

HIST 1301 - The US to 1877

Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 180, CRN 14158

Instructor Information

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Office: PLG 204D

Office Hours:

MWF 9:30 - 10:30

TR 2:45 - 4:15

Office Phone: 326-3034

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

This course covers discovery; European contributions and forces; Spanish and Portuguese conquests in the Americas; English, French, and Dutch in America. The English Colonies in America; accomplishments of nationalistic groups; War of Independence; establishment of the new nation, problems of the formative period, western development, and frontier influence; cultural and constitutional growth; internal dissension and international problems; and Reconstruction. Prerequisites: Completion of Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading requirements, ENGL 1301, or appropriate level developmental course sequence.

Humanities Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

Recorded Lectures: This is an online course. However, I intend to provide lecture recordings to this class (recorded from one of my face-to-face HIST 1301 courses this semester) and I highly recommend you watch those to supplement the texts and follow along with my PowerPoints. Lecture recordings will be provided every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Lectures will usually have screen-captures of me going through the PowerPoints or bringing up important maps or showing some quick video clips from films/documentaries. These are designed so that you can watch or just listen (like a podcast). You are welcomed (but not required) to join my HIST 1301 class via collaborate as I record in real-time at TR 4:25-5:45 if you wish.

Quizzes & Discussions:

We will have online quizzes based on the readings and lectures. Quizzes are online and will usually open on Fridays at 1:00pm and are due Sundays at 11:59 pm

The days a quiz are given are subject to change but the professor will give notification on Blackboard and in-class before changing a set quiz date.

Each quiz is 10 questions and you will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. You have ONE attempt for each quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. You will need to use the Respondus Lockdown Browser/Monitor to access quizzes. I will also open up discussion forums (usually requiring you to post and respond to a classmate regarding material we covered or readings/videos you were instructed to watch).

Quizzes (and discussion assignments) are worth 30% of your overall grade. Please reference the schedule below for due dates. You will need Lockdown Browser/Monitor to access quizzes.

Primary Document Essay: We will have a primary document essay analysis. You will be given a choice of primary documents (from *The American Yawp* chapters) and be required to analyze the document's effectiveness within the context of its time period. The essay review must be between 2-3 pages, double spaced. Please reference the schedule below for due dates. A dedicated guideline sheet will be provided on Blackboard under the appropriate folder.

Exams & Final Exam: There are two regular unit exams and a comprehensive final exam. Exams may consist of multiple-choice, a map and short answer IDs. The final exam will include be formatted in the same manner as regular exams but will be comprehensive. You will receive a study guide to help you prepare in advance of each exam. Study guides are provided approximately one week before each exam.

Regarding the timing for Exams: Exams will be available on one day only (and are already schedule on this syllabus, so plan accordingly). You can choose to take the exam at any point on the schedule day, but the exam will close promptly at midnight, whether you are finished or not, so begin the exam with proper time. Exams will be timed to one hour and fifteen minutes when you begin. If you experience a quick technical issue, restart your browser and return to the exam; the timer will still be running until you either submit or time runs out (or it becomes midnight of that evening). The Final Exam will work similarly. It is schedule during Final Exam week on Friday, Dec. 6. You will have 3 hours allowed to take the Final Exam but again, it will close at midnight regardless so plan accordingly. You will only have one attempt per exam.

You will need Blackboard Respondus Lockdown Browser/Monitor to access exams.

Note-taking: I highly advise you watch the provided recorded lectures and take notes.

Studying & Readings: In order to be successful in this course you need to allot appropriate time to this course as though you were attending in-person. The online environment gives you great flexibility, but there is a lot of material in this course. The readings and lectures go together. You will be expected to integrate lecture and reading material on the quizzes and exams in a thoughtful manner. If you are having trouble understanding the readings, please reach out to me. Weekly quizzes will be based off chapter readings and lectures, and successful Responses will integrate textbook and primary source readings along with lecture information. Overall, to succeed as a student it is usually recommended you spend about 2 hours studying per 1 hour of class a week. That would mean that you may need to dedicate 7-9 hours of studying to this course to succeed at optimal levels.

