

HIST 4393 - Sem. in Latin American History: Slavery in the Caribbean

Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 161, CRN 15622

Instructor Information

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Office: AIC 387

Office Hours:

Mondays 3-4pm, Thursdays 2-3pm, and by email appointment

(Please make sure to always make an appointment, even for regular office hours.)

Times and Location

W 6pm-8:45pm in Pellegrino Hall 114

Course Description

Additional Course Information

This course seeks to shed light on slavery as experienced in the Caribbean region, and the ways in which it has shaped its diverse societies and lived experiences. We will begin by an examination of the dynamics of the slave trade and slavery—in both Africa and across the Atlantic—, as well as a brief introduction to the Caribbean as a region of study.

The second and perhaps most important part of the course will concentrate on providing a basic understanding of the plantation system and society in the Caribbean region, which is usually understood to represent its epitome. However, as we shall see, the Caribbean is a region of great diversity, where the experience of slavery has always greatly differed across both spatial and temporal lines. In this context, we will look at exceptions to the plantation system, notably in Cuba and the British Caribbean.

As the focus of this course is on *slave societies* and *enslaved experiences* rather than on slavery as an institution, Part III will concentrate on slave rebellion/revolution and Afro-Caribbean religions as forms of resistance and identity/community building and conservation, in the societies that were shaped by the experience of slavery and that had to fight against its racialized and oppressive legacy.

Finally, during the last two weeks of the course we will turn to modern day slavery in the Caribbean and its different manifestations. Through our knowledge of the plantation system gained in Part II, we will trace the historical links between plantation slavery, current agricultural systems, and tourism in the Caribbean.

While historical secondary sources constitute the main materials for this course, we will also cover a significant number of primary sources including slave (auto)biographies from different parts of the Caribbean, take advantage of what the social sciences have to offer us for a deeper knowledge of our topic, and look at the artistic expressions produced by the enslaved with the objective of identity conservation/creation, community building, and the defiance of the oppressive culture. The course will cover many different parts of the Caribbean region, and encompass lectures, discussion sessions, and movie screenings.

Course Expectations:

Students should **carefully consult the attached University Course Policies** on classroom behavior, copyright restrictions, plagiarism, cheating, students with disabilities, incompletes, and independent study courses.

Attendance is mandatory and will be consequential to your grade. Accordingly, it will be taken during each class session. You should also make sure to **arrive on time**. Excessive tardiness will have similar consequences to non-attendance. If you enter the classroom more than 10 minutes late, **I will ask you to leave and mark you as absent during that class session**.

Cell phone use of any kind is not allowed under any circumstances, and you will be asked to leave the classroom immediately if you are seen using one. You will also be marked as not having attended that class session. Rather than paying attention to non-class related technology, please focus on **taking proper notes** during lectures and discussion sessions.

No late work will be accepted, and a grade penalty will be applied (reduction of a full letter grade for each day, including assignments submitted later than the specified time on the due date). If you need an extension, **you must talk to me in person** by the class before the assignment is due—extensions will not be granted over email.

No make-ups will be given without a written medical excuse or legitimate family emergency.

Only those **students with a written medical excuse will be granted an incomplete**. Students who are unable to meet this requirement should withdraw. Students who discontinue attending class, without formally withdrawing, will receive a failing grade.

The use of AI is not allowed in this class under any circumstances. The first offense will result in an F on the assignment, and a second offense in an F in the course. Additionally, the instructor will immediately report the offense as per university policies. Please keep in mind that **this includes the use of Grammarly**, which by now also uses AI.

The same rules that are stated for AI use are also valid for all other forms of plagiarism and cheating. All offenses will be immediately reported, in addition to the first offense receiving an F on the assignment, and the second offense an F in the course.

If you have any special circumstances, other than those already registered with the Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services, **it is your responsibility to inform the instructor** at the beginning of the semester, or as soon as the said circumstances come into being. These can include personal and family matters, as well as health-related difficulties.

You are always encouraged to **make an appointment to meet with the instructor during office hours**. If those times are not suitable for you, please email the instructor to make alternative arrangements. **Before or after class is not a suitable** time for asking questions or otherwise talking to the instructor.

When you send an email to the instructor during the week, you can **expect an answer within 24 to 48 hours**. The instructor **will not reply to emails sent over the weekend**. Please make sure to not wait until the last moment to email the instructor.

Written work is graded both objectively and subjectively. A well-written and thought-out answer will always earn more points than a simply correct one. This approach also takes into account that different individuals have distinct styles of analysis and writing. Although this is not an English course, **the quality of your writing matters**. Therefore, **you are highly encouraged to seek assistance from the TAMIU Writing Center**.

