

# COMM 4360 - Comm TheoryPractice: Comm TheoPractice-WIN-RELLIS

## Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 103, CRN 17590

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### Instructor Information

**Shudipta Sharma**

Instructional Assistant Professor

Email: shudipta.sharma@tamui.edu

Office: ACB2 332 RELLIS Campus

Office Hours:

MW 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM or by appointment

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### Times and Location

TR 12pm-1:15pm in RELLIS Campus Class

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### Course Description

Synthesis and integration of theory with communication practices and problems that students have encountered through work and life experiences. Students will learn how theory applies to our everyday life and helps us become more competent communicators. Culmination of this course is a senior thesis paper for senior portfolio. Prerequisites: Senior Standing or consent of instructor  
Psychology & Communication Department, College of Arts & Sciences

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### WIN-Designation

This course is designated as a writing-intensive (WIN) course. In this course, writing will not only be the subject of study, but it will also serve as a method of learning. Students will learn how communication in written, oral, and visual forms change according to purpose and genre. Brainstorming, drafting, revising, and peer-workshopping are integrated into the course curriculum and are the required components of this writing-intensive course. The final Research Paper is the designated assignment for WIN assessment.

### Additional Course Information

#### Course Preparation

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings in this course and being prepared to discuss them in a thought-provoking manner. All of the readings, videos, films, journal articles, and links used in this class are fair game as exam questions. Grading rubrics will be posted on Blackboard when assignments are given.

#### Format

This course will be conducted using a variety of methods, including lecture, discussion, video, and application. Students are expected to attend each class session, complete reading assignments PRIOR to attending class, and participate in all class activities and discussions. Synchronous online attendance is not permitted.

#### Chapter Notes

I tend to use PowerPoint slides and discussion for our lectures. These lectures highlight the most relevant information for each chapter. However, please make sure you read the entire chapter first in order to familiarize yourself with the material. This will assist you when attempting to complete all analytical assignments and exams. There may be times when we do not cover all of the material from the book. There will also be times when the PowerPoint won't cover all of the material found in the book. However, you are responsible for ALL required material.

## AI Statement

Academic integrity is of utmost importance in this course. However, you are allowed to use Generative AI Tools like ChatGPT to support your work. To maintain academic integrity, you must disclose any AI-generated material you use and properly attribute it, including in-text citations, quotations, and references.

You should include the following statement in assignments to indicate use of a Generative AI Tool: "The author(s) would like to acknowledge the use of [Generative AI Tool Name], a language model developed by [Generative AI Tool Provider], in the preparation of this assignment. The [Generative AI Tool Name] was used in the following way(s) in this assignment [e.g., brainstorming, grammatical correction, citation, which portion of the assignment]."

You should not use AI tools during examinations or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed. Overall, AI tools should be used wisely and reflectively with an aim to deepen understanding of subject matter.

You should also be aware of the potential benefits and limitations of using AI as a tool for learning and research. AI systems can provide helpful information or suggestions, but they are not always reliable or accurate. You should critically evaluate the sources, methods, and outputs of AI systems. Violations of this policy will be treated as academic misconduct.

If assignments are flagged as AI-generated without proper acknowledgment, you will be subject to the following:

- You will be required to provide a detailed history of your thought/work process, including but not limited to notes, rough drafts, outlines, etc., to your instructor within a designated period of time.
- If you cannot provide evidence to your instructor that their work was original, you will be required to rewrite the assignment for full credit within a specified period of time. If this condition is not met, a zero will be assigned for the assignment.
- If subsequent assignments are flagged as AI, the instructor reserves the right to assign zeroes for those assignments.

If you have any questions about this policy or if you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is acceptable, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

## Late Work

No late assignments are accepted without proper documentation. Therefore, all coursework is due on the day announced. No partial credit will be given. No exceptions. Extensions may be granted BUT you must contact me before the due date to ask for an extension.

## Other Rules to Live By

1. Please always follow the "Golden Rule" and treat others the way you would like to be treated. I will not tolerate harassment or hate speech of any kind based on race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical attributes, socio-economic status, group membership, political affiliations etc.
2. Communication is imperative and all concerns should be communicated to me in person, through e-mail in a timely manner. If you do not communicate with me then I cannot address your needs or complications.
3. Discussions might focus on issues/topics that may be controversial or taboo, do your part as a member of this class to be respectful of me and your fellow classmates.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will evaluate theories and approaches to selected problems and write a paper linking knowledge or skills acquired in research activities with the knowledge acquired in the field of media and communication studies.
2. Students will construct sustained, coherent arguments, narratives, or explications of communication-related issues or problems in academic and professional presentations to general and/or specific audiences.
3. Students apply and integrate the communication knowledge and skills acquired in the program in professional settings, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the process and, where applicable, describe the result.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify, analyze, and propose solutions to practical communication issues, problems, or conflicts in a theoretical context.
- Apply theoretical guidelines and suggestions when writing synopsis for television programs and movie reviews.

- Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate everyday and professional communication events or situations by being able to construct well-written arguments grounded by an understanding of underlying assumptions in communication theories.

## 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 | A First Look at Communication Theory | Em Griffin | 9781264973958 |

## Other Course Materials

Other course materials will be available on Blackboard.

## Grading Criteria

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

## Assignments/Exams

### 2 In-class Written Assignments (20%)

Students will be assigned to analyze specific materials during class time using either particular media or communication theories. These in-class written assignments should be submitted to Blackboard before the end of the class. It's important to note that students are not permitted to use any AI tools or technologies for this assignment. No make-up assignment will be available; late submissions will automatically be deducted 30% of the total grade. Students should be in class to complete these written assignments.

