



## English 434.01E || Literature and Film

Spring 2024

**Dr. Eralda L. Lameborshi**

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Office: Talbot Hall of Languages, 125

Department: Literature and Languages

### **Office Hours:**

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Phone: 903.468.3260

Preferred Form of Communication: office hours and email

Communication Response Time: within 48 hours

### **Course Information:**

Meeting Time: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm, Tuesday/Thursday

Meeting Place: Talbot Hall, Room 208

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### **Course Description**

Catalog: A study of the interrelationships between film and literature and the unique qualities of each medium. The course also examines film adaptations of literary works, films and literature that focus on similar themes, and the differences in reading and perceiving different types of texts. Prerequisites: [ENG 1302](#). Satisfies visual and performing arts option of Core Curriculum.

Spring 2024 Emphasis: This semester we will focus on literary and cinematic texts that raise crucial questions about the individual in relation to the self, the other, society, and the natural world. We will study narrative film, the novel, and the short story. We will delve into analyses that consider both artforms independently and in conversation with one another. Film and literature are artistic expressions that seek to make sense of the world; they embody, complicate, examine, and reflect social problems and anxieties, and as such, are crucial mirrors of the human experience.

Below is a list of the required texts we will read and screen. While I expect to make no to little revision to our course schedule, we may omit or add films depending on the time available for discussion. If such changes are made, you will be notified ahead of time, and if there are added materials, I will make sure that they are accessible through the TAMUC Library resources.

### **Required Books**

- *Prophet Song*, Paul Lynch
- *Time Shelter*, Georgi Gospodinov
- Selected short stories, PDFs will be provided

### **Required Films**

- *Bicycle Thieves* (1948)
- *Alphaville* (1965)
- *Chungking Express* (1994)
- *Paris, Texas* (1984)
- *Moonlight* (2016)
- *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (2022)
- *Ex Machina* (2014)
- *Ikiru* (1952)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Gain a substantial understanding of literary narrative, narrative film, and engage in informed and scholarly discussion about film and literature
2. Communicate complex arguments in clear and effective written arguments and summaries
3. Produce written work that engages meaningfully with the primary texts and existing scholarly research
4. Demonstrate a mastery of primary texts (literary and visual) through written and oral discussion of the cultural reflections and influences of literature and film
5. Gain understanding and proficiency in visual literacy
6. Gain knowledge of film techniques and film history
7. Deepen knowledge of literary and film analysis

### **Crucial Course Objective:**

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics. I encourage your suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in this course. This course meets the following standards for diversity content and instruction in the following way(s):

1. Course content that includes readings and other materials that address various categories of social difference (gender, nationality, religion, ethnicity, race, age, sexuality, political affiliation, socio-economic status, ability, linguistic background, etc.) on the course topic.

2. Tying current events and local histories centered on the production of social difference into classroom activities.

### Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale, and you can look up your grades anytime on the virtual course space:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F=59%orBelow

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

• Weekly Discussions (Online)	20%
• Presentation	15%
• Essay 1	15%
• Essay 2	15%
• Midterm Exam – in class	20%
• Final Exam – take home	15%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Assignments and Exams

- **Weekly Discussions:** These are 1–2-page close analysis responding to the prompts that will be posted on D2L. The purpose of this assignment is to help you hone your analytical and interpretive skills by writing on the films and texts each week. It is important that in these reports you focus on the text(s) the prompt specifies. Consider these as low-pressure assignments, and as warmups and exercises that will help you write better essays and exams. You will need to write your own response to the weekly prompt and respond to one classmate. These discussions will be due before class and the due dates are available on D2L.
- **Presentation:** This will be a presentation on a topic related to the material we are working on in class. Detailed prompt forthcoming.
- **Essay 1:** You will write an 3-5-page essay (MLA Style) about *Prophet Song*. Prompt forthcoming.
- **Essay 2:** You will write an 3-5-page essay (MLA Style) about *Time Shelter*. Prompt forthcoming.
- **Midterm Exam:** In-class.
- **Final Exam:** This exam will be a take-home exam and it will be in an essay format.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will be holding regular office hours (see the header on this syllabus) and I encourage you to come meet with me often. Consider these office visits as a way for you not only to ask questions, but to also develop your ideas for your assignments, and to engage with the material outside of class. If the office hours I have listed do not work with your schedule, we can make individual appointments.

If you send an email I will answer it that same day if the email was sent between 8 am-4 pm on weekdays. If your email was sent after those specified times, I will reply the next morning or after the weekend. Please follow proper email etiquette. I do not check D2L email, so only send emails to the university address: [LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu](mailto:LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu)

## Things to Keep in Mind/Course Policies

1. Because this is a film course, some of the visual elements may present content that may be disturbing, violent, graphic, or triggering to some students. A crowdsourced website that gives information on possible triggers on films is the following and I encourage you to filter the films through the site if you know that certain content may be sensitive or triggering: <https://www.doesthedogdie.com/>
2. All Writing Projects must be **turned in on D2L** (see next section for access) on the due date and time outlined in the tentative calendar. No make-up work is allowed on major assignments. Late work will be penalized 10% of the grade per day that it is late.
3. All work needs to adhere to **MLA format** with appropriate documentation.
4. **Plagiarism**, or turning in work that is not one's own, runs counter to the most basic purposes and presumptions of higher education. The minimum penalty for plagiarism will be failure of the assignment. In repeated cases, the penalty is failure of the course and filing paperwork with the department head (see section below on academic integrity).
5. **Attendance** is required for this course, and we will follow the attendance guidelines outlined by the university; there are **only three absences allowed, excused or unexcused.** After the third absence the student will lose half a letter grade per absence, and **in the excessive number of seven absences, the student automatically fails the course, regardless of completing work assigned.**
6. The **student is responsible** to inform the professor about an excused absence or any extenuating circumstances. See this link for more information: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalinformation/attendance.aspx#:~:text=The%20student%20is%20responsible%20for,reasons%20for%20absence%20as%20excusable.>
7. **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.
8. All students will be graded on their ability to: 1. Achieve the goal of the specific assignment 2. Efficiently and effectively communicate through writing 3. Properly format the work and 4. Avoid stigmatized grammatical and syntactical errors. Each assignment will vary, but these four factors will always determine part, or all, of your grade.

## Technology Requirements

We will often use D2L, and in the case of web-based courses, D2L will be our virtual classroom. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have all technology requirements met for a successful interaction with online learning spaces. For more on technology requirements see here: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/facultystaffservices/academictechnology/readiness-for-online-courses.aspx>

## 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**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me via email: [LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu](mailto:LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu)

### **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>

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

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

### **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 here:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusservices/studentRights/Code%20of%20Conduct.aspx>

### **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 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 \(“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”\)](#).

### **Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the attendance webpage:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalinformation/attendance.aspx>

### **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: <https://www.tamuc.edu/college-of-business/integrity-policy/>

## **Use of AI**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

All writing assignments and discussion posts must be your original work that isn't generated by AI tools. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is imperative to develop the writing and critical thinking skills that comprise the course objectives. As such, only your original work will be accepted for the writing assignments.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## **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), <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

## **Mental Health Services**

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)

## **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 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained. For more on this see here: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/administrativeoffices/academicAffairs/handbook2016/section-iii.aspx>

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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.

For more on campus carry policy see here:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/CampusCarry/FAQs.aspx#:~:text=to%20carry%20guns%3F-Any%20individual%20who%20holds%20a%20current%20and%20valid%20license%20to,where%20permitted%20on%20university%20property.>