LIBS 425 – Ways of Seeing & Knowing: Fantasy and the Fantastic
East Texas A&M University – Fall 2025
TR 11:00-12:15
129 Education South

Instructor: Dr. Brad Klypchak
　　　Office: 221 Talbot Hall
　　　Email: Brad.Klypchak@etamu.edu
　　　Office Hours: MW 2:30 - 5:00 T 3:30 – 5:00 or by appointment
　　　　　(Zoom meetings welcomed)

Course Description: The sensible world is what we see all around us and is constantly changing. How do people learn about any one thing in the world with certainty if the only thing for sure is change? This course critically examines the ideas of thinkers and writers who pay special attention to this problem in works of philosophy, literature, science, and theology. Topics include but are not limited to justice, love, friendship, death, human excellence, and human dignity.

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 experiences and settings where instances of fantasy and the fantastic occur
3. To prompt awareness and application of course content to personal self-reflection and expression

Evaluation:

Reflective Responses	25%
Fantasy Discovery	15%
Readings Project	15%
Global Project	15%
Reflective Essay	15%
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.

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.

Fantasy Discovery: Students will select, discover, and engage content related to an engaging instance/entity/consideration of fantasy and the fantastic beyond those practices covered in course materials and discussions.

Readings Project: Students will further engage readings on a fantasy topic of their choice as inspiration for their own versions of analysis, and reflective considerations. Ideally the discoveries here will inform the Fantasy Discovery task.

Global Fantasy Project: Students will select some fantasy/fantastic artifact/movement/entity of non-Western origins not formally covered within the course and familiarize themselves with both the selection's history as well as to its geocultural significance. This will be conveyed through the creation of a shareable form, be it document, recorded presentation, or other alternative means of communication.

Reflective Essay: Students will reflect on the course as a whole via a personalized consideration of the entirety 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.

Readings
All readings will be distributed via our online course shell.

All readings are to be completed prior to the course session they are assigned to, and their material will be needed for active discussion participation.

Academic Dishonesty
All coursework is to be 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); 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.

Course Outline:

Note: The course outline is only a guideline. It is subject to change based on discussion, current events, or other such influences.

I am envisioning this course to be targeting considerations of fantasy and the fantastic through a set of core themes. Ideally, our conversations will flow where each theme receives its requisite share of time and depth of discussion. That said, there will likely be overlap between and across themes so flexibility in conceptually recognizing the tenuousness to this outline is requested. We will negotiate formal parameters for due dates as a course collective. What is offered here is a relative guide.

Weeks 1-5 (August 25 – September 28): Fantasy and the fantastic and the individual
- Reflection #1 due September 28

Weeks 6-10 (September 29 – November 2): Fantasy and the fantastic in everyday life
- Global Project due October 19
- Reflection #2 due November 2

Weeks 11-14 (November 3 – 30): Fantasy and the fantastic personalized
- Readings Project due November 9
- Reflection #3 due November 30

Week 15 through finals (December 1 -12): Reflections on the whole
- Fantasy Discovery due December 5
- Finals week session: Tuesday, December 9 from 10:30-12:30
- Reflective Essay due December 10

final grades available via MyLeo on Tuesday, Dec 16

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS
All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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
Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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 AND UNIVERSITY 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.etamu.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

ETAMU Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

Academic Integrity
Students at East Texas A&M University 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/
13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/
undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

AI Use Policy
East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be 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). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for
individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and
follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the
use of such software is disallowed. 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.

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice
East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf