

ACC 2301 - Intro to Financial Accounting

Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 180, CRN 13834

Instructor Information

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Office: WHTC 217C

Office Hours:

Monday 4pm-5pm

Tuesday 3pm-4pm

Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm

Tuesday 3pm-4pm

Office hours can be conducted virtually or in-person in my office. If you prefer a virtual format, please e-mail me to schedule an appointment so that I can create and send you the virtual appointment link.

Office Phone: 956-326-2493

DO NOT send me messages via Blackboard. Use e-mail for communication purposes instead. I will reply to your e-mail in 24 hours (weekend excluded).

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the accounting cycle, the major financial statements (financial position, income, cash flows), valuation of assets and liabilities, and income determination.

Intl Banking&Finance Studies Department, Sanchez School of Business

Student Learning Outcomes

This course provides students with both an opportunity to learn accounting rules and to develop critical thinking capacities. After completion of this course, students should be able to define, differentiate, analyze, explain, and apply the followings:

- CO1: Describe ethics, business practice, and accounting principles as foundations of business
- CO2: Apply accounting principles and rules for journalizing and recording accounting transactions for accounting cycle
- CO3: Employ a variety of accounting methods and practices for preparation of financial statements
- CO4: Compare and contrast various methods of cost allocation for inventory and of asset valuation
- CO5: Apply methods to safeguard assets and strengthen organizational and accounting internal control systems.CO6: Practice basic technological tools to prepare accounting reporting
- CO7: Analyze financial statements using analytical and mathematical skills

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamiu.edu](https://www.tamiu.edu)) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Financial & Managerial Accounting, 16th edition	Warren, Jones and Tayler	9780357714065

Other Course Materials

Access to the textbook's online system "CengageNOWv2" for homework assignments

- To register this course on CengageNOWv2, go to our [Blackboard course page](#), then the folder "Content." In the folder "Access to CengageNOWv2" you will see a link "Access to CengageNOWv2." Click it to access our CengageNOWv2 course page and register from here. DO NOT directly go to Cengage's website or other platforms to find our CengageNOWv2 course. If you do not register through Blackboard, your account will NOT be linked to Blackboard and all your homework assignment and quiz grades will be reported missing even if you actually submit your work.
- After you have registered our CengageNOWv2 course, you can access the CengageNOWv2 course (eBook, homework and quizzes) through the CengageNOWv2 course link on Blackboard (as described above) or through Cengage website directly at www.cengage.com/dashboard (<http://www.cengage.com/dashboard/>).
- TAMIU OIT usually does network maintenance once every month. The maintenance dates and times vary, but the maintenance runs from Friday evening to Saturday early morning on the maintenance date. You cannot access Blackboard during the maintenance. OIT sends out emails about the maintenance schedule in advance. Pay attention to the maintenance schedule and adjust your plans for doing homework and quizzes accordingly. While you cannot access our CengageNOWv2 through Blackboard during the maintenance, you can still access our CengageNOWv2 course through Cengage's website. Thus, the due dates for homework and quizzes will NOT change due to OIT network maintenance.

Grading Criteria

- Exam I: 100 points
- Exam II: 100 points
- Exam III: 100 points
- Final Exam: 100 points
- Quizzes: 200 points (20 points each)
- Homework Assignments: 200 points (20 points each)
- Projects: 50 points (25 points each)
- Discussion board forums: 40 points (20 points each)
- Total: 890 points

90-100% (801-890 points)	A
80-90% (712-801 points)	B
70-80% (623-712 points)	C
60-70% (534-623 points)	D
Below 60% (below 534 points)	F

Course structure

Examination Format

You will have a quiz for each chapter and four exams in this course. The format of quizzes and exams will be multiple choices. Quiz and Exam questions are not identical to homework, sample exam or sample quiz questions, but are related to the concepts that are covered in the modules.

All quizzes are open until 11:55pm on due dates. The allotted time for quizzes varies by chapter. The quiz access link for each module is placed in each module folder under Blackboard "Content." All exams are open from 6am to 10pm on the exam dates. The exam access links for Exam I, II, III, and Final

Exam are placed in Module 4, 7, 10, and 10 folders under Blackboard “Content,” respectively. The exam links are only available between 6am and 10pm of the exam dates. The allotted time for Exams I, II, and III is 80 minutes each, and for Final Exam 120 minutes.