### Research Proposal (30%)

Each student will submit a media/communication-related research proposal. This assignment comprises two components. Firstly, each student should submit a 2-page-long research brainstorming draft by September 30th at 11:59 p.m. This draft is worth 10% of the grade. Secondly, after receiving feedback from the instructor on their brainstorming draft, each student should develop it into an 8-to 10-page-long research proposal. This proposal should include six sections: 1) Introduction, 2) Literature Review, 3) Methods and Data, 4) Expected Findings, 5) Implications/Contributions of the Proposed Research, and 6) References section. The research proposal must contain at least eight academic references and adhere to the APA Manual of Style. This component is worth 20% of the grade. The research proposal is due on November 25th at 11:59 p.m. No make-up assignment will be available; late submissions will automatically be deducted 30% of the total grade.

### Research Presentation (10%)

At the conclusion of the semester, each student will deliver an oral presentation on their research proposal. This assignment aims to cultivate students' communicative competency. Each student should prepare relevant audio-visual materials to support their oral presentations effectively and submit them to get full credit by November 10th, 11:59 p.m. The presentation should consist of a 10-minute main presentation and a 2-3-minute question-and-answer session. This component will account for 10% of the final grade.

### Midterm/Final Exam (30%)

Students are assigned to take the midterm and final exams based on the assigned readings, lectures, materials, class discussions, and presentations. The midterm exam includes multiple-choice and true/false questions, while the final exam includes multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions.

### Class Participation (10%)

This course anticipates students' active participation in class discussions and pertinent in-class activities associated with the assigned media and communication theories. The assessment of each student's contributions will be predicated on the quantity and quality of their contributions.

| ASSIGNMENT                     | VALUE |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Class Participation            | 10    |
| 2 In-class Written Assignments | 20    |
| Research Proposal              | 30    |
| Research Presentation          | 10    |
| Midterm/Final Exams            | 30    |
| TOTAL                          | 100   |

## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week of | Agenda/Topic  | Reading(s)   | Due   |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 8/26    | Overview: Communication Theory and Practice                       | Ch 1: Launching your study of Communication Theory<br>Ch 2. Objective and Interpretive Approaches to Communication Theory                        |   |
| 9/2     | Philosophical perspectives on theories and communication research | Ch 3. Weighing the Words<br>Ch 4. Mapping the Territory  |   |
| 9/9     | Interpersonal Communication                                       | Ch 5. Symbolic Interactionism of George Herbert Mead<br>Ch 8. Social Penetration of Irwin Altman & Dalmás Taylor                                 |   |
| 9/16    | Persuasion  | Ch 14. Social Judgment Theory of Muzafer and Carolyn Sherif<br>Ch 16. Cognitive Dissonance of Leon Festinger                                     | In-class Written Assignment 1 Due: September 18th, 01:15 p.m. |
| 9/23    | Group Communication   | Ch 20. Functional Perspective on Group Decision Making of Randy Hirokawa & Dennis Gouran<br>Ch 21. Symbolic Convergence Theory of Ernest Bormann |   |
| 9/30    | Organizational Communication                                      | Ch 22. Cultural Approach to Organizations<br>Ch 24. Critical Theory of Communication in Organizations  | Brainstorming Draft Due: September 30th, 11:59 p.m.           |
| 10/7    | Midterm   | Study Guide  | Midterm Exam: October 9th 12:00 p.m.-01:15 p.m.               |
| 10/14   | Mass Communication  | Ch 31. Media Ecology of Marshall McLuhan<br>Ch 35. Uses and Gratifications of Elihu Katz   |   |
| 10/21   | Media Effects   | Ch. 36 Cultivation Theory of George Gerbner<br>Ch 37 Agenda Setting Theory of Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw                                    |   |
| 10/28   | Media and Culture   | Ch 33. Semiotics/ Structuralism of Roland Barthes<br>Ch 34. Cultural Studies of Stuart Hall  | In-class Written Assignment 2 Due: October 30th, 01:15 p.m.   |
| 11/4    | Global Communication  | Cultural Imperialism of Hebert Schiller (Blackboard)<br>Hybrid Culture in a Globalized Times of NÉSTOR GARCÍA CANCLINI (Blackboard)              |   |
| 11/11   | Communication Practice  | Individual Presentations   | Presentation Slides Submission Due: November 10th, 11:59 p.m. |
| 11/18   | Communication Practice  | Individual Presentations   |   |

|       |                        |                          |   |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 11/25 | Communication Practice | Individual Presentations | Research Proposal Due: November 25th,<br>11:59 p.m. |
| 12/2  | Final Exam             | Final Exam Review        |   |

## 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)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

### TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/index.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 SafeZone (<https://www.tamui.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 an 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 Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. 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 Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at [karla.pedraza@tamui.edu](mailto:karla.pedraza@tamui.edu), call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

## 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: [Student Handbook \(https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)](https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/index.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. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, [TitleIX@tamui.edu](mailto:TitleIX@tamui.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, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamui.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamui.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

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 Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, [lorissam.cortez@tamui.edu](mailto:lorissam.cortez@tamui.edu)) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs 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 LOAs 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*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at [mghernandez@tamui.edu](mailto:mghernandez@tamui.edu), call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at [lorissaM.cortez@tamui.edu](mailto:lorissaM.cortez@tamui.edu), call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

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