

# MUSI 3133 - Elementary Music

## Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 102, CRN 14287

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### Instructor Information

**Dr. Gilberto D. Soto**  
Professor of Music Education/Guitar  
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Office: FPA 216A  
Office Hours:  
See the Syllabus via Blackboard and posted outside FPA 216A  
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### Times and Location

TR 11:40am-12:35pm in Fine/Performing Arts Center 129

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### Course Description

A course which introduces the fundamentals of teaching music for elementary grades K-6. The course is taught in a laboratory setting with hands-on training in creating and implementing lesson plans with music content. Prerequisite: Upper level standing in music major/minor or consent of instructor.

Fine&Performing Arts Department, College of Arts & Sciences

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### Additional Course Information

An introduction to the principles of music that can be related to the expressive and developmental needs of children from their early childhood stage, including preschool through early elementary grades. Furthermore, this course is aligned with the Texas Education Agency standards for students seeking an EC-12 music certification. Presentations by the major area of students enrolled in this plus additional content materials for the state music content examination will also be covered.

### Program Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to identify and describe basic knowledge of music notation, musical perception, and performance.
2. Communication Skills: Students will be able to explain the knowledge received on music methodology and planning lessons methodology, in a live lecture presentation in front of their peers.
3. Teamwork: Students will be able to successfully demonstrate through teamwork and in a presentation, the full execution of a lesson plan using music as the link for the desired objective.
4. Personal Responsibility: Students will be able to demonstrate through their assigned individual lesson plan requirements, their lesson and movement/singing execution expected from the objectives of this class and as discussed and agreed during the first lecture of the semester.
5. Social Responsibility: Students will be able to organize and execute their lesson plans at an educational community center, as required and assigned by the instructor of this course.

### Student Learning Outcomes

I.Songs (EC-6 2.1 - 2.2)

II.Movement (EC-6 1..6; 1.7; 1.8; 1.9; 2.1; 2.2)

III.Listening (EC-6 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.5; 1.6; 1.8; 1.9; 3.5; 5.3)

IV.Musical Concepts (EC-6 1.4; 1.8; 1.9; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 5.4; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3)

V.Rhythm (EC-6 1.6; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 6.1; 6.2)

VI.Instruments (EC-6 1.7; 2.1; 2.2; 4.1; 7.12)

VII.Lesson Plans and Instruction (EC-6 5.1; 5.2; 5.3;7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.8; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.12; 7.13; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 8.1; 9.1; 9.2; 9.3; 9.4; 10.1; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4)

## 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	Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom	Dr. Gilberto D Soto	978-1-63189-692-7

## Other Course Materials

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

Other materials and handouts required and recommended for reading will be given during class and requested to be downloaded through "Blackboard" during the semester.

## Grading Criteria

Class Weekly Assignments	20%
Quizzes	10%
PowerPoint Music Series	10%
PowerPoint Content Cert.	10%
Final Lesson Presentation	15%
Professional E-Portfolio	5%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

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

## Open Boilerplate

Lecture #1:

Welcome and Introduction to the course

Syllabus Reading and Discussion of Grading Criteria

Discussion of the Writing Format for Assignments

Discussion of the use of the Blackboard System

Discussion and Organization of the Professional E-Portfolio

Discussion on the required textbook

Discussion and Organization of the Lectures in Connection with the Course's Academic Requirement and the Content Certification Preparation

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 1 of the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

Review of Developmental and Instructional Theories

(located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

Music and Children Handouts I (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

**Lecture 2:**

The Importance of Music in the early academic years

Review of Developmental and Instructional Theories

Interacting Music and the Brain

Your Teaching Philosophy

Assignment: To write a three to five pages long personal and professional teaching philosophy.

Recommended Reading:

"The Lesson Plan Format, and "Music Activities and Skills by Age" from Chapter 2 of the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

The Young Child and Musical Play (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System).

Bank of Music Knowledge (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

Planning for Music Groups (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

"Viva El Cinco de Mayo" (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

**Lecture 3:**

The Lesson Plan Format

Bloom's Taxonomy and the Lesson Objective

Music Activities and Skills by Age

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment: To write a two-page opinion of the article "What Music Really Means to Children" (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

Recommended Reading:

"Bank of Musical Knowledge" and "Music Key Terminology" from Chapters 3 & 4 of the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 4:**

Discussion of the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of Sample Questions for the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of the terms located on the handouts "Glossary" and "Basic Music Notation"

Elements of the Lesson Plan Using Songs, Listening, Instruments and Activities.

Creating a Movement Activity for the Closing Section of the Lesson Plan.

Assignment: To answer quiz #1 (located at the required textbook and/or under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System).