All quizzes are open-book tests. You can use references while taking a quiz, but you cannot communicate with other people. The progress of you taking the quiz will be videotaped through Respondus Monitor (explained below).

All exams are CLOSED-BOOK tests. You CANNOT use any references, including but not limited to books, notes, PowerPoint slides, cheat sheets, tablets, cellphones, while taking an exam. You cannot communicate with other people during the exam, either. The progress of you taking the exam will also be videotaped through Respondus Monitor (explained below).

You need to use Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take all of your quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to purchase Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor service if there is any monetary charge to use it. You will need a financial calculator to complete the quizzes and exams.

Online Homework Assignments

For on-line homework assignments, students will submit them online for grading using CengageNOWv2 Homework system. Each student must set up his/her own CengageNOWv2 account to complete the required work.

To register our course on CengageNOWv2, go to our Blackboard course page, then the folder “Content.” Click on the CengageNOWv2 access link to access our course page and register. Use the following link <https://startstrong.cengage.com/cnowv2-blackboard-ia-no/> to learn how to register and access course materials. If you are new to CengageNOW, you need to create an account before you register. The technology sufficiency is your own responsibility to do your assignments online. If you have any technical problems about CengageNOW, contact the publisher’ technical support center www.cengage.com/support (<http://www.cengage.com/support/>) or call 800-354-9706.

You have unlimited attempts to answer CengageNOW homework assignment questions to earn highest possible scores (through using “Check My Work” function at the bottom of the page) by the due date. Assignments are tied to textbook chapter materials. Assignments are due at 11:55pm on the due dates. *Once a due date has passed, access to assignments will be denied. The homework grades are based on the percentage of correct responses recorded in the online system.*

The CENGAGENOW2 ON-LINE SYSTEM IS THE ONLY METHOD FOR YOUR SUBMISSION OF HOMEWORK. NO EMAILED, FAXED, OR HARD COPIES OF HOMEWORK SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Projects: Two projects are required. Through the first project students learn non-GAAP information on the SEC filings that also convey important information about the firm. The purpose of the second project is to equip students with hands-on data analytics experience through Excel using accounting data. Each project is worth 25 points. The first and the second projects are due at 11:55 pm on the due dates. See Blackboard Project pages for instructions.

Discussion Board forums: Posted on Blackboard Discussion Board, the discussion questions enhance your analytical and communication skills. Two discussion board forums are given. You will not earn any points by simply giving a yes/no or a very short statement or agreeing with peers’ answers.

IMPORTANT: Technical difficulties will not be an excuse for failing to submit the required work by the deadlines. Start the work early to avoid technical issues that may delay your submission.

If a pregnant or parenting student needs further assistance for the completion of the homework and quiz assignments, she/he should notify the professor “BEFORE” the due date.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/26	Module 1 Chapter 1: Introduction to Accounting and Business	Chapter 1: Introduction to Accounting and Business	Homework & quiz: 9/2
9/2	Module 2 Chapter 2: Analyzing Transactions	Chapter 2: Analyzing Transactions	Homework & quiz: 9/9
9/9	Module 3 Chapter 3: The Adjusting Process	Chapter 3: The Adjusting Process	Homework & quiz: 9/16 Discussion board forum 1: 9/16
9/16	Module 4 Chapter 4: Completing Accounting Cycle	Chapter 4: Completing Accounting Cycle	Homework & quiz: 9/23 Project 1: Non-GAAP Information: 11/22
9/23	Exam I (Modules 1-4)		Exam I: 9/26 (6am-10pm)



