



COMM 2324 - Practicum in Electronic Media

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 101, CRN 19482

Instructor Information

Stephanie Mancha

Email: stephanie.mancha@tamiu.edu

Office Hours:

By appointment only, email me to set up an appointment

Times and Location

TR 4:25pm-5:45pm in Billy F Cowart Hall 112

Course Description

A studio course for understanding and using communication media technologies. Students will clarify communicative purposes, use appropriate software, as well as plan, produce, edit, and critique compositions. Classes may stress one or more genres, formats, or themes. May be repeated when topic changes with departmental approval.

Psychology & Communication Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

Course Structure: This **hands-on electronic media production course** focuses on understanding, creating, editing, and critiquing digital media. The course will generally follow a **lecture-and-application format**. Tuesdays will primarily focus on lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and introductions to new concepts and production techniques. Thursdays will generally provide opportunities for students to apply these concepts through in-class exercises, production activities, editing practice, critiques, and project work.

Because this is a practicum course, students should expect to complete work both **in and outside of class**. Students are responsible for managing their time, meeting production deadlines, maintaining project files, and coming prepared to participate in production and editing activities.

Participation & Attendance: Because this is a hands-on media production course that requires work both in and outside of class, regular attendance and participation are essential. Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time, participate in class discussions, exercises, critiques, and production activities. When working on group projects, each student is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the planning, production, and post-production process. If problems arise regarding group participation or unequal contribution, students should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible rather than waiting until the project is due.

Late Work Policy: Exercises and projects will generally be due during the class period indicated on the course schedule. Because many assignments involve demonstrations, critiques, screenings, or group production, students should be prepared to submit or present their work during the scheduled class period. If an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from completing an assignment on time, communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. Do not wait until after the deadline to explain the situation.

Late work will not be accepted unless the student has an acceptable excuse or has made arrangements with the instructor in accordance with the Required Class Attendance policy.

Blackboard: Blackboard will be used as the primary platform for course materials, announcements, assignment instructions, and course communication. You are responsible for checking for updates and viewing all posted material. Please have your email and Blackboard on your personal devices.



File Submission Guidelines: All video projects should be exported as an **MP4 file** unless otherwise instructed.

Video files should be named using the following format:

Last Name(s)_Project Title_Date

Technology and Equipment: Adobe Premiere Pro will be the primary video-editing software used in this course. Cameras and microphones may be available for checkout through the KLRN Studio, depending on availability. Students may also use their own cameras, smartphones, microphones, or other approved recording equipment.

Important: Students should maintain organized copies of their project files and media throughout the semester.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy: The use of AI tools in this course is permitted for specific, limited purposes that support your learning and writing process, but **all written work must be your own**. You are allowed to use tools like Grammarly, Microsoft Editor, or similar grammar and spell-check software to identify and correct mechanical errors in your writing. You may also use AI tools for preliminary brainstorming, generating topic ideas, or organizing your initial thoughts about an assignment. However, you are strictly prohibited from using AI to complete entire assignments, write substantial portions of your required work, or generate content that you submit as your own. AI tools cannot replace your critical thinking, personal analysis, or individual voice in analytical papers—these are essential components of your learning in this course.

Specifically, AI may NOT be used for:

- Completing entire assignments or having AI write paragraphs, sections, or drafts that you submit as your own work
- Taking exams, quizzes, or discussion posts without explicit instructor permission
- Replacing critical thinking, original analysis, or personal reflection in your papers
- Generating content for your final research paper beyond the brainstorming stage

***Note: The schedule and assignments are subject to change at the professor's discretion.**

Important Dates:

First Class Day: Tuesday, Aug. 25

Last Day to Drop Without Record (Census Day): Friday, Sept. 4

Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday, Nov. 26 — **No Class**

Last Day to Drop a Course or Withdraw from the University: Thursday, Nov. 19

Last Class Day: Tuesday, Dec. 1

Final Exam (Final Project Screening): Thursday, Dec. 3 at 4:25 PM

Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1. Students will develop critical thinking skills to evaluate theories and approaches to selected media and communication problems.

PLO 2. Students will effectively communicate oral, written, and audiovisual messages addressing communication-related issues and/or problems.

PLO 3. Students will apply communication knowledge and skills in professional settings to improve communication processes and outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1. Students will be able to examine everyday media texts using foundational communication concepts (e.g., purpose, audience, context, representation, authenticity) to evaluate how meaning is constructed and interpreted.

