

COMM 4312 - Media and Identity: Media and Identity-RELLIS

Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 181, CRN 15669

Instructor Information

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Office: AIC349

Office Hours:

TR 01:10 pm-04:10 pm (In-person and Virtual)

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Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

- Explain the role of media in representing individual identities, social positions, and cultural politics in society.
- Analyze characters, narratives, dialogues, shot compositions, camera angles and locations, editing, lighting, and sound effects in the assigned media content.
- Relate media representations with academic debates about social identity.
- Formulate arguments grounded by an in-depth understanding of historical, sociocultural, and industrial contexts that shape the representation of individual identities and social groups.

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	Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices	Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans, and Sean Nixon (eds)	9781849205634

Other Course Materials

Additional course materials will be available on the Blackboard.

Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100
B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

Exams: You will take the online midterm and final exam based on assigned readings, videos, and lectures. Each test consists of fifty objective questions to be completed in about an hour. The midterm exam consists of multiple-choice and T/F questions and the final exam consists of multiple-choice, T/F, and short-answer questions. You will not need to study previous quizzes to prepare for upcoming tests. The tests will be administered online through Blackboard. Students must install Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take these exams.

Quizzes: You must take quizzes by yourself on Blackboard and use course materials (books and notes), but you may not seek help from anyone while taking the quizzes. Each online quiz asks questions about assigned readings, videos, and materials listed in the course schedule on the same week. Quizzes are only available by the due date; no makeup quizzes will be given. Each quiz consists of multiple-choice and T/F questions to be completed in about twenty minutes.

Discussions: Your participation in the online discussion forums is crucial for academic success. You will be placed into a smaller group on Blackboard to keep the conversation manageable. Please take the time to introduce yourself and reply to at least one other student during the first week of the semester. You are expected to write one post regarding given topics/questions (300-400 words) and at least two responses to other students' posts (50-100 words) to receive full credit.

Short Answers: You will submit your thoughts and analyses on the questions. These written assignments focus exclusively on the content found in the assigned readings and audio/visual materials. You are expected to submit 300 to 500 words addressing the specific requirement of the in-class activity. You must write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You should cite your sources to support your arguments. List at least the title and page numbers for the textbook or other course materials. For online sources, include a link.

Analyzing Representations in the Museum: This assignment involves analyzing and presenting representations of the museum (or the exhibition) in which students have seen themselves. This report aims to recognize how curators select, arrange, and display themes, subjects, and stories and explain the impact of representations within society. The report should include pictures with an analysis of the space. You are assigned to submit a 300 to 500-word-long report, including photographs.

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Midterm Exam	15
10 Quizzes	30
6 Discussions	18
4 Short Answers	12
Analyzing Representations in Museum	10
Final Exam	15

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/26	Course Overview: Media and identity	Watching 2 Videos: Introductory Remarks and Course Overview	Discussion: Introduce Yourself and Reply due on 08/30



9/2	Representation, Meaning and Language	<p>Reading: Hall, Stuart. "The Work of Representation" In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 1-24.</p> <p>Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #1, and YouTube Video, "Representation & the Media: Featuring Stuart Hall"</p>	Quiz #1 and Discussion #1 Due on 09/06
9/9	Discourse, Power and Subject	<p>Reading: Hall, Stuart. "The Work of Representation" In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 25-46.</p> <p>Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #2 and YouTube Video, "Chomsky-Foucault Debate on Power vs Justice (1971)"</p>	Quiz #2 and Short Answers #1 Due on 09/13
9/16	Recording Reality	<p>Reading: Bonner, Frances "Recording Reality: Documentary Film and Television" In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.) Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 60-80.</p> <p>Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #3 and YouTube Video, "IDFA 2014 Industry Talk Bill Nichols"</p>	Quiz #3 and Discussion #2 due on 09/20
9/23	Dramatization	<p>Reading: Bonner, Frances "Recording Reality: Documentary Film and Television" In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.) Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 81-97.</p> <p>Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #4 and one true-story-based film of your own choice</p>	Quiz #4 and Discussion #3 due on 09/27
9/30	The Poetics of Representation	<p>Reading: Liachi, Henrietta "The Poetics and the Politics of Exhibiting Other Cultures," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.) Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 120-156.</p> <p>Watching a Video: Lecture #5</p>	Class Activity: Visiting a Museum
10/7	Midterm Exam	<p>Reading PowerPoint Slids for Midterm Review</p> <p>Synchronous Review Session (Optional) 10/8 04:10pm -05:30pm</p>	Midterm Exam (10/9-10/10)
10/14	The Politics of Representation	<p>Reading: Liachi, Henrietta "The Poetics and the Politics of Exhibiting Other Cultures," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.).Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 157-186.</p> <p>Watching Lecture #6 Visiting 2 Online Exhibitions: "1898: U.S. Imperial Visions and Revisions"</p>	Quiz #5 and Discussion #4 due on 10/18



