



PSYC 4310 - Psychology of Human Sexuality

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 180, CRN 16920

Instructor Information

Ray Garza, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychology

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Office: AIC 386

Office Hours:

MWF: 8:00AM - 9:30AM; 10:40AM - 1:00PM

TR: 8:00AM - 1:00PM.

Office Phone: 956-326-2638

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

Covers psychological issues in human sexuality including genetic, hormonal, cognitive, and cultural determinants. The causes and treatment of sexual dysfunctions, sexual deviations, sexual life style variations, and gender identity will also be explored. May be taken for graduate credit.

Psychology & Communication Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the male and female sexual anatomy and their important functions.
 2. Understand how psychologists approach research questions about human sexuality.
 3. Be familiar with applications of research findings and theory within the study of human sexuality
 4. Be able to access and understand psychological journal articles in human sexuality
 5. Apply theoretical and research approaches to scientific questions in studying sexuality.
 6. Communicate research questions, hypothesis, and findings about issues in human sexuality.
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Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Psychology of Human Sexuality	Lehmiller	9781119883975



Other Course Materials

Grading Criteria

Exams: Exams will consist of multiple-choice and essay questions. You will be given the entire class day to access the exam, and once you begin you will have 1 hour to complete (Final Exam: 2 hours). Exams will be administered online on Blackboard using the lockdown respondus and webcam monitor system. Follow the link to access and install the required software: <https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml> (<https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml/>) It is important that students download the required software and pay for the respondus monitor fee before taking an exam. You are only allowed to make up an exam within one-day of the exam date and incur a 5-point penalty. All exams must be completed by 11:59pm.

Exams: 90pts (3 @ 30pts); Final Exam: 50pts

Class Discussions: Class discussions are an important component of any online course. This will be a forum in which students will reply to a post/question, and in doing so facilitate class dialogue with other peers. All students are required to participate in class discussions. Responses to discussions must be original and demonstrate adequate knowledge and application of the material read. Short replies that do not have substance (i.e., exactly, I agree, interesting post, etc...) will be given a grade of zero. You are required to respond to at least 2 peers in your discussions. There will be one due date for your initial post, and then there will be a separate due date for peer replies. The discussion post will be graded on a 10-point scale, while discussion replies will be graded on a 5-point scale. There will be an automatic 5-point deduction for any late discussion posts. Discussion forums will be closed by the due date for discussion replies and will not be reopened.

*****AI Policy:** Under no circumstances are you allowed to generate discussion posts using AI software. All discussions will be screened for AI usage. Any violation of this policy will result in an automatic zero, and students will be reported for academic misconduct.***

Discussions: 60pts (4 @ 15pts)

Quizzes: There will be ten quizzes throughout the session covering concepts important in human sexuality. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions, and some questions will be helpful in preparation for exams. Due dates are provided in the course schedule, and quizzes for each section can be due ahead of time. All quizzes will be due by 11:59pm.

Quizzes: 50pts (10 @ 5pts)

Extra Credit: Students can choose to participate in extra credit by participating in studies being conducted in the university that are related to psychology. For studies using the SONA system, you may sign up to participate in a study by using the following link: <https://tamui.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/>. If you do not have a SONA account, please request one. Throughout the semester, I do provide plenty of opportunities to earn extra points, so please be attentive to announcements that I post regarding extra credit. All extra credit must be submitted on the Extra Credit Dropbox. Each extra credit opportunity is worth 2 points, and you may earn up to 10 points in the semester.

Grading Criteria

GRADE	POINTS
A	225-250
B	200-224
C	175-199
D	150-174
F	< 150

Grading Summary

Grading Summary	VALUE
Exams (3)	90 pts
Final Exam	50 pts
Discussions (4)	60 pts
Quizzes (10)	50 pts
Total	250 pts



