

## SPAN 2350 - Intro to the Hispanic World

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 780, CRN 17601

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### Instructor Information

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Email: mariac.sepulveda@tamu.edu

Office: Online

Office Hours:

Wednesdays 4-6 PM, and,

By appointment.

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### Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

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### Course Description

This is an introductory course for students interested in understanding Hispanic culture from general concepts of culture to different art expressions. How does a major geographical area come to be defined as Hispanic? What diverse elements merge together to form an identity? The course will focus on four fundamental elements: FAMILY (organization of the household, gender roles and personal interrelations); ETHNIC DIVERSITY (contributions to culture according to ethnicity); BELIEF SYSTEMS (religions, supernatural and superstitions –including holidays and practices); and ENTERTAINMENT (sports, telenovelas, secular celebrations). Literature, radio, film, music, painting and other art expressions will be used during classes.

Humanities Department, College of Arts & Sciences

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### Additional Course Information

**This course will be conducted entirely in Spanish**

#### AI Usage Policy

##### 1. Permitted Use of AI Tools

Students may use AI tools like Grammarly to review and improve their own writing, such as grammar and style checks.

##### 2. Prohibited Use of AI Tools

Students are **not allowed** to use AI content generators (e.g., ChatGPT, AI essay writers, image generators) to produce or generate original course work, assignments, or content.

##### 3. Citation and Transparency

If students use any AI assistance (such as grammar correction tools), they must explicitly cite this in their submission. For example:

*"This assignment was reviewed with Grammarly for grammar and style."*

##### 4. Disclosure of AI Prompts

If AI tools were used beyond basic proofreading, students must provide the exact prompts or queries submitted to the AI, along with the AI's output, to ensure transparency.

##### 5. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Using AI-generated content without proper citation or representing AI-generated work as your own constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Such cases will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the course's academic integrity guidelines.



## Student Learning Outcomes

### Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and critically reflect on historical narratives and myths related to the Conquest of Mexico.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking through well-organized, evidence-based essays.
3. Engage actively in online discussions, articulating perspectives and responding thoughtfully to peers.
4. Identify and describe the geography, history, culture, and key locations of Hispanic countries.
5. Investigate and compare traditional and contemporary expressions of Hispanic art, folklore, and sports.
6. Discuss the influence of religion and spirituality on Hispanic societies.
7. Examine family life, community traditions, and celebrations within the Hispanic world.
8. Research and present contributions of notable Hispanic individuals to global culture and history.

## Important Dates

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

## Grading Criteria

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

## Open Boilerplate

ACTIVIDADES CULTURALES	30%
ENSAYOS	30%
MESAS REDONDAS	30%
PROYECTO FINAL	10%

## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
10/20	Módulo 1: El mundo hispano, sus raíces y la identidad cultural. Mesa Redonda 1. Mitos Ensayo 1: Mitos Actividad cultural 1. Perú		
10/27	Módulo 2. La familia, la comunidad y las celebraciones. Mesa Redonda 2. La familia. Ensayo 2. La familia. Actividad cultural 2. Costa Rica.		

11/3	Módulo 3. Hispanos destacados. Aportaciones.. Mesa Redonda 3. Hispanos destacados. Ensayo 3. Hispanos destacados. Actividad cultural 3. Estados Unidos y la diáspora.
11/10	Módulo 4. Religión, creencias y tradiciones. Mesa Redonda 4. Religión. Ensayo 4. Religión. Actividad cultural 4. México.
11/17	Módulo 5. Arte, música y expresión cultural. Mesa Redonda 5. Arte. Ensayo 5. Arte. Actividad cultural 5. España.
11/24	Módulo 6. Deportes, medios y entretenimiento. Mesa Redonda 6. Deportes y entretenimiento. Ensayo 6. Deportes y entretenimiento. Actividad cultural 6. Argentina.
12/1	Módulo 7. Galería de países hispanos.. Proyecto Final.

## Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes

## University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

### COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

### Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.



## Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

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

## TAMIU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMIU student, you are bound by the TAMIU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMIU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (<https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

**Plagiarism:** Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
  - **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
  - **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional



penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."

- **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain in 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](http://tamiu.edu) or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (<https://www.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 Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

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

## Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: Student Handbook (<https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml>))).

## Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary.



It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamu.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU Student Handbook. As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissaM.cortez@tamu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

## Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt (<https://www.tamu.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

### Online Course

- This course is fully online and asynchronous.

### Course Structure

#### How to Navigate and Succeed in This Course

This course is conducted in Spanish, although there may be some articles and/or materials in English.

Both the readings and videos will generally be in Spanish, and it is also expected that assignments, activities, and participation will be carried out in this language.

If you think you might have any difficulty with this, please contact me as soon as possible so we can see how to support you. I'm here to help you.