9/30	Module 5 Chapter 5: Retail Business	Chapter 5: Retail Business	Homework & quiz: 10/7
10/7	Module 6 Chapter 6: Inventory	Chapter 6: Inventory	Homework & quiz: 10/14 Discussion board forum 2: 10/14 Project 2: Data Analytics in Accounting: 11/22
10/14	Module 7 Chapter 7: Internal Control and Cash	Chapter 7: Internal Control and Cash	Homework & quiz: 10/21
10/21	Exam II (Modules 5-7)		Exam II: 10/24 (6am-10pm)
10/28	Module 8 Chapter 8: Receivables	Chapter 8: Receivables	Homework & quiz: 11/4
11/4	Module 9 Chapter 9: Long-Term Assets: Fixed and Intangible	Chapter 9: Long-Term Assets: Fixed and Intangible	Homework & quiz: 11/11
11/11	Module 10 Chapter 12: Corporation: Organization, Stock transaction, and Dividend	Chapter 12: Corporation: Organization, Stock transaction, and Dividend	Homework & quiz: 11/18
11/18	Project week		Projects 1 & 2: 11/22
11/25	Exam III (Modules 8-10)		Exam III 11/26: (6am-10pm)
12/2	Final Exam (Modules (1-10))		Final Exam 12/5: (6am-10pm)

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

TAMU encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The University will always tolerate different, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a

university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4).

TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at <https://www.tamui.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamui.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml/>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
 - *Caution:* Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
 - *Caution:* Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
 - *Caution:* Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.

- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to <https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml> for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services located in Student Center 126. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Student Counseling and Disability Services office.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: <http://www.tamiu.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml>) (<http://www.tamiu.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml/>).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. If a student would like to file a complaint for discrimination due to his or her pregnant/parenting status, please contact the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site: <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the

reasonable accommodations. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students at the University, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student will need a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU Student Handbook. As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (<https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml>)).

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in admissions, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamtu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt, at <https://www.tamtu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamtu.edu/reportit/>), and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

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. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

Taking QUIZZES and exams: Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor Requirement

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser AND Respondus Monitor (webcam) for quizzes and exams. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Respondus Monitor will record you taking the quiz/exam from the beginning to the end.

Watch this short video (<http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml/>) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor (the webcam feature). A student Quick Start Guide (PDF) (<http://www.respondus.com/products/monitor/guides.shtml/>) is also available.

Download Instructions

To download Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor, go to <https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml>). Links to download the software for PC and Mac are listed *Installing the Respondus LockDown Browser Download* section. It is **free** to download and install the software. You won't be able to access tests using a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the quiz/exam to continue. Note that *Respondus LockDown Browser* must be downloaded through TAMIU's website. *Respondus LockDown Browser* retrieved from other sources is not compatible with TAMIU Blackboard and does not grant access to any of our tests.

Once Installed

- Open LockDown Browser
- Log into Blackboard
- Navigate to the test and begin
- Note: Once you have installed Respondus LockDown Browser, you should run a system and network check (before the first test day) to see if your equipment works well. To run the check, start Respondus LockDown Browser and access the Help Center from the toolbar.

Cost for Respondus Monitor

There is a **\$15 fee** for the webcam feature that's used together with LockDown Browser (sometimes referred to as Respondus Monitor). This is a one-time fee, valid for 12 months (365 days) for all courses that use Respondus Monitor. You will be prompted to make the purchase the first time you use LockDown Browser's webcam feature. Payment can be made with PayPal, Visa or Mastercard.

To pay for Respondus Monitor:

1. Start Respondus LockDown Browser (http://www.jsu.edu/online/current-students/resp_lock_browser_students.html).
2. Navigate to your test.
3. Complete the set-up process, which includes a payment screen for entering credit card information.
4. Payment and entering credit card information is only necessary one-time per course.

Guidelines

All quizzes are open-book tests. You can use references while taking a quiz, but you cannot communicate with other people. The process of you taking the quiz will be videotaped through Respondus Monitor.

All exams are CLOSED-BOOK tests. You CANNOT use any references, including but not limited to books, notes, PowerPoint slides, cheat sheets, tablets, cellphones, while taking an exam. You cannot communicate with other people during the exam, either. The process of you taking the exam will also be videotaped through Respondus Monitor.

When taking an online test that requires LockDown Browser and a webcam, remember the following guidelines:

- Sign in your Blackboard account through Respondus LockDown Browser. You will NOT need a password to take the test if you sign in the test using Respondus LockDown Browser. Access to any of our tests will be denied if you use a regular browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Edge) to sign in. If you are prompted to enter a password, you are not doing it correctly.
- Select a location where you won't be interrupted
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it

- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers)
- Clear your area of all external materials – books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
 - Ensure your computer or tablet is on a firm surface (a desk or table) – not on your lap, a bed, or other surface that might move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete
 - Take the exam in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to a window
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues.
- If you have problems downloading, installing, or taking a test with Respondus LockDown Browser, email the TAMIU eLearning Team at elarning@tamiu.edu.

