ENG 697.01W CRN 41407 ("Modern British Gothic")

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: M. Hunter Hayes, PhD, Department Head and Associate Professor of English
Office Location: 140 David Talbot Hall of Languages
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–10:30 AM (and by appointment)
Office Phone: 903.468.8625
Office Fax: 903.886.5980
University Email Address: Hunter.Hayes@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:** email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Ian McEwan, *The Comfort of Strangers*
Additional readings uploaded in D2L

Note: Students are welcome to use any available edition of McEwan's novel. An e-book version should be available through the Velma K. Waters Library via this link.

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Course Description

ENG 697 is a special topics course and may count as an elective in a graduate degree program. Students should consult their academic advisor to apply ENG 697 to their degree plan.

This semester ENG 697.023W ("Modern British Gothic") examines how seven 20th-Century British writers have adapted Gothic conventions in their work and the effects these appropriations of the genre have created. This course may also discuss relevant examples in other British media from the early twentieth century to the present.

Students will write and submit three critical-response papers, research and post one online presentation, and engage productively in weekly discussions on the course site.

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

1. Students will hone their communication skills through writing activities and a presentation.
2. Students will hone their research skills through writing activities and a presentation.
3. Students will demonstrate their understanding of selected British novels as measured by the students' performance in writing critical response papers.
4. Students will demonstrate that they are active and engaged members of a learning community as measured by the quality and frequency of responses in regular course discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Facility with accessing the course learning management system and its features, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, and other similar programs.

Instructional Methods

This course combines a written lecture format with weekly course discussions. The instructor will conduct all course activities through the course learning management system, with content developed for students to participate in an asynchronous manner while respecting posted deadlines.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students should log on to the course throughout the week and read all lecture, assignment, and other materials for that week. Students should read all assigned texts prior to the start of the relevant week where feasible. Students should engage

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productively in the course discussions and complete all assignments by the designated deadline. Students must follow all rules for civil academic discourse.

GRADING

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

• No extra-credit work will be assigned.
• All work must be submitted by the due date. Work not submitted on time will receive a grade of zero (0).

Assessments

The student's performance in the following areas will determine the student's grade for this course:

• **Critical-response papers** *(45% of course grade; 15% for each paper)*: These brief (approximately 5 pp. each) papers should be well-focused analytical responses containing a well-formulated thesis to selected works we will read and discuss for this course. Think of these as "mini essays," each with a clear focus and substantial attention paid to close readings or explications of the works you have selected. Instead of providing a general discussion of the plot, students should examine other elements such as narrative strategies, characterization, and other points of critical interest. Students are encouraged to hone their interpretive skills by using relevant theoretical approaches for all responses. Response papers/explications are due on the <u>Wednesday</u> of the week that we will discuss a particular text; the course schedule identifies these dates and the texts from which you may select for your response papers.

• **Presentation** *(40% of course grade):* Students will sign up online for a presentation topic from a group of selected critical texts that will be posted on the D2L course site along with guidelines for the assignment.

• **Class Participation** *(15% of course grade)*

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Participation grades require completing all assignments, including readings in a timely fashion; productive use of discussions and thoughtful replies to other discussion posts. Post initial online responses by <u>Wednesday</u> of each week; this will allow other students time to read, consider and respond to your post. All students are expected to engage in thoughtful and courteous discussions.

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

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.

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.

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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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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

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

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

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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

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

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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

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

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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/counsel**

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Departmental-Specific Procedures

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have

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not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation")](#).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (June 5–9):
Course Introduction
● Revisiting the Gothic
● Discussion of critical-response and presentation assignments

Week 2 (June 12–16):
Ghosts:
● Elizabeth Bowen, "Hand in Glove"
● Will Self, "The North London Book of the Dead"

Week 3 (June 19–23):
Ancestral Curses and the Uncanny:
● Agatha Christie, "The Lemesurier Inheritance"
● Kingsley Amis, "A Twitch on the Thread"

Week 4 (June 26–30):
Urban Gothic
● Ian McEwan, *The Comfort of Strangers*

Week 5 (July 3–6):
Course Wrap-Up
● Presentations due, posted to course shell by July 6th

Assignment	Due Date
Week 1 Discussions	First post by June 7
Week 2 Discussions	First post by June 14
Critical Response Paper #1	Posted by June 14
Week 3 Discussions	First post by June 21
Critical Response Paper #2	Posted by June 21
Week 4 Discussions	First post by June 28
Critical Response Paper #3	Posted by June 28
Research Presentations	Posted by July 5
Week 5 Discussions	First post by July 5

Note: Dates for class meetings are based on Monday–Friday of each week.

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