10/21	Representing the Other	Reading: Hall, Stuart. "The Spectacle of the Other," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 215-246 Watching 2 videos: Lecture #7 and TED Talk, "The Danger of a Single Story"	Quiz #6 and Short Answers #2 due on 10/25
10/28	Stereotyping	Reading: Hall, Stuart. "The Spectacle of the Other," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 247-270 Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #8 and YouTube Video, "Why we stereotype others and how we can stop."	Quiz #7 and Short Answers #3 due on 11/1
11/4	Masculinity	Reading: Nixon, Sean "Exhibiting Masculinity," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 288-326. Men are lost. Here's a map out of the wilderness. By: Christine Emba, Washington Post, The, 07/15/2023 Watching 2 Videos: Lecture #9 and a Feature Film of Your Choice	Quiz #8 and Discussion #5 due on 11/08
11/11	Gender and Identity	Reading: Glendhill, Christina and Vicky Ball. "Genre and Gender: The Case of Soap Opera," In Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans and Sean Nixon (Eds.). Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage, 2003, pp. 335-383 Watching 2 videos: Lecture #10 and a Feature Film of Your Choice	Quiz #9 and Discussion #6 due on 11/15
11/18	Religion and Identity	Reading: Clark, L. S. (2002). U.S. Adolescent religious identity, the media, and the "funky" side of religion. Journal of Communication, pp. 794-811. Reading: Hoover, S. M. and Coats, C. D. (2011). The media and male identities: Audience research in media, religion, and masculinities, Journal of Communication, 61, pp. 877-895. Watching 2 videos: Lecture #11 and YouTube Video, "What is religion?"	Quiz #10 and Short Answers #4 due on 11/22
11/25	National Identity	Watching 2 videos: Lecture #12 and YouTube Video, "Simone Biles REGAINS women's gymnastics individual all-around gold medal"	Museum Analysis Report due on 11/25
12/2	Final Exam Review	Reading PowerPoint Slids for Midterm Review Synchronous Review Session (Optional) 12/3 04:10pm -05:30pm	Final Exam (12/04-12/05)

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)

TAMIU 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).

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.tamtu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamtu.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.

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 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 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.

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.tamiau.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml> (<http://www.tamiau.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@tamiau.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.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.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@tamiau.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.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiau.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@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt, at <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.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 ([tamtu.edu](https://www.tamtu.edu)) (<https://www.tamtu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

This course is 100% online. There are no required sessions when you must be logged into Blackboard at a scheduled time. This course consists of weekly modules released one week ahead. Students are expected to keep pace with weekly deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

Students should expect 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Blackboard activities, for example) and 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation).

Because this is an online course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of students' expected participation. You are expected to log in to the course on Blackboard at least twice per week. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me in the earliest manner.

Online Course Etiquette (Netiquette) There are course expectations concerning etiquette or how we should treat each other online. The primary purpose of this course is to deepen our understanding of differences; we must consider these values as we communicate. Please visit Instructional Services' Technology and Distance Education Services' web page on Netiquette (<https://www.tamtu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml/>) for basic instruction on online etiquette.

Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Section 2.202 ([https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage/?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202)), defines distance education as the formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50%) of instruction. Distance education includes hybrid and 100% online courses and programs as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

Hybrid Course - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.

100-Percent Online Course - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

Course Structure

Each module will require you to read the introduction and assigned book chapters/journal articles, watch videos and other course materials, and employ concepts and information from those readings, videos, and course materials to complete weekly activities, including online discussions, analyses, reports, or quizzes. If you have any questions or concerns related to the week's topic, you can post or comment on the Q&A forum at the end of each module in Blackboard, and your classmates or the professor can respond and share ideas.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

The instructor will communicate with students mainly through Blackboard messages (preferred) and email. You can expect to get replies from the instructor within 24 hours on weekdays (Monday through Friday, 08:00 am to 05:00 pm).

Note: If students have something that needs the instructor's immediate attention, they should email URGENT: COMM 4312 in the subject line.

Assignments and Assessments The course schedule notes all assignment due dates. Students will receive grades and feedback within two weeks of submission. All written assignments and group projects must be cited using the APA citation style.

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.tamui.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml/>) for further instruction.

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

You will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Camera (or camcorder) to take either pictures or videos when visiting an exhibition.
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for authentication

NOTE: Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services may loan webcams to students on a first-come, first-served basis. You can contact them via phone at 956-326-2792, via email at elearning@tamiu.edu, or by stopping by Killam Library Room 259.

Additional Software. You will need the following additional software: Microsoft Office 365. TAMIU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamiu.edu/>. This site also allows students to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. **See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite.**

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware or software or do not have access to the Internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, the instructor will assist students in finding solutions and guide them appropriately; most of the required materials can be found free of charge at TAMIU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** 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 elearning@tamiu.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**.

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

All live sessions for the course are optional. Over the semester, the instructor will hold weekly virtual office hours (T/R 01:10 pm–04:10 pm) and two synchronous sessions, including midterm and final exam reviews. Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory.

Grading Scale/Schema (after Grade Breakdown section)

The following scale calculates the point value for the final course grade.

- 91-100 = A
- 80-90.9 = B
- 70-79.9 = C
- 60-69.9 = D
- Below 60 = F

Rubrics

Rubrics for weekly assignments are located on Blackboard.

Late Work Policy

Deadlines are crucial in communication fields. All work must be turned in by the due date. Late submissions will be accepted with a 30% deduction of the total grades without exceptions.

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.

Turnitin Policy Or Other Types of Assignments in Other Systems

All assignments must be submitted via the appropriate Blackboard assignment drop boxes in the weekly module's folder. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Proctoring

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Monitor for online exams. Watch these short videos to get a basic understanding of LockDown Monitor: <https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml> (<https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml/>)

***If you have any problems downloading, installing, or taking a test with Respondus Monitor, email elearning@tamui.edu

Cost for Respondus Monitor There is a one-time fee of \$15 per student, per school year, which covers the cost of all the required exams in the course. Payment for Respondus Monitor is made during the set-up process in a course's first Respondus Monitor-enabled quiz/test/exam. To pay for Respondus Monitor:

1. Start Respondus Monitor
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 are only necessary once per course.

When using the university's learning management system (LMS), it is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services webpage.

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](#)**.

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.