Webcam Checkout for Personal Computer

If students are unable to use personal or borrowed computers and equipment, students may stop by the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services office to check out webcams (with built-in microphones). Checkout for a webcam is on a first-come, first-service basis. Speak with an eLearning staff member to checkout a camera. Students will sign an Equipment Loaner Agreement, making them responsible for the care of the camera. Webcams checked out must be returned within five business days of the checkout date.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Course Messages/Emails

The instructor will check your emails and respond to your inquiries within 24 hours during business hours excluding weekends and holidays.

Assignments and Assessments

Your homework assignments through CengageNOW and quizzes and exams via Blackboard are automatically graded. The projects are graded based on the rubric criteria provided by the instructor. The Discussion Board assignments provide a platform for you to discuss questions. The questions in the Discussion Board are posted in the order of modules. See the due dates of CengageNOW homework assignments, quizzes, exams projects and Discussion Board assignments in the VIII, Grading and Evaluation.

Correction of Grading Errors

After grades of homework, quizzes, exams, and projects have been posted on Cengage system or blackboard, all requests regarding course record corrections must be submitted in writing within one (1) week. After that time, all grades and records become final. *Please note that any and all changes are at the sole discretion of the instructor*

Course Communication Guidelines (Netiquette)

There are course expectations concerning etiquette or how we should treat each other online. We must consider these values as we communicate with one another. Visit **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' web page on Netiquette** (<http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml/>) for further instruction.

TAMIU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMIU student, you are bound by the TAMIU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMIU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at <https://www.tamiu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml/>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.

2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254)

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
- Caution: Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
- Caution: Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
- Caution: Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chatgroup if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

Student Support Resources

The University wishes to have all students succeed in their courses. To provide support to our students, an array of services in the areas of technology support, academic support, student support, and accessibility support may be found at the University. For more information, visit the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services page on **University Resources and Support Services**.

Computer/Technology Requirements

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage (<http://www.tamui.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml/>) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: a webcam and microphone. Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have such equipment, it is recommended to purchase a stand-alone webcam, microphone or a webcam with a built-in microphone from your local electronic store or any online store. You will also need a financial calculator to complete the quizzes and exams.

NOTE: Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services may check out available webcams to students on a first-come, first-served basis. To check out a webcam, please stop by Killam Library, Room 259 and request an available webcam.

Additional Software. You will need the following additional software: Microsoft PowerPoint for viewing lesson presentations, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel for viewing course files and submitting assignments. TAMIU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamui.edu/>. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite (<http://www.tamui.edu/distance/documents/Microsoft-Office-2016-Download-Instructions.pdf>).

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware, software or do not have access to internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, my goal is to assist you to find solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either be found free of charge at TAMIU's library, computer labs, and classrooms. In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronic store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Students are provided with an orientation (*eLearning (Blackboard) Student Orientation*) and access to guides on how to use the Blackboard LMS. Guides may be available at **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' Student eLearning Tutorial Videos page** or by contacting the eLearning team at elarning@tamui.edu.

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Students in distance education should have knowledge of basic computer and Internet skills, as mentioned on the **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage**.

Technical Support Services

Because of the nature of distance education courses, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) computing and information services are vital to the success of online students. This webpage covers contact information for Distance Education Services (Blackboard Support), the OIT Help Desk, and E-mail support: **Technical Support Services**.

Late Work Policy

Late work will not be accepted once the due date has passed.

Course Evaluation

At the end of this course, students are encouraged to complete a course evaluation that will be distributed to them via email and through a course link.

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this class on the following pages: **Accessibility Statements and Privacy Statements**.

In this class, we will utilize: CengageNOWv2.

Syllabus Subject to Change

While information and assurances are provided in this course syllabus, it should be understood that content may change in keeping with new research and literature and that events beyond the control of the instructor could occur. Students will be informed of any substantive occurrences that will produce syllabus changes.