This course is organized into **7 weekly modules**, each focused on a specific topic related to the Hispanic world. Every module contains **three required activities** designed to help you develop critical thinking, cultural awareness, and collaborative learning. Here's how you should approach the course each week:

#### Weekly Structure and Activities

Each week, you will complete the following:

##### 1. Mesa Redonda (Discussion Board):

- You will explore a topic through a video, reading, or both.
- Your task is to write an original post reflecting on the material, demonstrating analysis and thoughtful engagement.
- Then, you will read the posts of **two classmates** and reply with respectful, conscious, and reflective comments to encourage further dialogue.
- Your participation in these discussions is essential and part of maintaining **Regular and Substantial Interaction**, as required by Texas educational standards. I will provide feedback and comments on your posts.

##### 2. Essay:

- Each module requires a short essay where you will analyze the weekly topic and show your understanding through critical thinking and reflection.
- Essay prompts and guidelines are included in each module.

##### 3. Cultural Activity:



- You will engage with a cultural aspect of a specific Hispanic country (e.g., music, festivals, cuisine, traditions).
- Activities may include watching videos, researching online, or analyzing cultural content.
- Instructions for each activity are clearly outlined in the module.

All activities have **clearly marked due dates** within each module. **Late work is not accepted**, so please plan ahead to stay on track.

### Final Project

- The **Final Project** is a **group presentation** on a Hispanic country.
- By **Week 3**, I will assign groups of **4–5 students** so you can begin planning and organizing your work.
- The final presentation will demonstrate your group's understanding of the country's culture, history, and current context.

### Course Materials

Throughout the course, you will engage with a variety of materials, including:

- Online videos and YouTube content
- Academic articles and book chapters (all accessible via the internet)
- Guided discussion prompts and essay instructions

All materials and assignments can be found in the course modules. Please make it a habit to log in regularly, review all posted content at the start of each week, and follow the instructions provided in each task.

### Communication

If you have questions or need assistance, you may contact me through **Blackboard messages** or by **email**. I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible. However, please allow up to **36 hours during weekdays** and up to **48 hours on weekends and holidays** for a reply. Planning ahead and reaching out early will help ensure that you get the support you need in a timely manner.

### Turnaround Time and Feedback

You will receive timely feedback on your work to support your learning and help you improve throughout the course. Below are the expected turnaround times and methods of feedback for each type of assignment:

- **Mesa Redonda (Discussion Board):**
  - I will read all initial posts and replies.
  - Feedback will be provided **within 5 days** after the due date.
  - You may receive comments directly in the discussion thread or as a private message to help meet the **Regular and Substantial Interaction** requirement.
- **Essays:**
  - Essays will be graded and returned with feedback **within 7 days** of the submission deadline.
  - Feedback will be provided through Blackboard using comments and/or a rubric.
- **Cultural Activities:**
  - These will be graded **within 5 days** of the due date.
  - Feedback may include brief comments or rubric scores depending on the nature of the activity.
- **Final Group Project:**
  - Group presentations will be evaluated **within 7 days after submission**.
  - Feedback will include both group-level and individual comments when applicable.



Please review all feedback carefully, as it is intended to help you improve and succeed in future assignments.

## Student–Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

### Announcements

Course announcements will be posted regularly to keep you informed of important updates, reminders, or changes related to the course. Please check the **Announcements section in Blackboard** daily to stay up to date.

### Course Messages and Emails

You are encouraged to contact me through the **Blackboard messaging system** or via **email** for any questions or concerns related to the course.

- I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.
- Please allow up to **36 hours during weekdays (Monday–Friday)** for a response.
- Messages sent on **weekends or holidays** may take up to **48 hours**.

When reaching out, please include your **full name** and **course name or section** to help me respond efficiently.

### Office Hours

My regular **office hours are on Wednesdays from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM (via Microsoft Teams)**. If you would like to meet during this time, please send me a message in advance to let me know you'll be attending.

If you are unavailable during the scheduled time, you may also request a **meeting by appointment**, and I will do my best to accommodate your schedule.

## 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.tamu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml>) for further instruction.

## Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

## Student Support Resources

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

## Computer/Technology Requirements

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

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

### Additional Hardware.

Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have this equipment, it is recommended to purchase a stand-alone webcam, a microphone, or a webcam with a built-in microphone from your local electronic store or an 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 visit Killam Library, Room 259, and request an available one.

**Additional Software. You will not need additional software:** TAMIU Students may access online versions of software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamu.edu/>. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. **See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite.**



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

## Learning Management System (Blackboard)

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

Detailed rubrics outlining the grading criteria for assignments, discussions, and other assessments will be provided within the course platform. Please review the rubric associated with each task before submitting your work, as it will guide both your performance and how your work will be evaluated.

## Late Work Policy

**Late assignments will not be accepted**, except in very well-justified and documented cases.

If you have any personal or technical issues that might affect your submissions, please contact me before the deadline.

## Course Evaluation

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

## Turnitin Policy

Written assignments for this course must be submitted through Turnitin. This tool is used to check for originality and ensure academic integrity. Submissions will be reviewed for potential plagiarism by comparing them to a database of academic sources, websites, and student papers.

By submitting your work, you agree that it may be stored in the Turnitin database. Any suspected academic dishonesty will be addressed according to institutional policies.

## Proctoring

Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor may be used.

## 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**.