Deadlines: All quizzes and exams are scheduled here in the syllabus. It is your responsibility to stay on top of deadlines.

Technical Difficulties: Technical difficulties are a constant in the 21st Century world we live in. If you have technical difficulties, you should contact the TAMIU Office of Information Technology (OIT) first for any assistance in rectifying the problem. Do not wait until after an assignment (like a quiz) is due. It is your responsibility to get in touch with OIT to fix the issue on your computer. Alternatively, there are free computer labs available to TAMIU students on-campus.

Blackboard Announcements: I make constant use of Blackboard Announcements to keep students updated on course assignments and exam reminders. I also will use announcements to announce changes/delays to assignments if needed and I also will post fun history bits for you all. Make sure to check announcements for our class DAILY!

Office Hours & Email: I will hold office hours (listed above) and you are welcome to reach out to me in-person or via phone during those times. As this is an online course, the best way for you to reach me will likely be through email. I get emails directly and typically respond quickly (grant me up to 24 hours but I usually respond within an hour). To ensure your email doesn't get sent to a "junk" folder, please email me from your dusty/student TAMIU email and not from a gmail/other account.

Plagiarism: Do not plagiarize or use AI to completely write papers for you. If either is detected it can result in an F in the assignment and/or course, the assignment being forwarded to the TAMIU Honor Council for further disciplinary action, which could result in expulsion at the most extreme case. Please maintain your integrity in this course.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this course. Maintain all deadlines!

Incomplete: Some extreme cases may merit an "Incomplete"; in order to qualify you must have completed the majority of the course work (usually 90%) and be passing before the final drop date. This is an extreme case for an extreme situation. Please reach out to me if something like this occurs (may require documentation).

Important dates to note:

- First Class Day: **Aug. 26**
- Last Day to Drop without Record (Census day/12th class day): **Sept. 10**
- Last Day to Drop a Course or to Withdraw from the University: **Nov. 21**
- Last Class Day: **Dec. 3**
- Final Exam Week: **Dec. 4 – Dec. 10 (Final for this course is Friday, Dec. 6)**

Program Learning Outcomes

[Enter Program Learning Outcomes here. If there are none, you can REMOVE this section by clicking on the eyeball. **Please don't forget to remove these instructions.**]

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Define and describe the foundations of the United States' political system and its effects on the development of the nation until 1877.
2. Recall and classify factors that relate to issues of gender, race, religion, and economic status in US society until 1877.
3. Identify and explain how the United States interacted with the governments and peoples of other nations until 1877.
4. Discuss and explain connections between historical events as well as describe historical changes over time.
5. Analyze primary historical sources, thus demonstrating critical reading skills.
6. Students will be able to draw conclusions about the role of the government in the US from historical examples and justify their conclusions using factual data and developed argument

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The American Yawp (e-book)	Locke, Joseph L, Wright, Ben eds	9781503608146

Other Course Materials

To go to the bookstore, [click here \(https://www.bkstr.com/texasaminternationalstore/home/\)](https://www.bkstr.com/texasaminternationalstore/home/).

- The American Yawp E-Book available at: www.americanyawp.com
- Other materials (handouts, videos, and other learning activities) provided by the instructor on Blackboard.
- Students will be required to use Respondus Lockdown Browser & Lockdown Monitor to access and complete quizzes and exams. This will require a camera on your computer or a device with a camera which will have to be enabled during the quiz/exam.
- Lockdown Browser information can be found at: <https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml>

Grading Criteria

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

Open Boilerplate

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Quizzes/Discussion Assignments	30%
Primary Document Essay	20%
Exams	30%
Final Exam	20%

