



CRIJ 2329 - Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 180, CRN 17137

Instructor Information

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By appointment
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Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

A study of the nature of substantive criminal law. Included are philosophies and historical developments, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, and the elements of crimes and their penalties. Texas statutes will be utilized as illustrations.
Social Sciences Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for this course is permitted under specific conditions to enhance learning and academic integrity. This policy outlines the acceptable and prohibited uses of AI to ensure that students maintain rigorous academic standards and originality in their work.

Permitted Uses of AI:

1. **Brainstorming and Idea Generation:**
 - Students may use AI tools to generate initial ideas and brainstorm potential topics related to course assignments and research projects.
 - AI can assist in exploring different perspectives and generating a broad range of ideas to help students develop their own unique arguments and approaches.
2. **Grammar and Language Improvement:**
 - AI tools may be used for proofreading and correcting grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and syntax issues in written assignments.
 - AI can assist in enhancing the clarity and coherence of the text by suggesting improvements in language and sentence structure.
3. **Clarity of Original Work:**
 - AI can be employed to improve the overall clarity and readability of students' original work.
 - This includes refining language, rephrasing sentences for better understanding, and ensuring that the writing is concise and well-organized.

Prohibited Uses of AI:

1. **Generation of Original Content:**
 - AI tools may not be used to generate substantial portions of text or original content for assignments, research papers, or any other course-related work.
 - The primary responsibility for writing and developing content must rest with the student.

**2. Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:**

- AI tools must not be used to plagiarize or to produce work that is not the student's own. All submissions must reflect the student's individual analysis, understanding, and synthesis of course materials.
- Students are required to properly cite any sources or ideas generated with the assistance of AI tools in accordance with academic standards.

3. Substitution of Critical Thinking:

- AI should not be used as a substitute for critical thinking, analysis, and scholarly engagement with course materials.
- Students must actively engage in the concepts, theories, and research discussed in the course, using AI only as a supplementary aid rather than a replacement for their intellectual contributions.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Students are expected to adhere to this policy and are responsible for ensuring that their use of AI aligns with the guidelines provided.
- Any suspected misuse of AI tools will be reviewed in accordance with the University's academic integrity policies, and appropriate actions will be taken if violations are found.

By following this policy, students will be able to leverage AI tools effectively while maintaining the integrity and originality of their academic work.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this online course, the student will be able to execute the following:

1. List and explain various terminology, principles, and theoretical concepts of criminal law
2. Explain the difference between criminal and civil law
3. Understand the purpose of criminal law and to some extent its historical development within the United States legal system
4. Discuss some of the constitutional and statutory limitations on criminal liability
5. Identify and discuss various defenses to criminal liability and distinguish between justification defenses and excuse defenses
6. Identify the parties to a crime and explain whether or not there is vicarious liability

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Texas Criminal Law (3rd Edition)	Dowling, J. L	9780578390376

Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	Below 60%

Open Boilerplate

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Research Paper and PowerPoint Presentation	20%
Quizzes	15%
Discussion Board	15%



Exams	20%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/25	Lesson 1: Chapter 1: Foundations of Criminal Law	1. Read Course Syllabus 2. Acknowledgment of syllabus and policies 3. Read Chapter 1 4. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 1 5. Respond to the questions in discussion area 6. Take On-Line Quiz #1	Quiz - Aug. 29 Discussion Board - Aug. 30
9/1	Lesson 2: Chapter 2: Elements of a Crime	1. Read Chapters 2 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapters 2 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take On-Line Quiz 2	Quiz - Sept. 5 Discussion Board - Sept. 6
9/8	Lesson 3: Chapter 3: The Criminal Law in Daily Practice	1. Read Chapter 3 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 3 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz 3	Quiz - Sept. 12 Discussion Board - Sept. 13
9/15	Lesson 4: Chapter 4: Parties to Offenses	1. Read Chapter 4 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 4 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 4 5. Review and study Chapters 1 through 4 for Test # 1 6. Take on-line Test # 1 7. Research topics due for approval	Quiz - Sept. 19 Discussion Board - Sept. 20 Exam 1 - Sept. 20 Research topic - Sept. 20
9/22	Lesson 5: Chapter 5: Criminal Homicide	1. Read Chapter 5 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 5 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 5	Quiz - Sept. 26 Discussion Board - Sept. 27
9/29	Lesson 6: Chapter 6: Assault and Sexual Assault	1. Read Chapter 6 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 6 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 6	Quiz - Oct. 3 Discussion Board - Oct. 4
10/6	Lesson 7: Chapter 7: Kidnapping and Human Trafficking	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 7 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 7	Quiz - Oct. 10 Discussion Board - Oct. 11



