



ENG 710.01W CRN 84638

(Film Theory and Criticism)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: M. Hunter Hayes, PhD (Professor of English)
Office Location: 213 Talbot Hall
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00-10:00, 11:00-noon; and by appointment
Office Phone: 903.886.5260 (main office)
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:
No required textbooks.

Course Description

Catalogue Description:

ENG 710 - Film Theory and Criticism

Hours: 3

This course is a survey of major theoretical frameworks and critical approaches that have shaped the study of cinema. Students will examine various film theories like realism, formalism, auteur theory, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, etc., and how these theoretical approaches enrich understanding of cinematic texts in order to engage in nuanced critical analysis of film. The course will give students tools with which to

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

interrogate the role that film criticism has in shaping public perception of film, its role in society, and its contributions toward visual art.

This semester, ENG 710 will combine film theories with projects that emphasize writing about film. Engaged course discussions are essential for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will develop a vocabulary and strategies for analyzing and critiquing film.
2. The student will further develop her/his analytical writing about film through course activities.
3. The student will gain additional experience in collaboration by exchanging ideas through course discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using Microsoft Word and other comparable software, including the ability access the Internet.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives of this course and instructional units/modules.

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

- **Film Reviews (2)** (*20% of course grade; 10% for each review*): These relatively-short reviews (750-1,000 words) are intended to help students hone their skills in short-form critique and analysis. Students will write two reviews on films from distinct genres or national traditions.
- **Essay** (*40% of course grade*): This research-based essay is the culminating project for ENG 710. This essay should be 15-20 pages (approximately) in length, incorporating critical sources.
- **Essay Proposal** (*20% of course grade*): The proposal (approximately 5 pages) will identify the subject and critical approach for the final essay, including a working bibliography of anticipated sources.
- **Annotated Bibliography** (*10% of course grade*): The annotated bibliography should identify critical and theoretical texts that inform the student's research project. The number of entries and length of annotations will depend on the student's project and goals.

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- **Class Participation** (10% 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.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students enrolled in this course are expected to complete and submit all assignments on time; to log in frequently and regularly each week of the course; and to interact in a civil and respectful manner with all members of the course.

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

Assessments

Assignment	Point Value	Percentage of Overall Course Grade	Due
Film Review #1	100	10%	October 7 th
Essay Proposal	100	20%	October 30 th
Film Review #2	100	10%	November 6 th
Bibliography	100	10%	Week 14
Essay on Film	100	40%	December 4 th
Class Participation	100	10%	Cumulative (all semester)

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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@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.

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>

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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>

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>

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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

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/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.

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.

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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

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>

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

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Department 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. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Overview (Starts August 20 th):	ENG 710 Introduction
Unit 1 (Starts August 24 th):	Film Studies: Introduction
Unit 2 (Starts August 31 st):	Film Vocabularies
Unit 3 (Starts September 8 th):	Generic Considerations
Unit 4 (Starts September 14 th):	Writing about Film I: Reviewing Films
Unit 5 (Starts September 21 st):	Formalism
Unit 6 (Starts September 28 th):	The Auteur
Unit 7 (Starts October 5 th) :	Discussions: Cinema as Experience Review #1 Due
Unit 8 (Starts October 12 th):	Writing about Film II: Essays & Bibliographies
Unit 9 (Starts October 19 th):	Cultural and National Considerations
Unit 10 (Starts October 26 th):	Essay Proposal due
Unit 11 (Starts November 2 nd):	More Film Theories Review #2 Due
Unit 12 (Starts November 9 th):	Screenplay as Text
Unit 13 (Starts November 16 th):	Film Bibliographies due
Unit 14 (Starts November 23 rd):	Discussions: Preference and Taste
Unit 15 (Starts November 30 th):	Course Wrap Up; Essays due

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