This syllabus is subject to change. The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as she sees fit.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

Be familiar with the main features and contours of slavery as experienced in Caribbean history and give their own explanation for major events such as the slave trade, the formation and development of the plantation system, *marronage*, or the Haitian Revolution.

Better understand the different worlds and cultures (indigenous, African, and European) that combined to shape the history and culture of the region.

Be able to perceive of slavery and the slave trade as a long-lasting and complex experience of social, economic, and cultural transformation rather than focusing on specific events, names, or dates.

Acquire knowledge of historical facts and ideas over a broad period of time, including a better understanding of the concept of context and of change over time.

Be able to compare and contrast slavery in various parts of the Caribbean, for example in Haiti vs. Jamaica, Guyana vs. Cuba, etc. This includes the ability to evaluate national or regional trends and variations, but also that of making their own comparisons to the dynamics and consequences of slavery in other regions of the world, including other parts of Latin America, as well as British and French North America.

Learn to analyze, evaluate, and interpret primary sources via a close reading and understanding of the context of the source's production, and to question these sources with the purpose of differentiating between plausible narratives and dubious testimonies.

Be able to read critically, deconstruct and critique secondary source arguments, and also to comment on the “historicity” of films or the “reliability” of images.

Acquire a deeper recognition that there are different perspectives on the past, whether historical, interpretive, or methodological in nature.

Be able to write clearly, coherently, and succinctly about slavery in Caribbean history. This includes the ability to create a strong thesis statement for an interpretive essay, to use a combination of secondary and primary sources to support their arguments in a research paper, as well as to write in a way that is both analytical and grammatically correct.

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War.	Vincent Brown	
Required	The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, 2nd ed.	Philip D. Curtin	
Required	Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution	Laurent Dubois	
Required	Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas	Richard Price (ed.)	
Required	• The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave		

Other Course Materials

All additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Criteria

Grading and Assignments:

Attendance, Reading, Participation - 24%

Regular attendance, active participation, and preparation for class are essential parts of the learning experience. **Attendance alone does not constitute participation.** The participation grade will be based on oral contributions, group work, and attendance.

You will also need to read carefully and consistently all the assigned materials for this class. In order to make sure that you are reading on a regular basis, but also to ascertain your comprehension of different texts and topics, you will be expected to submit your answers to quizzes or interpretive questions, in short-answer or paragraph formats, that will be posted on Blackboard.

When assigned, quizzes or interpretive questions will be posted by 5pm on Friday and they must be completed by 12:00pm on Tuesday.

Two Map Quizzes - 16%

Students will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the physical features, political boundaries, and human landscape of the main slave ports/slave embarkation regions in Africa, and of the Caribbean region, in two separate map quizzes. The quizzes will also include several content questions that will refer back to the colonial, linguistic, and ethnic make-up of both regions. Blank maps will be distributed in class beforehand for preparation, along with a list and explanation of the content that will be part of the map quiz in question.

- The map quiz on African slave ports/slave embarkation regions will take place **at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 11.**
- The Caribbean map quiz will take place **at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 18.**

Book review of either *Avengers of the New World* or *Tacky's Revolt*- 15%

You will need to write a 2-4 page book review on either Laurent Dubois' book *Avengers of the New World* or on Vincent Brown's book *Tacky's Revolt*, following historical writing conventions regarding book reviews and contextualizing the book within the historical scholarship on Caribbean slavery, but also including your own interpretation and analysis as presented in a scholarly format.

If you choose to write your book review on *Avengers of the New World*, it will be due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, October 20.

If you choose to write your book review on *Tacky's Revolt*, it will be due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, November 3.

Final Research Paper: 40%

Students will need to write a final research paper on a topic related to slavery in the Caribbean that they have discussed with the instructor. (In order to do so, each student will need to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss possible topics prior to the deadline for handing in their research paper proposals and associated bibliographies).

This assignment will be scaffolded as follows:

- A **proposal, annotated bibliography, and regular bibliography following historical academic conventions** will be due on Blackboard **by 5pm on Sunday, October 13** (5%).
- The **first draft of the research paper** (6-8 pages) will be due on Blackboard **by 5pm on Sunday, November 10** (15%).
- The **revised version of the research paper** (12-15 pages) will be due on Blackboard **by 5pm on Wednesday, December 4**, which is the scheduled date of the final exam (20%).

