



**SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Information

Semester & Year:	Fall 2026
Course Title:	Contemporary US Literature and Film
Course Prefix & Number:	ENH255
Section Numbers:	18240
Credit Hours:	3
Start Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026
End Date:	Saturday, December 12, 2026

Course Format

This is a 16-week online, *on-your-own-time* course. This means that students will work independently to complete all assignments for a given week, meeting assignment deadlines and due dates. Assignments are typically due EVERY Saturday night by 11:59 PM AZ/MST. Submitting assignments after the due date will result in a loss of points. **Late assignments will be accepted through Wednesday, December 16, 2026.** See the Course Calendar for more information.

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Cameron R. MacElvee, Ph.D.
Email:	cameron.macelvee@scottsdalecc.edu
Phone:	480-423-6439; please email me instead of leaving a voicemail
Office Location:	LC 348; I will not be on campus this semester.
Office Hours:	by appointment via WebEx; email me to request an appointment

Course Description

A discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of literature created by U.S. authors and films created by U.S. or other filmmakers. Includes the challenges of adapting literature to film; addressing the racial, ethnic, sex, sexuality, gender, class, and religious differences among cultures and mediums; the use of narrative in each medium and how it translates various cultural values and assumptions particular to U.S. society and culture; the specific genres present in literature and film; and the cultural metaphors and symbols used in literature and film.

Prerequisites

A grade of C or better in ENG101, ENG107, or equivalent.

Course Attributes:

- General Education Designation: Cultural Diversity - [C]
- General Education Designation: Humanities and Fine Arts - [HU]
- General Education Designation: Literacy and Critical Inquiry - [L]

Course Competencies

1. Compare and contrast the specific strengths and weaknesses of literature and film.
2. Review the art of adapting literature to film.
3. Explain how each medium addresses race, ethnicity, sex, sexuality, gender, class, and religious differences.
4. Explain the use of narrative in literature and film, and describe how the narrative format translates cultural values and assumptions.
5. Compare and contrast cultural questions, values, and assumptions across different cultures.
6. Identify and exemplify specific genres used in literature and film.
7. Compare and contrast cultural metaphors and symbols in literature and film.

General Education & Institutional Learning Outcomes

General Education provides foundational learning experiences that contribute to academic and career success. It is reflected in [Scottsdale Community College's Institutional Learning Outcomes](#): Arts & Humanities Awareness, Career Readiness, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Information Literacy, and Social Responsibility.

Program Learning Outcomes

Credit-bearing courses at Scottsdale Community College can count toward the completion of a degree or certificate program. Each program has Program Learning Outcomes, which are skills or knowledge that students can claim to have acquired by completing their academic or occupational program at SCC. Program Learning Outcomes can be found on the [Degrees and Certificates page](#) of the SCC Website. For each degree, look under “What You’ll Learn.”

This course is a General Education course that is foundational to many degree programs and a key component of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) certificate program.

Required Texts and Course Materials

- There are no required *textbooks* for this course; however, students are expected to acquire copies of the assigned literature and films.
 - Students will choose **1 short story from the approved list**, most of which are available online for free. Others may be found in local libraries or anthologies from online retailers or bookstores.
 - Students will also choose **1 novel/novella from the approved list**. Novels can be found in local libraries or purchased from online retailers or bookstores.
 - Students must have access to the **film adaptations** of the short stories and novels. In some cases, adaptations may be available for free via YouTube; at other times,

students must pay a rental/membership fee to access the films through digital streaming services.

- Computer, internet, and access to Canvas via **Google Chrome**
- MCCCDC student email account with access to **Maricopa Google Drive** and **Google Docs**
- **Grammarly Premium** (free account through SCC-IT/MCCCDC student MEID)
- WebEx

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for adhering to the college policies outlined on the [Student Regulations page](#) of the Maricopa Community College District website.

Attendance Policy

- This is a 16-week online, *on-your-own-time* course.
- Student “attendance” will be determined by their **weekly** presence on Canvas.
- Students are expected to engage with the course material on Canvas *every* week (log in to the course).
 - During lessons in which students are given more time to watch films and read novels, **weekly check-ins** are provided in an independent module on Canvas.
- Students who fail to show activity on Canvas for one week will be dropped from the course.
- Students can be reinstated one (1) time by 5:00 PM on or before **Friday, December 4, 2026**.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

Instructional contact hours refer to the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or participating in course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, weekly readings, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCDC course bank](#) for your course’s details.

