



English 490.01H

Spring 2025

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Office: Talbot Hall of Languages, 125

Department: Literature and Languages

Office Hours:

Mondays 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, email for appointment

Phone: 903.468.3260

Preferred Form of Communication: office hours and email

Communication Response Time: within the day

Course Description: This 3-credit honors thesis course consists of active, collaborative work between the student and their honors advisor on developing and refining the senior thesis manuscript. Students will meet regularly with their advisor to discuss research, writing progress, theoretical frameworks, and revision strategies as they work toward completing a substantial piece of original literary scholarship.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. **Produce Original Scholarship:** Develop and complete a substantial piece of original literary analysis (40-60 pages) that contributes meaningfully to an ongoing scholarly conversation and demonstrates mastery of research and analytical skills.
2. **Engage Critical and Theoretical Frameworks:** Apply appropriate literary theories and critical methodologies to textual analysis, demonstrating sophisticated understanding of how theoretical approaches shape interpretation.
3. **Demonstrate Advanced Research Skills:** Conduct comprehensive literature reviews, synthesize secondary sources effectively, and integrate primary and secondary evidence to support a sustained, complex argument.

4. **Refine Academic Writing and Revision Practices:** Develop advanced skills in academic prose, including clear argumentation, logical organization, proper citation practices, and the ability to revise substantially in response to feedback.

Grading: passing or non-passing

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will be holding regular office hours (see the header on this syllabus) and I encourage you to schedule time with me ahead of time so I can supply a zoom link. Alternatively, you can come to my office in person. 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 are not ideal for your schedule, I am also able to 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 brightspace email, so only send emails to the university address: eralda.lameborshi@etamu.edu

Course Calendar

Week 1: Thesis Proposal & Research Plan

- Finalize thesis topic, research question, and scope
- Review preliminary bibliography and research methodology

Week 2: Literature Review & Theoretical Framework

- Discuss critical sources and scholarly conversation
- Establish theoretical approach and argumentative framework

Week 3: Chapter 1 Draft Review

- Workshop introduction and first chapter draft
- Refine thesis statement and argument structure

Week 4: Chapter 2 Draft Review

- Review second chapter draft and evidence integration
- Address connections between chapters

Week 5: Chapter 3 Draft Review

- Examine third chapter draft and analytical depth
- Ensure coherent progression of argument

Week 6: Mid-Semester Full Draft Review

- Assess overall structure, argument, and cohesion
- Identify areas requiring significant revision

Week 7: Revision Workshop

- Focus on substantive revisions and strengthening analysis
- Refine prose style and academic voice

Week 8: Conclusion & Final Revisions

- Review conclusion and overarching argument
- Polish introduction and transitions between sections

Week 9: Final Draft Review

- Comprehensive review of complete manuscript
- Address formatting, citations, and final edits

Week 10: Thesis Defense Preparation

- Prepare oral presentation of research
- Discuss potential questions and defense strategies

Things to Keep in Mind

1. All Writing Projects **must be** turned in on LMS (see next section for access) on the due date and time. No make-up work is allowed on major assignments. **Late work** will be penalized 10% of the grade per day that it is late.
2. All work needs to adhere to **MLA format** with appropriate documentation
3. **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).
4. 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.

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

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).

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

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, <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

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.](#)

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.