



ENGL 4343 - Literature and Common Law: Literature and Common Law-WIN

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 102, CRN 17381

Instructor Information

Adam Kozaczka

Email: adam.kozaczka@tamiu.edu

Office: AIC 360

Office Hours:

T 4:20-6:20PM

R 12:40-2:40PM

Or By Appointment

I respond to emails w/in 48 hours (usually just 24)

Times and Location

TR 2:50pm-4:10pm in Pellegrino Hall 214

Course Description

This course will use methodologies and texts from both literature and law, using literary analysis to read reports of famous cases while also reading novels, plays, poems, and films by paying attention to their legal subject matter. A special emphasis will be laid on literary texts written by legal professionals (novels written by lawyers, for example) and on civil and criminal cases involving writers (areas of law including copyright, privacy, obscenity, etc.). Focus is comparative, on world literary texts especially from common law countries. Prerequisites: ENGL 1301.

Humanities Department, College of Arts & Sciences

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

AI (Artificial Intelligence): the use of AI without professor permission to complete graded assignments will be considered an attempt to cheat and will be reported as an incident involving academic dishonesty. This includes partial use of AI (i.e. if you write the first two pages and use AI to write the last two pages; or if you include paragraphs throughout the paper that are written by AI; or if you use AI and then edit it to look less like AI and more like your own writing). AI use will be treated *exactly like plagiarism* in this course. Note that this does not only apply to final drafts of papers but to any graded assignments connected to the class. Be careful what software you use: certain apps/ programs, like Grammarly, do not bill themselves as AI software but incorporate AI tools, and thus may be detected as such when your professor checks your work. The only situation in which AI use is permissible in this course is if your professor gives you direct permission, such as when doing an activity for which AI is encouraged.

Note that AI use can be helpful when planning an assignment or when studying a reading—this is fine as long as it is not actually writing for you.

Children in the Classroom: For this course, students are prohibited from bringing their children to class unless, of course, those children are themselves enrolled in the course. We may read, watch, and/ or discuss content that might be either inappropriate for or perhaps unpleasant to minors. Moreover, student responses during discussion are not regulated by the instructor and might thus contain content that could be deemed



inappropriate for minors. If you want to bring your child to class, please refrain from doing so, but contact your instructor since some kind of compromise might be reached for the purpose of making the educational experience suitable to your needs.

Preparation: Students must come to class prepared with pen, paper, and textbooks. Some readings, especially in the first unit of the course, are available on Blackboard—when one of these is assigned, students are expected to bring in *****printed***** copies to class. Students should finish reading assignments *before class begins* and be prepared for class discussion (the participation portion of the grade directly reflects this, and quizzes are unannounced).

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Consistent with College of Arts & Science Policy, you will receive a non-negotiable “F” for the assignment if you plagiarize or otherwise cheat and you will be reported to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. Note that cheating on quizzes or exams is also a violation of the university’s academic honesty policies and that self-plagiarism (i.e. submitting the same work in more than one course) is also a violation of these policies. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** self-plagiarism (i.e. submitting the same work for more than one course without the explicit, written permission of the professor to whom you are submitting the work) is considered to be a serious form of plagiarism that will result in an “F” on the assignment just like other forms of plagiarism and may be reported to the honor council.

Attendance: This course adheres to the official attendance policies of COAS (see policies below) with the following additional stipulations: after your third unexcused absence, you will lose one percentage points from your *final grade for the course* per absence. For example, if you have missed seven days of class, your final grade for the course will be decreased by four percentage points. Whereas this may not seem like a big deal early in the semester, at the end it may make the difference between an A and a B, or even a D and an F.

Make-Up Quizzes: I do not allow make-ups for assignments, participation activities, and quizzes missed because of unexcused absences and do not allow quizzes to be made up under any circumstances (there will be enough quizzes in the course that being absent a few times and missing one or two should not have a dramatic effect on your grade, but too many absences may damage your quiz grade because of missed quizzes).

Lateness: this course relies on active participation and the presence of all participants in order to function. Students should be punctual. For every four times a student is marked late, that student will receive one ‘absence.’ A student who is more than 25 minutes late to class will be marked absent for the day. Leaving the class early without a valid excuse will count as an absence.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking Skills: includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: includes effective written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: includes the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. Personal Responsibility: includes the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Locate similarities and differences between legal and literary modes of writing and reasoning.
2. Analyze narrative and narrative-making strategies employed by writers and lawyers alike.
3. Apply legal thinking to literary texts and literary methodologies to legal texts.
4. Compose in-class and out-of-class writing assignments that explore course content while using research methods and standard, academic modes of writing and communication.
5. Engage in experiential learning activities and portray the results of those activities in presentation formats.

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Law at the Movies	Stanley Fish	9780198898740
Required	Billy Budd, Bartlby, and other Stories	Herman Melville	9780143107606



Required	The Law and the Lady	Wilkie Collins	9780140436075
Required	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	9780191579059

Other Course Materials

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

[Any additional course materials can be added here. If there aren't any additional materials, you may REMOVE this section by clicking on the eyeball. **Please don't forget to remove these instructions.**]

Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	90-100
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Criminal Responsibility Essay	15%
Final Essay (Research Paper)	20%
Experiential Learning Project 1 (Trials)	5%
Experiential Learning Project 2 (Films)	5%

Unit Calendar

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Tue	8/26	First Day of Class Introduction to Syllabus and Material Personal Introductions	William Blackstone, Edmund Burke, & Alfred, Lord Tennyson (Packet on Blackboard)	
Thu	8/28	Law & Literature I	Alexander Welsh, from Strong Representations & H. Porter Abbot, "Narrative Contestation" (Blackboard)	
Tue	9/2	Murder vs. Manslaughter Start of Unit 1	Walter Scott, "The Two Drovers" (Blackboard) William Blackstone on Homicide	
Thu	9/4	Establishing the Narrative	Herman Melville, Billy Budd (291-322)	
Tue	9/9	Reading a Verdict	Herman Melville, Billy Budd (322-385)	
Thu	9/11	Law & Literature II	Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart" and Daniel Webster, "Argument on the Trial" (Blackboard)	
Tue	9/16	Crime & Punishment	Jeremy Bentham, from "Panopticon" & Michel Foucault, from Discipline & Punish (Blackboard)	



Thu	9/18	Special Contexts: the Insanity Plea & Trial by Ashford v. Thornton & House of Lords Battle	Deliberation on M'Naghten Case (Blackboard)	
Tue	9/23	The Seduction Plot Start of Unit II	Charles Phillips, from Speeches (Blackboard) & Watch Pride and Prejudice (Blackboard) Optional: Read Pride & Prejudice	
Thu	9/25	Social Satire	Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray (5-53)	
Tue	9/30	Obscenity and Reputation	Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray (53-147)	
Thu	10/2	The Right to Privacy	Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray (147-185) & Samuel D. Warren & Louis D. Brandeis, "The Right to Privacy" (Blackboard)	
Tue	10/7	Libel and Literature on Trial	All Three Trials of Oscar Wilde (Blackboard)	
Thu	10/9	Midterm Exam		Prepare for Midterm
Tue	10/14	Courtroom Dramas I	Watch North Country (Blackboard) and Read Stanley Fish, Law at the Movies (Chapter 10)	
Thu	10/16	Courtroom Dramas II	Watch Disclosure and The Accused (Blackboard)	Friday: Criminal Responsibility Essay Due
Tue	10/21	Narratology & Evidence Start of Unit III	Arthur Conan Doyle, "Silver Blaze" (Blackboard) & Peter Brooks, "Inevitable Discovery" (Blackboard)	
Thu	10/23	The Paradox of Blackmail	Arthur Conan Doyle, "Charles Augustus Milverton" & Simon Stern, "Sherlock Holmes and the Paradox of Blackmail."	
Tue	10/28	The Female Detective	Wilkie Collins, The Law and the Lady (11-88)	
Thu	10/30	The Trial as Literature	Wilkie Collins, The Law and the Lady (89-171)	Annotating Trials Project Due
Tue	11/4	Emotion as Evidence	Wilkie Collins, The Law and the Lady (171-281)	
Thu	11/6	Reading for the Ending	Wilkie Collins, The Law and the Lady (281-383)	
Tue	11/11	Film Studies Introduction Start of Unit IV	Stanley Fish, Law at the Movies (Introduction) & Basic Description of Film Elements (Blackboard)	
Thu	11/13	Courtroom Dramas III	Stanley Fish, Law at the Movies (Chapter 4) and Watch Witness for the Prosecution and Beyond Reasonable Doubt (Blackboard)	
Tue	11/18	Courtroom Dramas IV	Stanley Fish, Law at the Movies (Chapter 9) and Watch Anatomy of a Murder (Blackboard)	LEARN Expo on Monday, Nov. 17th
Thu	11/20	The Continental Contrast	Watch Anatomy of a Fall (Blackboard)	
Tue	11/25	Film Analysis	Experiential Learning Film Workshop	
Thu	11/27	No Class		
Tue	12/2	Last Day of Class	Final Exam Review Brief Experiential Learning Presentations	Law in Film Project Due
Thu	12/4			Final Essay Due
Tue	12/9	Final Exam	2:50PM-5:50PM	



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.