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/26	Chapter 1 – Indigenous America & Europe	The American Yawp: Chapter 1 Rec. Primary Docs: "Native American Creation stories" & "An Aztec account of the Spanish attack"	Complete Introduction Module & Syllabus Quiz & Acknowledgement
9/2	Chapter 1 & 2 – Colliding Cultures	The American Yawp: Chapter 2 Rec. Primary Docs: "Bartolome de las Casas describes the exploitation of the Indigenous people, 1542" & "John Winthrop dreams of a city on a hill, 1630"	Unit 1: Quiz 1: Open Sept. 6 - 8 Chapters 1 & 2
9/9	Chapter 2 & 3 – British North America	The American Yawp: Chapter 3 Rec. Primary Docs: "Recruiting settlers to Carolina, 1666"	Primary Document Essay: Check the Guidelines and Selection List and consider which document you will select Unit 1: Discussion Forum Assignment 1: Topic TBA from Unit 1 - Open Sept. 9 - 20
9/16	Chapters 3 & 4 – Colonial Society & Wars for Empire	The American Yawp: Chapter 4 Rec. Primary Docs: Alibamo Mingo, Choctaw leader, reflects on the British & French, 1765"	Unit 1: Quiz 2: Open Sept. 20 - 22 Chapters 3 & 4
9/23	Chapter 5 – The American Revolution (part 1)	The American Yawp: Chapter 5 Rec. Primary Docs: "Thomas Paine calls for American independence, 1776"	Unit 1: Exam 1: Open Friday, September 27
9/30	Chapter 5 (part 2) & Chapter 6 (part 1) - The New Nation	The American Yawp: Chapter 6 Rec. Primary Docs: Abigail & John Adams converse on women's rights, 1776"	Primary Document Essay: Submit Chapter/ Title selection that you will write about; Dropbox Open Sept. 30 - Oct. 6
10/7	Chapter 6 & 7 - The Early Republic	The American Yawp: Chapter 7 Rec. Primary Docs: "George Washington, 'Farewell Address', 1796" & "Congress debates going to war, 1811"	Unit 2: Quiz 3: Open Oct. 11 - 13 Chapters 6 & 7
10/14	Chapter 8 - The Market Revolution (includes some of Chapter 11)	The American Yawp: Chapter 8 Rec. Primary Docs: "James Madison asks Congress to support internal improvements, 1815" & "Solomon Northup describes a Slave Market, 1841 (Ch. 11)"	Unit 2: Discussion Forum Assignment #1: Topic TBA from Unit 2 - Open Oct. 14 - Oct. 25
10/21	Chapter 9 - Democracy in America	The American Yawp: Chapter 9 Rec. Primary Docs: "Frederick Douglass, 'What do the Slave is the Fourth of July?', 1852"	Unit 2: Quiz 4: Open Oct. 25 - 27 Chapters 8 & 9
10/28	Chapter 10 - Religion & Reform	The American Yawp: Chapter 10 Rec. Primary Docs: "Revivalist Charles G. Finney emphasizes human choice in salvation, 1836" & "Dorothea Dix defends the Mentally Ill, 1843"	Unit 2: Exam 2: Open Friday, Nov. 1
11/4	Chapter 12 - Manifest Destiny	The American Yawp: Chapter 12 Suggested viewing: Scenes from "The Alamo (2004)"	Primary Doc. Essay: Final Draft Due by Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 11:59pm on Turnitin Dropbox
11/11	Chapter 13 - The Sectional Crisis	The American Yawp: Chapter 13	Unit 3: Quiz 5: Open Nov. 15 - 17 Chapters 12 & 13
11/18	Chapter 14 - The Civil War	The American Yawp: Chapter 14 Suggested viewing: Scenes from "Gettysburg (1993)" & "Glory (1989)"	Unit 3: Discussion Forum Assignment #3: Topic TBA from Unit 3 - Open Nov. 18 - 26

11/25	Chapter 15 - Reconstruction	The American Yawp: Chapter 15	Study for Final Exam
12/2	Final Exam Week: Dec. 4 - 10	Prepare for Final Exam	Final Exam: Open Friday, Dec. 6

Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes

Core-Curriculum Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills (COM)** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** - manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
6. **Personal Responsibility (PR)** - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

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.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiau.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.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.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 (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

[The *ITALICIZED INFORMATION BELOW* is where you are to ADD your course information. ***Please don't forget to remove these instructions and all ITALICIZED content.***]

Regular and Substantive Interaction (Note to Instructors):

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has issued *Regular and Substantive Interaction: Background, Concerns, and Guiding Principles* which went into effect on July 1, 2021. Under the new regulations, the U.S. Department of Education requires that all online courses and programs for which students may use Title IV funds (federal financial aid) include regular and substantive interaction between students and their instructors. This ruling applies to both synchronous and asynchronous courses, with the primary focus being asynchronous courses. The Department of Education has the authority to audit courses and programs at institutions, like Texas A&M International University, with online offerings.

