

**ENGL 5388--110 Film Studies: the Femme Fatale**  
**Fall 2021**  
**16 Weeks, Synchronous Online, Wednesday 6:00-9:00**

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**Office Hours**

Available by appointment. Appointments can be made at allen.redmon@tamuct.edu. I will not use Canvas email. Neither will I check my office phone as a first point of contact.

**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/>] and over WebEx. Our class meetings will occur over WebEx at the scheduled times. These meetings are required.

Other course activities will be completed asynchronously in Canvas. These assignments will have firm due dates, so please complete them on time and in full. To be clear, this is not a self-paced class. Students need to meet the stated deadlines to earn credit for assignments. Those who fail to meet a deadline will forfeit credit for that assignment.

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. Alert the technician that you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For log-in problems, contact Help Desk Central, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu); (254) 519-5466; **Web Chat**: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Contact me for issues related to course content and requirements.

**Student-Instructor Interaction**

Our primary interaction will occur during our synchronous class meetings. You will also have my comments on assignments. Should we need to talk outside of class, the best way to arrange that is by email ([allen.redmon@tamuct.edu](mailto:allen.redmon@tamuct.edu)). You can expect any email sent to my TAMUCT email to receive a response within 24 hours if not much sooner. The other type of interaction we will have will occur as I respond to your assignments. I am quick to comment on submitted assignments. My comments are an important part of our class as they will help you see ways to improve and expand your ideas. Please be sure to read every comment.

## **WARRIOR SHIELD**

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

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that allows Texas A&M University-Central Texas 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://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] 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.

### **Course Overview and Description**

This course offers a critical study of the femme fatale as it emerges and is discussed within film studies. Assigned readings develop from within film studies. Students will need to become familiar with the priorities, vocabulary, and methods of this discipline. The course will provide students the opportunity to relate these discipline specific interests to their own scholarly interests as they relate to the femme fatale.

### **Course Objectives**

This course will provide students the opportunity to...

- Describe the social and filmic conditions that lead to the introduction of the femme fatale as a recurring element in film noir.
- Interpret the various expressions of the femme fatale as that character type evolves in films across the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.
- Test the usefulness of various critical approaches proposed within film studies to account for the significance of the femme fatale
- Judge the scholarly approach related to the femme fatale that most advances your own scholarly interests
- Construct a scholarly argument that uses some aspect of the discussion around the femme fatale as it exists within film study to advance your own scholarly agenda.

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s)**

I am requesting each student to purchase four books:

- 1) Doane, Mary Ann. *Femmes Fatales: Feminism, Film Theory Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 1991)
- 2) Grossman, Julie. *Rethinking the Femme Fatale in Film Noir: Ready for Her Close-up* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)
- 3) Kaplan, E. Ann (editor). *Women in Film Noir, new edition* (British Film Institute, 1998)
- 4) Farrimond, Katherine. *The Contemporary Femme Fatale: Gender, Genre and American Cinema* (Routledge, 2018)

I will introduce other readings throughout the semester. Each of you are also expected to identify readings that complement the above four core texts. Please ensure you have a copy of all required materials as soon as possible.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

This course will have four “assignments”:

- 1) Class Discussions and Presentations: our class time is a critical part of the course. We will use

this time to discuss the readings and to introduce the connections we are making to those readings and your own scholarly interests. The latter will be conveyed informally, as a matter of discussion, and more formally when presentations are required. Students cannot “make-up” class discussions or presentations, so please do ensure that you are in class when discussions and presentations are assigned. Those who miss more than two classes during the semester will have the highest possible letter grade they can earn lowered by one letter grade for every absence after two.

- 2) Class Responses: some part of each class will be reserved for you to write a written response to the one idea you leave our class looking to explore more fully. These responses are not overly formal, which is to say they will be a work in progress rather than a final thought. That said, each response should be thoughtful, and they should extend the conversation we had in class in some intriguing way. Responses will be submitted on the discussion board. A link for each response has been loaded into the class to which it relates. These assignments will not be graded in the traditional sense. I will comment on each response, but my comments look to participate in your exploration rather than justify a grade. Those who submit a thoughtful response that extends the discussion in class will earn full credit. Those who fail to make a submission or who simply summarize some discussion from class will forfeit credit on that response. Students need to earn credit for ten responses across the semester. Those who do not earn credit on ten responses will have the highest possible letter grade they can earn lowered by one letter grade for every response missed.
- 3) Position paper: the position paper will allow students to produce a short paper of 4-6 pages that champions some approach to the femme fatale introduced in our first two scholarly books. The best position papers will not only demonstrate a clear command of the ideas discussed from the readings, but they will also look to extend those ideas to their own scholarly interests. Specifics for this class will be negotiated in class and posted in Canvas at least one week before the assignment is due. These assignments will not be graded in the traditional sense. Any student who develops a discussion that builds on our course discussion and makes a clear and principled choice for one of the approaches over another will earn full credit for this assignment. Those who do not meet these basic expectations will have the highest possible letter grade they can earn lowered by one letter grade. Specifics for the assignment will be negotiated in class and posted in Canvas at least one week before the assignment is due
- 4) Final paper: the final paper will allow students to produce an argument-driven essay grounded in some body of scholarship that makes some use of some part of the discussion we have been having of the femme fatale. Final papers will need to be between 12-15 pages, not including the bibliography. These assignments will be graded. Specifics for this assignment will be negotiated in class and posted in Canvas before the Thanksgiving break.

### **Posting of Grades and Grading Policies**

Students will earn the letter grade they receive on the final paper unless they have lowered the highest possible grade they can earn by virtue of absences, missed responses, or an inferior position paper. This approach means to give you space to explore the ideas of this class without fear of negatively impacting your final grade. You can secure all points and be prepared for the final project by thoughtfully engaging in all parts of the class that lead us to the final paper.

I will post comments in Canvas to the class responses and to the position paper. Please make sure you use these comments to advance your own scholarly agenda in this class, especially as it relates to the final paper.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

### **Complete Course Calendar**

Week 1: Introductions  
Week 2: Chapter Presentations over a Chapter from Kaplan  
Week 3: Final discussion of Kaplan  
Week 4: Doane Part 1  
Week 5: Doane Part 2  
Week 6: Doane Part 3  
Week 7: Doane Part 4  
Week 8: Position Paper  
Week 9: Grossman Part 1  
Week 10: Grossman Part 2  
Week 11: Grossman Part 3  
Week 12: Farrimond Part 1  
Week 13: Farrimond Part 2  
Week 14: Course Reflections and Forecasts of Final Paper  
Week 15: Presentations  
Week 16: Final Papers

### **Important University Dates**

Classes begin on 23 August  
Deadline to Drop 16 Week classes with no record is 7 September  
Deadline for Fall Graduation Application 19 October  
Registration Opens for Spring Classes 1 November  
Deadline to Drop 16 Week Class with a Q or W 5 November  
Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed) 25-26 November  
Fall Semester Ends 10 December

### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web. Faculty cannot drop students. Once you submit the completed 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 should continue to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absences. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you may receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

In some circumstances, students will face life-altering circumstances after the announcement deadline to drop a course. When this happens, students may request an incomplete. Such a request may be granted if the student is in good standing and has only the last remaining assignments to complete before satisfying the requirements of the course. Students who face life-altering circumstances before the published drop dates, or who simply fall behind in their coursework, should consider dropping the course rather than requesting 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, 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](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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 making an appointment via WOnline at <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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **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 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

### **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 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.

### **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/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

### **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, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern 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.

### **Copyright Notice**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course 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.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

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.

Logon 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) and 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](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.*