for attendance purposes. Those students who reserve their comments for the last day the forum is accessible do not get the full impact of the course and will not receive the full participation grade for the week. Also, simply making a comment in order to satisfy the participation component will not work.

Comments should be substantive, insightful, and should generate further discussion.

Students who do not keep up with assignments and discussion forums should consider dropping the course. If you do not feel that you are ready for an online course, you can gauge your readiness by taking this assessment for online learning at (<http://tamuct.smartermeasure.com>).

Since this is an online course, students are expected to log on a minimum of five (5) days each week and participate in online discussions by posting a minimum of one original comment, and responding to a minimum of two of their classmates' comments each week. Lack of participation will constitute an absence and reduce your weekly participation grade by a minimum of five points.

Weekly Readings and Written Reflections: You will compose (10) **reflections** of sections from your readings of the text. Each reflection will address a specific film noir tactic, theory, or practice you choose to investigate from each section in the text, along with any outside information you might find that correlates with that topic. For each reflection, begin with an MLA heading and a concise summary (250-350 words) of a specific topic you single out that you feel is of great importance within the study of Film Noir. Following the summary, address the general strengths and weaknesses of how that topic is used in the example clip for

that chapter. **You are not required to address/review the entire chapter, only a specific point, or points, you cite as most important.** Please supply short references from the clip, if necessary, to illustrate your application of the practice. **Use Microsoft Word format Only.** Each Reflection is worth (10) points.

Discussion Participation: As mentioned above, you are expected to contribute to the course discussion each week. Count on providing at least one substantive original comment each of fourteen (14) weeks about your readings or in response to my prompts. Also included are comments you post as responses to the posts of others. Each week you are required to post responses to at least two of your classmates' comments, referring to them by name. Grades are not assigned to specific posts, but your contributions each week are worth five (5) points for each of the next 14 weeks. In addition to the discussion of readings, also provided is a forum for other course questions and comments. Please check the open discussions often to see what your classmates are asking or commenting on. You might be able to help.

Grades for this section will be collected and posted regularly. Discussion is important to any course, and in an online course even more so, since we have no ability for face-to-face classroom conversation. Each participant's comments and points of view are essential to gaining knowledge about any subject or topic, and I put quite a bit of weight on an active discussion.

Comments should be substantive and should be made early in the week so that active discussion can take place. Students making comments in the final minutes or hours of the discussion window will not get full credit for participation/discussion.

Final Essay: This is a **summative essay** that gives you yet another opportunity to ponder the ideas of how film noir fits within the world of cinema and your future film studies. You will write a summation essay, discussing the practices you have studied throughout the course, comparisons of practices you have chosen to highlight, and characteristic situations and scenarios in which they might apply. This is a very substantive assignment and should reflect your critical insight into interdisciplinary methods that can be applied to fit specific situations such as yours. The average length of these papers has been 5000 words, but feel free to go longer if necessary.

Grading Criteria

Weekly Article Reviews 10@10	100
Weekly Discussion/Participation 14@5	70
Section Essays 3@50	150
<u>Final Essay</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Points Available	520

Posting of Grades

Grades for assignments will be posted one (1) week from the due date. Grades for Discussion Participation will also be posted every week. All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book. Students should monitor their grading status through this tool.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer. Log on to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal. Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

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.

Other Technology Support

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.*

Complete Course Schedule – ENGL-4338 – Fall 2021

Week 1 – Introductory discussion posts/responses, read the Introduction in our text – *Film Noir: A Critical Introduction* (Brookes), survey the course requirements, assignments, links to film clips, and post questions.

Week 2 – Section 1- “What is film noir?”

Read Chapter 1, discussion, reflection

Week 3 – Chapter 2, discussion, reflection

Week 4 – Chapter 3, discussion, reflection

Week 5 – Section 1 discussion, Section Analysis & Assessment Essay

Week 6 – Section 2 – “The history of film noir.”

Read Chapter 4, discussion, reflection

Week 7 – Chapter 5, discussion, reflection

Week 8 – Chapter 6, discussion, reflection

Week 9 – Section 2 discussion, Section Analysis & Assessment Essay

Week 10 – Section 3 – “Case Study: The veteran problem and postwar film noir.”

Read Chapter 7, discussion, reflection

Week 11 – Chapter 8, discussion, reflection

Week 12 – Chapter 9, discussion, reflection

Week 13 – Section 3 discussion, Section Analysis & Assessment Essay

Week 14 – Coda: The end of film noir – P.225

Week 15 – Work on the final essay.

Week 16 – Submit final essay – December 8, Classes end December 10.

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 Academic 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 penalties 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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

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 the 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 [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other questions, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

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 from 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. 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 UWC is here to help!

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 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 85,000 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 24 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 workspaces, 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concerns shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

Instructor policies related to absence, grading, etc.

Since this is an online course, students are expected to log on a minimum of five (5) days each week and participate in online discussions by posting a minimum of one original comment and responding to a minimum of two of their classmates' comments each week. Lack of participation will constitute an absence and reduce your weekly participation grade by a minimum of five points.

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