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/25	Unit 1: Theoretical Perspectives, Research in Sexuality, Sexual Anatomy, and Sexual Response	Readings: Ch 1-2 Watch lecture videos: 1-2	Nothing due first week of class.
9/1	Unit 1: Continued	Readings: Ch 1-2 Watch lecture videos: 1-2	9/5: Quizzes 1 & 2 due
9/8	Unit 1: Continued	Readings: Ch 3-4 Watch lecture videos: 3-4	9/8: Discussion 1 Post due 9/12: Discussion 1 replies due 9/12: Quiz 3 due
9/15	Unit 1: Continued	Review for Exam 1	9/19: Exam 1 due
9/22	Unit 2: Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, Attraction, Intimacy, and Sexual Behaviors	Readings: Ch 5 Watch lecture video 5	
9/29	Unit 2: Continued	Readings: Ch 5 Watch lecture video 5	10/3: Quiz 4 due
10/6	Unit 2: Continued	Readings: Ch 6-7 Watch lecture videos: 6-7	10/10: Quiz 5 due
10/13	Unit 2 Continued	Readings: Ch 8-9 Watch lecture videos: 8-9	10/13: Discussion 2 post 10/17: Discussion 2 replies due 10/17: Quiz 6 due
10/20	Unit 2: Continued	Review for Exam 2	10/24: Exam 2 due
10/27	Unit 3: Sexual Development and Education	Readings: Ch 10-11 Watch lecture videos: 10-11	10/31: Quiz 7 due
11/3	Unit 3: Continued	Readings: Ch 12 Watch lecture video: 12	11/7: Quiz 8
11/10	Unit 3: Continued	Readings: Ch 13 Watch lecture video 13	11/10: Discussion 3 due 11/14: Discussion 3 replies due 11/14: Quiz 9 due
11/17	Unit 3: Continued	Review for Exam 3	11/21: Exam 3 due
11/24	Unit 4: Variations in Sexual Behavior	Readings: Ch 14 Watch lecture video 14	11/25: Discussion 4 due 11/26-11/28: Thanksgiving Break!
12/1	Unit 4: Continued	Review for Final Exam	12/1: Quiz 10 due 12/2: Discussion 4 replies due 12/2: Last class day: All extra credit due via online dropbox 12/5: Final Exam due

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 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

Course Structure:

The course is entirely online through Blackboard. It is very important that you have a reliable and stable internet connection. Unless there is a blackout, I will not accept losing connectivity as an excuse for not submitting work. Success in this course is based on completing the assigned readings, video lectures, quizzes, and exams. PowerPoint lecture guides will be uploaded and can be used as outlines or notes for studying. The course will be divided into four (4) units that include PowerPoint lectures, quizzes, and exams. You must complete all tasks by the due date specified in the course schedule. There is no exception to this. However, since I will upload all assignments at the beginning of the unit date, you can complete everything in the unit ahead of time if you choose to, except for the exam, which will be posted at the date specified.

Class Expectations:

During the first week of class, become familiar with the Blackboard format. All communication will be conducted in Blackboard through announcements and email. **Students are expected to follow the syllabus as scheduled, as there will be no makeups for quizzes or discussions.** Always check blackboard for any events or updates that are being done to the system. Usually, when there is blackboard maintenance, it is conducted on a Friday and lasts through the weekend. It is your responsibility to know when these are being conducted, as I will not accept blackboard maintenance as an excuse for missing assignments. If there is a change in the course schedule, you will be notified under announcements.

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

It is preferable that all students communicate with me in a timely manner. This should be done through blackboard messaging, or if you want a quicker response, email me at ray.garza@tamiu.edu.

Assignments and Assessments

All assignments, quizzes, discussions, and exams are graded quickly. It is expected that all students are familiar with the grading breakdown for this course to understand their overall standing.



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.tamui.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 required**

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: a computer or laptop with a webcam. 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, 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.

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 TAMUI'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 elarning@tamui.edu.

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

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**.

Rubrics (Discussions only)

Class discussions are an important component of any online course. This will be a forum in which students will reply to a post/question, and in doing so facilitate class dialogue with other peers. All students are required to participate in class discussions. Responses to discussions must be original and demonstrate adequate knowledge and application of the material read. Short replies that do not have substance (e.g., exactly, I agree, interesting post, etc...) will be given a grade of zero. You are required to respond to at least 2 peers in your discussions. There will be one due date for your initial post (Wednesday, see course schedule), and then there will be a separate due date for peer replies (Friday, see course schedule). The discussion post will be graded on a 10-point scale, while discussion replies will be graded on a 5-point scale.



Late Work Policy

For this course, quizzes and discussions cannot be made up, as you are provided a sufficient time to complete them beforehand. Exams can be made up within 1 day of the scheduled exam date and incur a 5-point penalty. Students must have an appropriate documented excuse in order to complete late work.

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.

Proctoring

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor for online quizzes and exams. Follow the link to access and install the required software: <https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml> (<https://www.tamui.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml>)

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

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.