Minimum course expectations are for students to spend approximately 3 to 6 hours weekly completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Grading Standards and Practices

- Each week, there are various assignments with specific due dates (see the course calendar on Canvas).
 - Assignments are due on **Saturdays by 11:59 PM AZ/MST**
- Points for on-time submissions are calculated as part of each assignment’s total points. These points are non-negotiable.
- Students may not rewrite and resubmit an assignment for a higher grade unless they have an official accommodation through Disability Resources & Services that specifically allows this.
- No assignment will be accepted after **Wednesday, December 16, 2026, AZ/MST**

Grade Scale*

The grading scale is based on a 10% distribution. I will not give extra credit or an Incomplete (I) for reasons other than medical emergencies. **Furthermore, I do not negotiate grades.**

Letter Grade	Percentage earned of available points
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

*(Grades will be rounded up only at #9.6% and above) 

Assignments

All assignments are provided via Canvas.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course.

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Canvas Learning Management System
- Student Maricopa Gmail Account
- Maricopa Open Educational Resource Learning System (MOER)

Synchronous Communication Tools

This course uses web conferencing and/or other synchronous course tools for instructor office hours (by appointment only).

- WebEx

Streaming Media/Audio/Video Tools

This course uses webcasting, lecture capture systems, YouTube, and/or other streaming media services.

- YouTube

Student Assignment Tools

This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

- Google Products
- Microsoft Office 365

Plagiarism Checker Tool (Turnitin)

Turnitin is a plagiarism-check tool that matches text against a vast database of sources, including the internet, published works, commercial databases, and student work submitted to Turnitin at institutions internationally. Students must submit designated papers to Turnitin when instructed. Information and instructions for Turnitin are provided in the course. For your reference, read the [Turnitin Terms of Service](#).

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

Some Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Allowed in Specific Circumstances

In this class, you are permitted to use generative AI tools to complete your assignments. When submitting work that incorporates generative AI content, please clearly indicate what content was generated by AI tools. In such cases, no more than 25% of your work should be generated by a generative AI tool. If any part of this is unclear, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Required AI Tools for ENH255

- [Grammarly Premium](#) (through SCC)

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College’s mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education’s requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available by appointment via WebEx for student support hours, as stated in the syllabus.
- Sharing weekly information about the course materials, including key information, explanations, examples, and resources via weekly emails/Canvas announcements through recorded and/or text-based messages and lectures.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course via email, MOER messaging, or the Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.

Response Time

Students can expect the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System or Maricopa email from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Students can expect assignments to be graded within one to two weeks of the assignment's due date.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the hours and procedures of the five learning centers.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements outline your rights, available support, and provide guidance on where to seek help or obtain more information. Please review the following policies:

[Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Code of Civility

I will be professional, courteous, respectful, and empathetic to students. I will do my best to

- Be available via WebEx (upon request), Monday through Friday.
- Provide academic feedback and grade assignments promptly.
- Clarify assignments and inform students of any adjustments to the class schedule.

Students are expected to be reflective, courteous, and respectful toward their classmates, instructors, and other college staff who support their learning. Students will be expected to

- Regularly access the Canvas course material
- Follow instructions and complete assignments
- Keep up with and turn in assignments by the due dates
- Put forth their best efforts
- Ask questions when they don't understand
- Maintain knowledge of their grade status
- Contact the instructor right away about concerns or situations that may interfere with their success in class

Please remember that this class *may* discuss controversial social, cultural, and political issues. You must conduct yourself civilly and respectfully, even when you disagree with others' opinions.

I will support each student's right to express their opinions and beliefs; however, I will not tolerate abusive *language* or *behavior* directed toward another student or myself, specifically if it is focused on race/ethnicity, sex, sexuality, religion, gender expression/identity, disability, language, country of origin, or political affiliations. My professional duty and obligation are to provide a safe learning environment for ALL students.

Students are responsible for the information in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in your Canvas course, and the **College Policies & Student Services** page found in the First Steps module of your Canvas course. The instructor will notify students of any changes in course requirements or policies.