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## **UNCO 1301.02E**

### **Exploring the Wizarding World of Harry Potter**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: George Swindell, MS  
Office Location: Welcome Center 157D  
Office Hours: MWF 9:00am-9:50am, 11:00am-12:00pm, and/or by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-468-3322  
University Email Address: George.swindell@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**  
Communication Response Time: typically within 24 hours.

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

##### ***Textbook(s) Required***

There are no required textbooks. All readings materials will be provided through D2L and/or handouts presented in class. Students will be required to create a free account through the Pottermore website. Instructions and information on how to create an account will be distributed in class.

##### ***Software Required***

- MyLeo Online/ D2L Brightspace
- MyLeo email
- Word processing (Microsoft Word)
- Web browser and free account on the Pottermore website.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Materials Required**

Students will be assigned a group project. Each group will need to purchase a tri-fold display board.

## **Course Description**

Signature Courses at Texas A&M University-Commerce connect first-year students with distinguished faculty members in unique and engaging learning environments. By way of this rigorous intellectual experience, students will develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility.

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter universe has touched the lives of many and as it continues to grow, it provides us with the opportunity to explore a world that is truly magical. From psychological aspects of self-exploration and philosophical discussions on good vs. evil, through seven books, two more movies, and a Broadway play, there are lessons learned that could apply to even a muggle's life. In this course students fly into the magical world and discover areas of self-identity, social issues, personal relationships, and more. We will analyze topics presented in the Wizarding World and evaluate how these can relate to our own lives.

## **Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of personality theories and assessment.
2. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
3. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students should have access and proficiency in using word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word), MyLeo email and navigating MyLeo Online/D2L Brightspace.

### **Instructional Methods**

Course will be delivered face-to-face on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On some days, we will break into smaller groups for discussion or group projects, led by the supplemental instructors. On most days we will be having open discussions on the topic of the day. Participation in these discussions is expected.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and read assigned articles *before* they are discussed in class. Additionally, students are expected to be present and engaged in discussion sessions and group activities.

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# GRADING

## Daily Grade: (Attendance/Participation/Discussions) 20%

This assignment is designed for students to:

- Demonstrate your social responsibility
- Demonstrate understanding of concepts and theories on topics of the day

Assignment Description: Students are expected to be present and engaged in all phases of our course. Attendance and participation are vital to this experience. If you know you will be absent from class, please notify your professor or supplemental instructor. Absences on important class days (e.g., exams, The Lionizing) will not be excused without documentation. If you are not able to attend class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information covered during lecture. Bring your ID to class so that you can be swiped in to receive credit for the class period. Attendance may be taken multiple times during class, thus make sure that you are in attendance through the entire time.

## Quizzes: 20%

### Course Assessments

This assignment is designed for students to:

- Illustrate critical thinking
- Practice written communication

Assignment Description: There will be weekly/bi-weekly quizzes. All quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and open-ended questions related to class lectures, online discussions, readings, guest lectures and movies shown during class.

## Assignments: 30%

These assignments are designed for students to:

- Illustrate Critical Thinking on issues from the course
- Demonstrate your understanding of critical topics covered in the course
- Practice written communication

Assignment Description: In class, we will explore a variety of concepts and topics. Students will be assigned smaller projects and assignments to complete. Guidelines and the grading rubric will be presented in class when assigned.

## Group Project: "Magic Around the World": 30%

This assignment is designed for students to:

- Illustrate Critical Thinking on an issue from the course
- Practice oral communication
- Demonstrate your social responsibility regarding the topic of the course.
- Practice written communication

Assignment Description: Throughout the semester, students will work in a 3 to 5-person group on a

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magic related project that will be presented during “The Lionizing” (additional information, below). Students will utilize class time to complete this project, but some of the assignment will need to be completed as a group outside of class-time. Each group will identify a region/culture to research and present on the magic that is, or would be used, by the group. This information will then be synthesized into a paper and poster to be presented in class and then to the larger university community.

The project will be broken into steps, with students submitting component parts at various times during the semester:

Element	Due Date
Culture or region selected	Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Background and references collected	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Mock up of final ideas	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Paper submitted	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
Group presentations	April 19 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>

**Alternate Group Project:**

If a student has not participated in the first two elements of the group project, they will lose 50 points and be ineligible to continue with the rest of the project. Instead, students will be assigned an equivalent research project worth 100 points to recover some of the points in the course.

The student will need to meet individually with the professor to receive approval to research a topic related to our course that can be developed into a larger paper that will be presented in written form and on a poster to display during the Lionizing.

**The Lionizing**

**The Lionizing** is a culminating event required of all sections of UNCO 1301. At this public event, students will present their work to the entire University Community. Students from our class may not be able to be physically present during the event, but must make arrangements for their posters to be displayed for assessment purposes.

- Demonstrates critical thinking
- Demonstrates your understanding of your social responsibility
- Demonstrates your excellent written and oral communication skills

This presentation will not influence your grade; instead, it helps University College assess how well our Signature Courses are helping students meet important learning outcomes.

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.	Assignments	30%
	Quizzes	20%
	Group Project	30%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Daily Grade            20%

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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me ASAP, I cannot help if I don't know there is a problem.

