



CSCE 3345 - Robotics and Automation

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 103, CRN 17354

Instructor Information

Gerardo Ramon Flores Colunga, Director of RAPTOR Lab, IEEE Senior Member

PhD, Associate Professor

Email: gerardo.flores@tamiu.edu

Office: LBV-325

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Office Phone: (956) 326-3297

Times and Location

MWF 12pm-12:55pm in Billy F Cowart Hall 114

Course Description

Study of the use, design, and deployment of industrial automation and robotics technologies in high-precision, multi-product manufacturing environments. Robot manipulators, kinematics and dynamics, robot automation and control, integrated robotic systems for manufacturing, automation in manufacturing, programmable logic controllers, applications to industrial systems. Interchangeable with SENG 3340. Prerequisites: ENGR 2305, ENGR 2105, and MATH 3310
Engineering Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundational principles of robotics and automation, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to design, analyze, control, and implement robotic systems. The curriculum is designed to cover a broad spectrum of topics, including the kinematics, dynamics, and control of robotic manipulators, and an introduction to mobile robotics and autonomous systems.

Key areas of focus include:

- **Robotic Manipulators:** In-depth exploration of robotic arms, covering forward and inverse kinematics, Jacobians, dynamics, and motion planning.
- **Automation and Control:** Application of control theories and automation techniques to robotic systems, enabling precise and reliable operation in various environments.
- **Mobile Robotics:** Basic principles of mobile robotics.

The course integrates both theoretical and practical components, ensuring that students not only grasp the mathematical and algorithmic foundations of robotics but also gain hands-on experience through simulation and implementation. Practical skills are developed using industry-standard tools such as Robotics Toolbox (<https://petercorke.com/toolboxes/robotics-toolbox/>), Python, and the Robot Operating System (ROS), providing students with valuable experience in simulating and controlling robotic systems in a virtual environment.

By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the core challenges in robotics and the ability to apply their knowledge to solve complex problems in both academic and industrial settings.

Prerequisites:



- Basic knowledge of linear algebra, differential equations, and control systems.
- Familiarity with programming languages such as Python or C++ is recommended.

Target Audience: This course is ideal for undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, computer science, and related fields who are interested in robotics, automation, and the future of intelligent systems.

AI tools: The use of AI tools and software is encouraged during the course as a supplementary resource to aid in learning and problem-solving. However, the use of AI assistance will not be permitted during exams, where students will be evaluated solely on their own knowledge and skills.

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the Robotics and Automation course, students will be able to:

1. Mathematical Modeling and Analysis:

- Demonstrate proficiency in deriving and analyzing robotic systems' kinematic and dynamic models, including both manipulators and mobile robots.

2. Control System Design:

- Design and implement simple controllers for robotic systems, ensuring stability, accuracy, and efficiency in task execution.

3. Simulation and Implementation:

- Utilize industry-standard software tools such as Robotics Toolbox (<https://petercorke.com/toolboxes/robotics-toolbox/>), Python libraries, and Robot Operating System (ROS) to simulate, control, and analyze robotic systems, bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world applications.

4. Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking:

- Identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems in robotics and automation, using a systematic approach to design innovative solutions for real-world challenges.

5. Programming and Software Development:

- Develop and integrate software for robotic applications, including sensor integration, data processing, and real-time control, using programming languages such as Python or C++.

6. Ethical and Societal Impacts:

- Understand and critically evaluate robotics and automation's ethical considerations and societal impacts, particularly those related to workforce displacement, privacy, and human-robot interaction.

7. Collaborative Project Management:

- Work effectively in multidisciplinary teams to design, implement, and evaluate robotic systems, demonstrating strong project management and communication skills.

8. Innovation and Lifelong Learning:

- Keep up with the latest developments in robotics and automation, encouraging creative thinking and a dedication to continuously learning in this fast-changing field.

Student Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a deep understanding of robotics's mathematical models and control algorithms.
- Gain proficiency in using Python and simulating and controlling robotic systems.
- Design and analyze robotic systems for various applications, including industrial automation and autonomous navigation.
- Understand and address ethical issues and societal impacts of deploying robotics and automation technologies.



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
Optional	obot Modeling and Control	Mark W. Spong, Seth Hutchinson, M. Vidyasagar	978-1-119-52404-5
Optional	Robotics, Vision and Control: Fundamental Algorithms In MATLAB	Peter Corke	978-3319544120
Optional	Springer Handbook of Robotics	Bruno Siciliano, Oussama Khatib	978-3-540-30301-5
Optional	A Mathematical Introduction to Robotic Manipulation	Richard M. Murray, Zexiang Li, S. Shankar Sastry	978-0849379819
Optional	Introduction to Autonomous Mobile Robots	Roland Siegwart, Illah Reza Nourbakhsh, Davide Scaramuzza	9780262015356
Optional	Control of Robot Manipulators in Joint Space	Rafael Kelly , Victor Santibáñez Davila , Antonio Loria	978-1-85233-999-9
Optional	Introduction to Modeling and Simulation: A Systems Approach	Mark W. Spong	978-1-119-98288-3
Optional	Linear System Theory and Design	Chi-Tsong Chen	9780199964543
Optional	Applied Nonlinear Control	Jean-Jacques Slotine, Weiping Li	978-0130408907

Other Course Materials

ROS tutorials (<https://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Tutorials/>).

Visual Studio Code (<https://code.visualstudio.com/>)

Robotics Toolbox (<https://github.com/petercorke/robotics-toolbox-python/>) for Python

Grading Criteria

- **Final Exam – 25%:** A comprehensive final exam that assesses the overall knowledge of the course.
- **Midterm (2 Key Assignments or Exam) – 30%:** Two key assignments or a midterm exam that together account for 30% of the total grade, with each component (assignment or exam) representing 15% of the overall grade.
- **Project – 40%:** The major project is a cornerstone of the course, accounting for nearly half of the total grade. Students will collaborate in teams of 4 to 5 members to develop a comprehensive project that spans the entire semester. This project is an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained throughout the course in a meaningful and practical way.
- **Participation, Short Assignments, and Attendance – 5%:** This component reflects active class participation, completion of short homework assignments, and consistent attendance.

Teams have the flexibility to choose from a range of project types, including:

- **Research Work:** Conduct in-depth research on a cutting-edge topic in robotics or automation, culminating in a comprehensive report and presentation. This project involves selecting a published research paper relevant to the course's themes. If necessary, students will critically analyze the chosen paper, replicate the study's experiments or simulations, and present their findings. The presentation should not only summarize the paper's conclusions but also discuss its implications, potential improvements, and future directions for research. The professor and the students should choose the paper.
- **Presentation:** Create and deliver a professional-grade presentation on a specialized area of robotics, supported by thorough research and analysis. The students can choose one of the chapters in the Springer Handbook of Robotics and present it in detail with simulations when needed.
- **Robot Design in ROS/Python:** Design, simulate, and test a robotic system using ROS or Python with the Robotics Toolbox, demonstrating proficiency in both the theoretical and practical aspects of robotics.



- **Real Robot Construction:** For those seeking a hands-on challenge, build and program a physical robot, showcasing creativity, engineering skills, and teamwork.

The project fosters collaboration and innovation and allows students to explore areas of personal interest in robotics and automation, preparing them for real-world applications and future professional endeavors.

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

Assignments

The student will be assigned various tasks related to the lectures, which can include readings, research works, exercises, and coding challenges covered in class throughout the course. These assignments are designed to reinforce your understanding of the material and provide hands-on experience in applying theoretical concepts.

In addition to contributing to your overall grade, select assignments may be eligible for extra credit, offering an opportunity to boost your final grade. These extra credit assignments will be evaluated based on their complexity and the level of effort demonstrated, and they can provide valuable additional points at the end of the semester.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/25	Introduction to the Course Introduction to robotics and preliminaries Rigid motions and homogenous transformations	Course overview and objectives Chapter 1 of Spong's book Chapter 1 of Siegwart's book Chapter 2 of Spong's book Chapter 2 of Murray's book Chapter 2 of Corke's book	
9/1	Rigid motions and homogenous transformations	Chapter 2 of Spong's book Chapter 2 of Murray's book Chapter 2 of Corke's book	
9/8	Forward kinematics	Chapter 3 of Spong's book Chapter 1.6 of Handbook of Robotics Chapter 3.2 of Murray's book Chapter 7.1 of Corke's book	
9/15	Forward kinematics	Chapter 3 of Spong's book Chapter 1.6 of Handbook of Robotics Chapter 3.2 of Murray's book Chapter 7.1 of Corke's book	
9/22	Inverse kinematics	Chapter 5 of Spong's book Chapter 1.7 of Handbook Chapter 3.3 of Murray's book Chapters 7.2 and 8.6 of Corke's book	
9/29	Velocity kinematics and jacobians	Chapter 4 of Spong's book Chapter 3.4 of Murray's book Chapter 8 of Corke's book Chapters 1.8 - 1.9 of Handbook	
10/6	Midterm		
10/13	Velocity kinematics and jacobians	Chapter 4 of Spong's book Chapter 3.4 of Murray's book Chapter 8 of Corke's book Chapters 1.8 - 1.9 of Handbook	



10/20	Dynamics	Chapter 6 of Spong's book Chapter 4 of Murray's book Chapter 9 of Corke's book
10/27	Dynamics	Chapter 6 of Spong's book Chapter 4 of Murray's book Chapter 9 of Corke's book
11/3	Robot control and filtering	Chapter 8 of Spong's book Chapter 4 of Murray's book Chen and Slotine books
11/10	Vision-based control Final projects week 1	Chapter 9 of Corke's book Chapter 11 of Spong's book Chapter 15 of Corke's book
11/17	Final projects week 2	Final projects and exercises for preparation of final exams
11/24	Reading Day	No classes Final Examination period
12/1	Last Class Day	

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.tamui.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamui.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.

TAMU 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 TAMU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMU 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 TAMU 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.

TAMU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMU 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 TAMU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMU 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, TAMU 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 TAMU Student Handbook (URL: <http://www.tamiu.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml> (<http://www.tamiu.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml/>)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. If a student would like to file a complaint for discrimination due to his or her pregnant/parenting status, please contact the TAMU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMU's anonymous electronic reporting site: <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/>).

TAMU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodations. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students at the University, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student will need a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMU 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.