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 5 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 5:**

Creating a Movement Activity for the Extension Activity Portion of the Lesson Plan

Kodaly, Orff, Suzuki, Reimer, and Dalcroze in Relation to Music, Listening and Movement

The Scale Body Signal

The Kodaly Scale Hand Signal

Assignment: To write a two-page opinion of the article "Making Music" (Delivered TBA)

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 6 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

Kodaly, Orff, and Dalcroze, plus the Body Scale and Hand Signal Scale from Chapter 3 of the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 6:**

Discussion of the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of Sample Questions for the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Assignment: To answer quiz #2 (located in the required textbook and/or under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 6 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 7:**

Combining Movement and Music

Rhythm and the Early Child

Using Rhythm to Enhance Dual Language Programs

The Use of Sign Language in Music

The Use of Multicultural Music in the Early Childhood Classroom

State and National Standards

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment:

To put together a PowerPoint presentation on one or two content certification domains/standards. Topics selected will be recommended and assigned after assessing major concentration and/or music academic strengths. (Please see Syllable for More Information)

**Lecture 8:**

PowerPoint Presentations on Content Examination Domains/Standards

Discussion of the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of Sample Questions for the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Assignment: To answer quiz #1 (located in the required textbook and/or under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System).

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 7 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

Review of all handouts and textbooks covered for the upcoming mid-term test.

**Lecture 9:**

Mainstreaming and Music

Music Therapy

Music Linked to Emotions and Mood

Music and Health

The Importance of the Bilingual Component in the Lesson Plan

Assignment:

To continue putting together a powerpoint presentation on one or two content certification domains/standards. Topics selected will be recommended and assigned after assessing major concentration and/or music academic strengths. (Please see Syllable for More Information)

**Lecture 10:**

PowerPoint Presentations on Content Examination Domains/Standards

Discussion of the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of Sample Questions for the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Assignment: To write a two-page opinion of the articles "ELL in the Texas Administrative Code" and "Reach ELL Students with Additional Classroom Strategies" (located under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System)

Recommended Reading:

Review of all handouts and textbooks covered for the upcoming mid-term test

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment:

To put together a PowerPoint presentation on one or two content certification domains/standards. Topics selected will be recommended and assigned after assessing major concentration and/or music academic strengths. (Please see Syllable for More Information)

**Lecture 11:**

PowerPoint Presentations on Content Examination Domains/Standards

Discussion of the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

Discussion of Sample Questions for the State Content Certification Domains and Standards

**Lecture 12**

The Use of Instruments to Express Ideas

Instruments of the World (Content Examination)

Instruments and Creativity

Instruments and Emotions

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

**Lecture 13:**

Mid Term Review

**Lecture 14:**

Mid Term Examination

**Lecture 15**

The Use of Extension and Character Songs to Motivate and Enhance Learning

Extension Songs

Character Songs

Teaching Concepts through Songs

Additional Academic Sources to Support Developing a Lesson Plan

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment: To plan and organize the final lesson plan using music as a closing activity. This is an individual project, with the song selected earlier will be embedded into the final lesson plan. The presentation and execution of the final lesson plan will be performed during class at a later date (Please see the syllabus for more information)

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 8 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 16:**

Discussion on PowerPoint presentations of music educational series

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Eight Assignment: To prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a music educational series, plus to continue to plan and organize the final lesson plan using music as a closing activity.

Recommended Reading:

Chapter 9 from the book *Teaching Music in the Multicultural Early Childhood Classroom*

**Lecture 17:**

PowerPoint presentations on a music educational series

Music for assessment and Academic feedback in the classroom

The Use of Music in Creating Assessment and Feedback Lesson Activities The Tri#fold and Props as Iconic Assessment Tool

Virtual Technology as Music Resource for the Classroom

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment: To continue to plan and organize the final lesson plan, this timeline up the materials, introduction, and development. The presentation and execution of the final lesson plan will be performed during class at a later date (Please see Syllable for more information)

**Lecture 18:**

Continuation of PowerPoint presentations on a music educational series

Discussion on Final Lesson Presentation (template might be required)

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

Assignment: To answer quiz #4 (located in the required textbook and/or under "Lessons" on the Blackboard System).

**Lecture 19:**

Singing in the Classroom

Listening to Music

Reading and Music

Mathematics and Music

Science and Music

Cognition and Music

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

**Lecture 20:**

Final Lesson Presentations

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

**Lecture 21:**

The Virtual Classroom: Implementing Music Activities Online

Music Activities in the "New Normal"

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

**Lecture 22:**

Final Lesson Presentations

State Content Examination Additional Discussion (TBA)

**Lecture 23:**

Continuation of Final Lesson Presentations

Final Test Review

**Lecture 24:**

Final Test

Last Day to Turn in Professional E-Portfolio

## See Above

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/27	See Above		

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.