Be sure that your course provides for regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students, students and students, and students and content. (C-RAC, OSCQR, QM, SACSCOC, SC)

1. Regular and substantive instructor-to-student expectations and predictable/scheduled interactions and feedback are present, appropriate for the course length and structure, and are easy to find. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)
2. Expectations for all course interactions (instructor to student, student to student, student to instructor) are clearly stated and modeled in all course interactions/communication channels. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)

Be sure to add clear statements on your syllabi about these instructor-to-student expectations.

Visit for additional guidance on including *Regular and Substantive Interaction*: <https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/faculty/regular-and-substantive-interaction.shtml>

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.**

In this online course, be sure to confirm what in-person meetings may be required of you (if applicable).

Course Structure

[Description of how students should approach the course regularly. A description of course menu items and their contents may be found here. The description may also describe how students should approach the materials per lesson/module/week. It should include what type of materials students may encounter, the types of activities and assessments they may see, and other expectations from the students in each module. This section should help the student understand how to navigate the course.]

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

[The instructor must provide information on the type of communication that will be provided to students on a regular basis, including the frequency of this communication (such as "Announcements will be posted regularly on Mondays."). Also, information on the turnaround time for communication from course messages or emails sent to the instructor.]

Assignments and Assessments

[The instructor must list the turnaround time **for providing feedback to students on their submissions of an assignment or assessment**. Expectations on how students will receive feedback should be listed for each type of assignment.]

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.

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

[Technology requirements must be listed for the course. Information on how to obtain software for purchase or download should be provided. See the following example. Customize technologies to include those that pertain to your course:]

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Online students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: *[list any additional required hardware here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]* Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have this 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.

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: *[list any additional software required here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]* TAMIU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamiu.edu/>. This site also provides students access 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, my goal is to assist you in finding solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either 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 elarning@tamiu.edu.

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

[The description of the minimal technology skills is linked to OIT's statement of minimal skills. Faculty are required to update statements for additional technological skills from students.]

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

[Instructors that host synchronous virtual meeting sessions should list details on how students will meet with the instructor in this section and whether these meetings are optional or required. Include the frequency of these meetings and a general explanation of the purpose for these sessions.]

Grading Scale/Schema (after Grade Breakdown section)

In determining the final course grade, the following scale is used in percentage or point value.

- xxx = A
- xxx = B
- xxx = C
- xxx = D
- xxx = F

[Faculty can augment this area as necessary to accommodate their grading criteria. Faculty should also use this area to convey when students can expect feedback on their assignments and assessments.]

Rubrics (may be included here and in the Syllabus and Overview in the course)

[The inclusion of rubrics in the syllabus is usually up to the instructor. If rubrics are not included in the syllabus, this area should convey to students that rubrics are included in the course and will provide an understanding of how they will be assessed on the course's assignments.]

Late Work Policy

Instructors should include the policy stating what may or may not be acceptable for late assignments.

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

[Instructor's policy on assignments held within the Turnitin system.]

Proctoring

[Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor OR Examity. Contact elearning@tamiu.edu for the syllabus statement and other information.]

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

[Information on the accessibility and privacy policies of all course technologies must be provided to the students. At TAMIU, the eLearning team has compiled a list of accessibility and privacy statement links on their website. Link to these pages and contact eLearning if any new technologies should be listed on their pages. See the following example. [Customize technologies](#) to include those that pertain to your course:]

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: **[insert the technologies here]**.*

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.