Reflection essay- 5%

A **two-page reflection essay** on what you have learned in the course, as well as the significance of the history of slavery in the Caribbean, will need to be **uploaded on Blackboard by 5pm on Friday, December 6.**

Grading scale:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F 0-59

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Wed	8/28	Part I: Introductions. Introduction of the course, the instructor, and the students. A brief introduction to the Caribbean as an area of study. . A brief introduction to slavery and the slave trade, as experienced in the Atlantic world	In-class Readings: Patrick Manning, "Why Africans? The Rise of the Slave Trade to 1700" and "The Pope grants to the Portuguese a monopoly of trade with Africa"	
Wed	9/4	Slave Societies in the Americas and the Plantation Complex	Philip D. Curtin, <i>The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex</i> , pp. 3--#98.	Both blank and regular maps of African slave ports/main regions of embarkation will be distributed in class for students to prepare for the following week's map quiz.
Wed	9/11	Historical and Geographical Background of the Caribbean	Thomas D. Boswell, "The Caribbean: A Geographic Preface" and Stephen J. Randall, "The Historical Context" in <i>Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean</i> . (Blackboard) Philip D. Curtin, <i>The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex</i> , pp. 98--#206.	Map Quiz: African slave ports/main embarkation regions. Both blank and regular maps of the Caribbean will be distributed in class for students to prepare for the following week's map quiz.



Wed	9/18	The Caribbean as the Epitome of the Plantation System and of Plantation Societies	"Imperialism and Slavery" and "Social Structure of the Plantation Society" from	Map Quiz: The political and sociocultural geography of the Caribbean
Wed	9/25	Exceptions to the Plantation System	"From African Slaves to Creole Royal Slaves" and "Slavery to the King" from María Elena Díaz, <i>The Virgin, The King, and the Royal Slaves of El Cobre</i> (Blackboard) The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave	
Wed	10/2	Part III: Slave Rebellion and Post-#emancipation Life in the Caribbean Marronage and Slave Rebellion in the Caribbean	"Cuban Palenques," "Hunting the Maroons with Dogs in Cuba," "Marronage in the French Caribbean," "Guerilla Warfare: A Bush Negro View," and "Guerilla Warfare: A European Soldier's View," from Richard Price (ed). <i>Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas</i> Marjoleine Kars, <i>Blood on the River: A Chronicle of Mutiny and Freedom on the Wild Coast</i> , pp. 10-122. (Blackboard)	
Wed	10/9	The Haitian Revolution	Laurent Dubois, <i>Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution</i> , pp. 1-#152.	Research paper proposal and annotated bibliography is due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, October 13.
Wed	10/16	The Haitian Revolution Movie: <i>Burn</i> (Queimada)	Laurent Dubois, <i>Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution</i> , pp. 152-#306	If you choose to write your book review on <i>Avengers of the New World</i> , it will be due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, October 20.
Wed	10/23	Tacky's Revolt in Jamaica	Vincent Brown, <i>Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War</i> , pp. 1-128	
Wed	10/30	Tacky's Revolt in Jamaica	Vincent Brown, <i>Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War</i> , pp. 129-249.	If you choose to write your book review on <i>Tacky's Revolt</i> , it will be due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, November 3.
Wed	11/6	Creole Religions of the Caribbean: Haitian Vodou, Cuban Santería, West-#Indian Obeah Movie: <i>Ilé Aiyé</i>	"The Orisha Tradition in Cuba: Santería/Regla de Ocha," "Haitian Vaudou" and "Obeah, Myal and Quimbois" from Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizabeth Paravisini-#Gebert, <i>Creole Religions of the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo</i>	First draft of the research paper (6-8 pages) is due on Blackboard by 5pm on Sunday, November 10.
Wed	11/13	Modern Day Slavery in the Caribbean I: Haitians in the Dominican Republic	"The New Slavery" from Kevin Bales, <i>Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy</i> "The Massacre River" from Michele Wucker, <i>Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola</i> Barbara L. Bernier, "Sugar Cane Slavery: Bateyes in the Dominican Republic"	
Wed	11/20	Modern Day Slavery in the Caribbean II: Tourism in the Caribbean Movie: <i>Life + Debt</i>	Ian Gregory Strachan, "Columbus's Ghost: Tourism, Art and National Identity in the Bahamas"	
Wed	11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS		
Wed	12/4	Revised version of the final research paper (12-15 pages) is due on Blackboard by 5pm on Wednesday, December 4, which is the scheduled date for the final exam. Two-page reflection essay on what you have learned in this course is due on Blackboard by 5pm on Friday, December 6.		

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