

**LIBS 497**  
**20 Years Later**  
**Texas A&M University - Commerce – Fall 2022**  
Mon/Wed/Fri 3:00-3:50 (203 David Talbot Hall)

**Instructor:** Dr. Brad Klypchak

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Office Hours: MW 4:00-5:00, Tues 12:30 – 2:30 or by appointment  
(Zoom meetings welcomed)

**Course Description:** The class will examine the year and happenings of 2002. Consider it a cultural study of what occurred, but also what we can glean from being 20 years removed and reflecting back. This can/will entail popular culture, politics, trends and fads, fashion, sport, etc.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To encounter and engage in readings from a variety of narrative styles as a means for generating synthesis, analysis and communication of critical thought
2. To apply the principles of interdisciplinary scholarship by reflectively and informatively examining happenings from the year 2002 and their cultural imprint on societal, historical, and social happenings
3. To prompt awareness and application of course content to personal self-reflection and expression

**Evaluation:**

Reflective Short Papers:	25%
Magazine Project:	20%
Event Analysis Project:	20%
Reflective Essay:	20%
Participation and Engagement:	15%

**Grading System:**

A (exceptional) = 100 - 90%      B (good) = 89 - 80%      C (average) = 79 - 70%  
D (minimally sufficient) = 69 - 60%      F (failure) = <60%

Though I am a believer in the philosophies of ungradedness, some versions of grading still exist. That stated, I am also a believer in the intrinsic pursuit of knowledge and discovery. If you join in that pursuit, there should be no worries or concerns of final grades. In nearly all grading instances, I start from a mindset that one begins at middle “C” (75%), and one proves their relative ability to shift above, shift below, or remain at that mark with their work.

**Covid 19 Considerations**

Please note that as of the writing of this syllabus, per university direction, this is planned to be an entirely face-to-face class with no scheduled virtual attendance option. Students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, wear a mask in public indoor settings, and wash hands frequently. These actions can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Review the whole of the university’s Fall 2022 [COVID-19 Management and Guidance Plan](#) thoroughly and be prepared to strictly adhere to it.

## **Brief Assignment Explanations:**

**Reflective Short Papers:** At three points in the semester, students will reflect on the course as a whole as informed through course content.

**Magazine Project:** Students will conduct a textual analysis of one issue of any magazine published in 2002. The analysis will incorporate both descriptive and interpretative elements. Fulfillment of this task may take a variety of forms depending on student preference and degree of personalization.

**Event Analysis Project:** Students will apply course concepts and principles by replicating the process of contextual analysis for an event beyond immediate course coverage in a manner consistent with the spirit as conducted in the course. In this instance, the student will choose the event and highlight the points of artistic, historical, and/or contextual significance.

**Reflective Review:** Students will reflect on the course as a whole via a personalized consideration of the whole of the portfolio generated across the term.

**Participation and Engagement:** Whether in the classroom or online, students are expected to dialogue in a way that provokes, clarifies, challenges, and enlightens the course community. In these communications, the concepts of a liberal studies approach to higher education will be practiced and varying interpretations, particularly in relation to the course readings, will be shared.

Additional considerations of a student's relative level of engagement and academic integrity will also be made across all aspects of the course including but not limited to completion and quality of tasks and assignments, communications, following instructions and guidelines, and accessing materials. As mentioned previously, all students will start as receiving 75% and will be assessed as to their respective demonstration of proficiency/deficiency/adequacy across the term.

## **Readings and Course Contents**

All course readings and albums will be available via D2L Brightspace.

All course prep should be completed prior to the respective class session. Announcements will be regularly made in class as well as through D2L announcements indicating what's to be done and when. This material will be needed for vibrant and informed discussion. Across any circumstances, sufficient time and access will be provided.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

All coursework is to be an original work by the student and created specifically for fulfilling the requirements for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as one's own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers
2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others
3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests
4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

**Any act of academic dishonesty may result in the automatic failure of the course** and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university.

### **“Attendance” policy, instructor’s rights and expectations:**

All courses demand active participation and regular attendance. It is imperative that the student do all assigned work in a timely fashion. In particular, the benefits from discussion specifically depend on each student’s respective preparation and distinctive contribution. Failure to do so hurts not only the individual student, but the collective community as a whole.

All assignments are devised for the explicit purpose of offering educational benefit, be that academic growth, hands-on experience, development and display of critical thought, or expression of our academic selves. Coursework is to be completed as assigned and is to be turned in via the D2L Brightspace dropbox no later than the formal due date. Any work turned in after due dates may incur a penalty respective of its relative degree of tardiness (to a point of no credit whatsoever). Given conditions of the Covid 19 pandemic, considerable flexibility in applying this will be enacted. Failing to complete assignments not only inhibits the immediate learning process but, again, ultimately hurts the overall learning community as discussion of the process and its results can prove insightful as well.

### **Please Note:**

Popular culture and entertainment media use life as its muse. As such, it is comprised of the themes, subjects, and contents that contribute to everyday life. These contents, at times, can and do include aspects of violence, threat, sexuality, conflict, oppression, discrimination, inequality, profanity, varying ideology, crime, and impropriety. While effort has been taken to keep decorum in mind, engaging the happenings of 2002 critically may well engage mature contents and themes.

### **Student Conduct**

Course participation includes aspects of respectful, thoughtful, class interaction and engagement in group discussions. This course’s expectations work in conjuncture with what the [Student Guidebook](#) describes as Civility in the Classroom. Additionally, all students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Policies and Procedures, Conduct, pg. 35-45).

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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](#)

### **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.

### **Concealed Carry Notice**

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/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

# 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.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### 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>

## Course Outline:

Note: The course outline is only a guideline. It is subject to change based on discussion, current events, or other such influences. Additionally, there is considerable fluidity to when reading assignments will occur. These will be updated in class and through D2L announcements.

### Week 1 (8/29-9/4)

- general course information
- general introduction to liberal studies, ungradedness, interdisciplinarity, and nostalgia

### Week 2 (9/5-9/11) \*no session September 5 - Labor Day

- the year in context: post 9-11

### Week 3 (9/12-9/18)

- the year in context: No Child Left Behind

### Week 4 (9/19-9/25)

- *Bowling for Columbine*
- **First reflective paper due Sept 25**

### Week 5 (9/26-10/2)

- The year in politics

### Week 6 (10/3-10/9)

- Homeland Security

### Week 7 (10/10-10/16)

- the year in sport
  - Salt Lake City Winter Olympics
- **Second reflective paper due Oct 16**

### Week 8 (10/17-10/23)

- the year in music
  - *American Idol*

### Week 9 (10/24-10/30)

- the year in music criticism

### Week 10 (10/31-11/6)

- the year in movies
  - *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
  - *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- **Third reflective paper due Nov 6**

### Week 11 (11/7-11/13)

- the year in technology

### Week 12 (11/14-11/20)

- the year in miscellany
- **Magazine Project due Nov 20**

Week 13 (11/21-11/27) \* Thanksgiving Break November 24-25

- Magazine Project discussion
- readings:
  - no readings

Week 14 (11/28-12/4)

- the year in review
- **Event Analysis Project Due Dec 4**

“Week” 15 (12/5-12/9)

- Presentations of Events Analyses

Finals “Week” (12/10-12/16)

- Final session to be held in our designated exam time: Friday December 16, 1:15-3:15
- **Reflective Review due Monday, December 12, 3:15 PM**

final grades available via MyLeo on Tuesday, December 20