**Email** is the best way to contact me—I check this daily. You can expect a response from me within 24 hours (M-F). You can also email your supplemental instructors for course-related issues.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### Attendance/Lateness

Occasions may occur which make it necessary for a student to miss class but documentation must be presented for any unexcused absence to be changed to an excused one. Habitual tardiness or premature exist from class will constitute an unexcused absence. Given the current situation of Covid-19, we will be social distancing in class. If you are unable to attend you are expected to sign into and be present via Zoom or other media used during lectures.

#### Late Work

Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction in points. No assignment will be accepted after one week of the original assignment's due date. Do NOT leave your assignment with the administrative assistant, in my mailbox, emailed to the supplemental instructors, or left under my office door without receiving prior approval to do so. Only hard copies of written work will be accepted. This will be under review and alternative measures will be taken. Emailed work to me will be accepted as long as I have provided permission. Most work will be uploaded into the online course under the appropriate assignment title.

#### Missed Exams

Notice of exams is given tentatively in this syllabus, and will be confirmed in class. Makeup exams will not be given unless a genuine emergency or crisis occurred (you will have to provide documentation), and you will be excused from the exam on the test day ONLY if prior notification has been given. Makeup exams may be given in an alternate format from the rest of the class (i.e., essay exam) and at an alternate time set up for the professor's convenience. Makeup exams must be completed *within two weeks* of the original exam date. I do not see this as being a potential

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issue as I tentatively intend to have all exams online through D2L.

#### Extra Credit

There is no guarantee extra credit will be granted in this course. All assignments will be counted in the final grade, so do your best to be consistently diligent in your efforts throughout the semester.

#### Instructor expectations:

1. Prepare for class by reading assigned text and chapters BEFORE your professor presents them in class lecture.
2. Participation is vital. Your contributions to class or group discussions are essential to understanding the material.
3. Active listening – attention focused and appropriate eye contact. Be conscious of your body language and nonverbal responses – they can be as disrespectful as words.
4. Only one person talks at a time. Talking while others are speaking will not be tolerated; it is distracting and rude to everyone else. Students are expected to be respectful of each other's opinions and allow an open forum for discussion of all viewpoints.
5. **Be respectful.** We will be talking about a lot of heavy topics in this course that will elicit varying reactions. Because of this, students are expected to listen and be mindful when responding.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

*\*Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero on that assignment.\**

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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## Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### *A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health*

*The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counselingcenter](http://www.tamuc.edu/counselingcenter).*

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Dates are scheduled tentatively at this time.** They may be changed but advanced notice will be given in class. You are expected to read any assigned material *prior* to its discussion in class.

Date	Topic
12-Jan	Syllabus & remarks
14-Jan	J.K. Rowling...Is the wizarding world still magical.
17-Jan	MLK, Jr. Day – Campus Closed

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<b>19-Jan</b>	Why is magic so intriguing?
<b>21-Jan</b>	Magic throughout history
<b>24-Jan</b>	Magic around the world - Cultural differences in magic
<b>26-Jan</b>	Technology and Magic & Religion and magic
<b>28-Jan</b>	What goes into a spell?
<b>31-Jan</b>	The sorting hat
<b>2-Feb</b>	The boy who lived; the chosen one or the boy who lived under a cupboard.
<b>4-Feb</b>	Courageous Gryffindors and Cunning Slytherins
<b>7-Feb</b>	Personality & assessment
<b>9-Feb</b>	Project Day – open discussion
<b>11-Feb</b>	Prepare to go to Hogwarts
<b>14-Feb</b>	Time turner and preparing for Professor Binns
<b>16-Feb</b>	*catch up day*
<b>18-Feb</b>	Potions, critical thinking, and problem solving.
<b>21-Feb</b>	Self-identity
<b>23-Feb</b>	Self exploration
<b>25-Feb</b>	Should I be an Auror or Professor?
<b>28-Feb</b>	Goals: 10 points to Gryffindor
<b>2-Mar</b>	*catch up day*
<b>4-Mar</b>	Muggles vs. Wizards
<b>7-Mar</b>	The Education of Witches and Wizards
<b>9-Mar</b>	S.P.E.W – inequality in the magical community
<b>11-Mar</b>	Gringotts Bank: Wealthy Potters and hand-me-down Wesleys
<b>4/14-18</b>	Spring Break
<b>21-Mar</b>	Happiness and your protonus
<b>23-Mar</b>	Death Eaters vs. Aurors: Good vs. Evil Paradigm
<b>25-Mar</b>	Ethics, morals, and values
<b>28-Mar</b>	Albus knew all along: Ethical decision making
<b>30-Mar</b>	The Wesleys, Potters, and Grangers: Family dynamics
<b>1-Apr</b>	The Marauders and role models
<b>4-Apr</b>	Love and Friendships
<b>6-Apr</b>	What is beyond the Veil? Fearing the unknown
<b>8-Apr</b>	Alternate endings
<b>11-Apr</b>	The Three Peverell Brothers: Death and dying
<b>13-Apr</b>	Dementors and depression
<b>15-Apr</b>	Accepting Death: The pardoner’s Tale by Geoffrey Chaucer
<b>18-Apr</b>	Professor Trelawney: The Barnum effect or real predictions?
<b>20-Apr</b>	*catch up day*
<b>22-Apr</b>	*catch up day*
<b>25-Apr</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>27-Apr</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>29-Apr</b>	<b>Presentations</b>

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<b>2-May</b>	<b>*Last Class Day*</b>
<b>4-May</b>	<b>Study days – No Class</b>
<b>6-May</b>	<b>Study days – No Class</b>
<b>5/9-13</b>	<b>“Lionizing Event”</b>

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