



## **ENG 525.01W (Contemporary Literature)**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: M. Hunter Hayes, PhD (Professor & Department Head)  
Office Location: 140 Talbot  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00-11:00 AM and by appointment  
Office Phone: 903.468.8625  
University Email Address: Hunter.Hayes@etamu.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: Email  
Communication Response Time: 24 hours (weekdays)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Julian Barnes, *The Lemon Table* (9781400076505)  
Roddy Doyle, *The Deportees and Other Stories* (9780143114888)  
Tessa Hadley, *Bad Dreams & Other Stories* (978-0062476678)  
Sarah Hall, *The Beautiful Indifference: Stories* (978-0062208453)  
Kazuo Ishiguro, *Nocturnes* (9780307455789)  
Claire Keegan, *Antarctica* (9780802139016)  
A.L. Kennedy, *Indelible Acts* (9781400033454)

### **Course Description**

Catalogue Description:

*This course focuses on literatures published post-1945 from one or more regions or cultures. Special emphasis will be placed on the ways in which national and international social and aesthetic phenomena have informed an increasingly diverse understanding of literary texts. Topics may include Cold War writing, literatures of nationhood, post colonialism, multiculturalism and*

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*its literary impact, or the ever-growing emphasis placed on generic hybridity, especially with the rise of visual and electronic media. May be repeated for credit when the emphasis changes.*

Fall 2025: This course examines short narratives, specifically short-fiction collections published during the past quarter century by writers from England, Ireland, and Scotland. Students should expect to begin developing a working set of theoretical principles for short fiction as a genre with special attention to collections as well as to individual stories. Students will read seven contemporary short-fiction collections; write five short-response papers; craft a researched presentation (posted in course site); and engage in weekly course discussions.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of selected contemporary texts.
2. Students will demonstrate mastery of an assigned subject as measured by the students' performance on an online presentation.
3. Students will demonstrate that their active and engaged members of the course as measured by the quality and quantity of regular course discussions.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

### **Instructional Methods**

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

## **GRADING**

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

A = 90%-100%

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B = 80%-89%  
C = 70%-79%  
D = 60%-69%  
F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points  
B = 401- 450 Points  
C = 351- 400 Points  
D = 301- 350 Points  
F = 300 & > Points

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

Example:

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

## Assessments

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

- **Critical response papers** (50% of course grade; 10% for each paper): These brief (approximately 5 pp. each) papers should be well-focused analytical responses containing a well-formulated thesis to each of the novels we will discuss. Think of these as "mini essays," each with a clear focus and substantial attention paid to close readings of selected portions of the novel. 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.

*See the course calendar (last page of this syllabus) for due dates.*

- **Presentation** (30% of course grade): Students will sign up online for a

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presentation topic from a group of selected critical texts that will be posted on the online course site along with guidelines for the assignment.

*See the course calendar for the due date.*

- **Class Participation** (20% of course grade)

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 Thursday 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 online and in-class.

## 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](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](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@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

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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>

### **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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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 [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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## **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.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

## **Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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**

East Texas A&M University  
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: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

## **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.

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## **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 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.

## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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### **AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

East Texas A&M University 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).

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 instructors' 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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (August 25<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>)

- Course Introduction
- Defining “Contemporary”

Week 2: (September 2<sup>nd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>)

- Short Fiction Discussion

Week 3 (September 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>)

- Contemporary English Fiction

Week 4 (September 15<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>)

- Barnes, *The Lemon Table*

Week 5 (September 22<sup>nd</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>)

- Hadley, *Bad Dreams & Other Stories*

Week 6 (September 29<sup>th</sup>–October 3<sup>rd</sup>)

- Discussion of Short Narratives

Week 7 (October 6<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>)

- Hall, *The Beautiful Indifference*

Week 8 (October 13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>)

- Ishiguro, *Nocturnes*

Week 9 (October 20<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup>)

- Contemporary Scots Fiction

Week 10 (October 27<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>)

- Kennedy, *Indelible Acts*

Week 11 (November 3<sup>rd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>)

- The Irish Short Story & Contemporary Fiction

Week 12 (November 10<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>)

- Keegan, *Antarctica*

Week 13 (November 17<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup>)

- Doyle, *The Deportees*

Week 14 (November 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>)

Week 15 (December 1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>)

- Presentations
- Course Wrap-Up

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