10/13	Lesson 8: Chapter 8: Property Destruction Offense	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 8 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 8	Quiz - Oct. 17 Discussion Board - Oct. 18
10/20	Lesson 9: Chapter 9: Theft, Fraud, and Related Offenses	1. Read Chapter 9 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 9 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 9	Quiz - Oct. 24 Discussion Board - Oct. 25
10/27	Lesson 10: Chapter 10: Robbery, Burglary, and Criminal Trespass	1. Read Chapter 10 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 10 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 10 5. Review and study Chapters 5 through 10 for Test # 2 6. Take on-line Test # 2	Quiz - Oct. 31 Exam #2 - Nov. 1 Discussion Board - Nov. 1
11/3	Lesson 11: Chapter 11: Offenses Against Government Operations	1. Read Chapter 11 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 11 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take on-line Quiz # 11	Quiz - Nov. 7 Discussion Board - Nov. 8 Research paper and PowerPoint - Nov. 9
11/10	Lesson 12: Chapter 12: Public Disorder, Indecency, Health, and Safety Offenses	1. Read Chapter 12 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 12 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 12 5. Research papers and PowerPoints	Quiz - Nov. 14 Discussion Board - Nov. 15
11/17	Lesson 13: Chapter 13: Intoxication Offenses	1. Read Chapter 13 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 13 3. Respond to the questions in discussion area 4. Take Quiz # 13 5. Reviewed for Exam #3 over Chapters 11 through 13	Quiz - Nov. 22 Discussion Board - Nov. 22
11/24	Lesson 14 Take Exam #3 (Monday)	1. Take Test # 3 over Chapter 11 through 13 2. Clarifications, if any, on course materials and Review for Final Exam	Exam #3 - Nov. 24
12/1	Lesson 15: Final Examination	Review for Comprehensive Exam	No assignments
12/8	Comprehensive Exam	Final Exam over Chapters 1 through 13	Final Exam - Dec. 3

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)

TAMU 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).

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 <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, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt, at <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit/>), and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

The instructor will provide timely and constructive feedback to support student learning and improvement. Feedback expectations are as follows:

- **Written Assignments** (essays, critical summaries, chapter reflection papers): Feedback will be returned within 7 days of the submission through Blackboard. Research paper within 2 weeks of submission.
- **Quizzes and Exams**: Automated scores will be available immediately after submission (when applicable). Additional instructor feedback, if required, will be provided within 3–5 days, but is not necessary.
- **Discussion Boards/Participation**: General feedback and highlights of key discussion points will be posted within 5 days of the discussion's closing date.

Student Expectations

- **Active Participation**: Log in regularly, contribute to discussions, and complete assignments on time.
- **Self-Discipline & Time Management**: Stay organized, manage deadlines, and dedicate consistent time for coursework.
- **Academic Integrity**: Submit original work, follow citation standards, and avoid plagiarism.
- **Communication**: Check email and class announcements frequently, ask questions when unclear, and interact respectfully with peers and instructors.
- **Technical Preparedness**: Ensure access to reliable internet and required software, and learn to navigate the online platform.



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

Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

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

- **Hybrid Course** - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.
- **100-Percent Online Course** - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

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

Course Structure

This is a fifteen-week (15) course consisting of 15 lessons. Lesson or module folders are located within the Lessons Tab of the course shell. Each of the lesson folders has a time and date to open; they cannot be accessed in advance. For example, if today's date were November 21, 2023, only the Introduction to the Course folder will be accessible. This timed access is purposefully done so that students focus only on the materials at hand and to keep them on track with the course schedule.

Overviews of each lesson's folders will find the following: (1) introduction the specific lesson, (2) the learning objectives, (3) the required and optional tasks, and (4) the materials. The tasks range from reading specific chapters from the textbook, viewing the MS PowerPoint Presentations, and engaging in a quiz, discussion threads, and a writing assignment.

Assessments such as quizzes, discussion questions and tests will be under each Lesson Week. The final comprehensive exam will be posted separately ("Week 1" or "Week 2"). The quizzes and examinations will be due at specific times and dates. The research paper/project and the Final Examination have their own portals with their respective opening and closing times/dates. More details are given on the Blackboard Lessons tab.

This is an intense and demanding course. Hence, students will need to have dedication, energy, and time to engage in the materials, activities, and assessments within the specified time frame. For more details, refer to the course calendar found on pp. 10 – 18 of this course syllabus.

Response Time

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

The best way to contact the instructor for this course is through email, preferably via Blackboard course message. For the purpose of this course, all communication will be through the course email facility. Instructor's responses to a student's email will be within 48 hours. Please use the Middle Point Forum for clarification and additional questions.

Assignments and Assessments

The instructor will provide timely and constructive feedback to support student learning and improvement. Feedback expectations are as follows:

- Written Assignments (essays, critical summaries, chapter reflection papers): Feedback will be returned within 7 days of the submission through Blackboard. Research paper within 2 weeks of submission.
- Quizzes and Exams: Automated scores will be available immediately after submission (when applicable). Additional instructor feedback, if required, will be provided within 3–5 days, but is not necessary.
- Discussion Boards/Participation: General feedback and highlights of key discussion points will be posted within 5 days of the discussion's closing date.

Course Communication Guidelines (Netiquette)

There are course expectations concerning etiquette or how we should treat each other online. We must consider these values as we communicate with one another. Visit **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' web page on Netiquette** (<http://www.tamtu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml/>) for further instruction.

Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member

in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

Student Support Resources

The University wishes to have all students succeed in their courses. To provide support to our students, an array of services in the areas of technology support, academic support, student support, and accessibility support may be found at the University. For more information, visit the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services page on **University Resources and Support Services**.

Computer/Technology Requirements

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

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage (<https://www.tamui.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml/>) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have this equipment, it is recommended to purchase a stand-alone webcam, a microphone, or a webcam with a built-in microphone from your local electronic store or any online store.

NOTE: Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services may check out available webcams to students on a first-come, first-served basis. To check out a webcam, please stop by Killam Library, Room 259, and request an available webcam.

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

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware or software or do not have access to the Internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, my goal is to assist you in finding solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either be found free of charge at TAMIU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronic store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Students are provided with an orientation (*eLearning (Blackboard) Student Orientation*) and access to guides on how to use the Blackboard LMS. Guides may be available at **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' Student eLearning Tutorial Videos page** or by contacting the eLearning team at elearning@tamui.edu.

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

Students enrolled in the class must consider the technology involved in order to complete a successful course. It is recommended that they meet the following technical requirements when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Students in distance education should have knowledge of basic computer and Internet skills, as mentioned on the **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage**.

Technical Support Services

Because of the nature of distance education courses, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) computing and information services are vital to the success of online students. This webpage covers contact information for Distance Education Services (Blackboard Support), the OIT Help Desk, and E-mail support: **Technical Support Services**.

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

This course does not require regularly scheduled synchronous sessions. However, students who need additional support may request a virtual meeting with the instructor. Meetings will be scheduled on an as-needed basis and conducted through [Zoom/MS Teams/etc.]. The purpose of these meetings is to provide clarification, guidance on assignments, or to address individual questions. However, this is not required.

Grading Scale/Schema (after Grade Breakdown section)

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

- 90 - 100% = A
- 80 - 89.99% = B
- 70 - 79.99% = C



- 60 - 69.99% = D
- Less than 60% = F

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

- 100-90 = Follows assignment, excellent command of material, exemplary writing
- 89 -80 = Follows assignment, minor flaws in command of material, minor writing flaws
- 79 -70 = Flaws in following assignment, minor flaws in command, significant writing problems
- 69 -60 = Flaws in following assignment, flaws in command and documentation, very poor writing
- 59 - 00 = Assignment not followed, negligible command of material, writing significantly below the 300-university level

Late Work Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted unless exigent circumstances exist. The instructor will review requests on a case-by-case basis. Students are required to provide proof of the emergency circumstances. Also, there is no makeup for writing assignments, quizzes, midterm exams, research paper or the final exam unless some foreseen circumstances exist, and prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students must not wait until the last minute to contact the instructor about the issue at hand. Therefore, I have the final decision on what absences are legitimate and when makeup will be allowed or given.

Course Evaluation

At the end of this course, students are encouraged to complete a course evaluation that will be distributed to them via email and through a course link.

Turnitin Policy Or Other Types of Assignments in Other Systems

Students must submit term papers, which is the major written requirement for this on-line course. Submission must be processed through Turnitin (an originality checker software and drop box) prior to submission and grading. Only research with a similarity index of less than 20% (i.e., $SI \leq 20\%$) will be accepted and graded. Hence, students are encouraged to compose a pre-final draft (or multiple of the research earlier than the deadline. This will allow them the opportunity to run it through Turnitin in order to comply with the $SI \leq 20\%$ threshold.

If pre-deadline entries run through Turnitin indicate similarity indices greater than 20%, students will need to rewrite their papers until they meet the $SI \leq 20\%$ threshold. A research paper that satisfies the $SI \leq 20\%$ threshold will still be subject to further scrutiny for originality and plagiarism. A research paper that does not meet the threshold criterion will not be considered submitted and hence not graded.

Proctoring

LockDown Browser Requirement

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online tests and exams, including webcam, which is available for a one-time purchase fee. Contact elarning@tamiu.edu for additional information.

<https://web.respondus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RLDB-Quick-Start-Guide-Bb-Student.pdf>

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

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At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this class on the following pages: **Accessibility Statements and Privacy Statements**.

Syllabus Subject to Change

While information and assurances are provided in this course syllabus, it should be understood that content may change in keeping with new research and literature and that events beyond the control of the instructor could occur. Students will be informed of any substantive occurrences that will produce syllabus changes.