SLO 2. Students will be able to discuss communicative purposes and actions, demonstrating awareness of how media choices influence interpretation and audience understanding.

SLO 3. Students will be able to evaluate ethical considerations related to representation, authenticity, and responsibility in everyday media and apply these considerations to planning and critique of media compositions.



SLO 4. Students will be able to participate in individual, paired, and group discussions and critiques by contributing thoughtful insights, asking critical questions, and responding constructively to peers' ideas and media work.

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
Optional			

Grading Criteria

Assignment Descriptions

Attendance & Participation – 5%: Because this is a hands-on practicum course, regular attendance and active participation are essential. Students are expected to participate in discussions, exercises, critiques, production activities, and group work, and to contribute equally to collaborative projects.

Exercises – 10%: Throughout the semester, students will complete short in-class and out-of-class exercises designed to practice electronic media production techniques. Exercises may focus on composition, framing, lighting, audio, camera movement, visual storytelling, and other skills covered in class. These assignments are intended as opportunities to practice and receive feedback before completing larger projects.

Adobe Premiere Pro Practice – 10%: Students will complete an editing exercise using Adobe Premiere Pro after receiving instructor-led instruction and independent practice. Students will demonstrate their ability to organize media, edit clips, work with audio, create a basic sequence, and export a finished video.

Production Techniques Project – 20%: Students will work in groups to create a short **15–30 second video** using provided footage and/or materials. The project will require students to demonstrate specific composition, framing, lighting, audio, camera, and editing techniques covered in class. The primary focus of this project is the student's ability to intentionally apply production techniques.

Scripts – 15%: Students will develop a script for their Issue-Based Video Final Project. The script should clearly communicate the video's purpose, message, and intended content, and provide a plan for dialogue, narration, interviews, or other audio elements.

Storyboard, Shot List & Production Planning – 15%

Students will develop the pre-production materials necessary to plan their Issue-Based Video Final Project. This includes a storyboard, shot list, and production plan that identify key shots, locations, subjects, audio needs, equipment/resources, and other details needed for a successful production.

Final Issue-Based Video Project – 25%: Students will work in groups to create a video addressing an approved social, community, or other relevant issue. The final project grade includes **production dailies/check-ins (10%)**, **a rough cut (20%)**, and **the final video (70%)**. Students are expected to demonstrate consistent progress throughout the production and editing process and incorporate feedback received during production.

Attendance & Participation – 5%

Exercises – 10%

Adobe Premiere Pro Practice – 10%

Production Techniques Video Project – 20%

Scripts – 15%

Storyboards, Shot List & Production Planning – 15%

Issue-Based Video Final Project – 25%

Total – 100%

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100



B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Tue	8/25	Course Introduction & What Is Electronic Media Today?		
Thu	8/27	Digital Storytelling, Audience, Platforms & Purpose Production Process Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production: Concepts, treatments, scripts & production planning		
Tue	9/1	Composition & Framing		
Thu	9/3	Composition & Framing In-class activity & Critique		Activity due at the end of class
Tue	9/8	Audio & Lighting		
Thu	9/10	Audio & Lighting In-class activity & Critique		Activity due at the end of class
Tue	9/15	Visual Storytelling & Camera Movement		
Thu	9/17	Visual Storytelling & Camera Movement In-class activity & Critique		Activity due at the end of class
Tue	9/22	Adobe Premiere Pro: Instructor-Led Let me know if you will need to check out equipment		
Thu	9/24	Adobe Premiere Pro: Independent Practices Let me know if you will need to check out equipment		
Tue	9/29	Finalize Premiere Pro Independent Practices Project 1 Production Techniques Video Assigned/Workshop Check out Camera Equipment if needed		
Thu	10/1	Equipment Overview and Tutorial Check out Camera Equipment if needed		
Tue	10/6	Project 1 Production & Editing		
Thu	10/8	Project 1 Production & Editing		
Tue	10/13	Project 1 Showing In Class		Project 1 Due In Class & Critiques
Thu	10/15	Final Project Workshop: Social Issue Topic Selection Final Project Enters Pre-production		
Tue	10/20	Final Project Workshop: Finalize Topic and start writing script, doing shot list & storyboards Final Project Pre-production		
Thu	10/22	Final Project Pitch Presentations		Final Project Pitch/Treatment Due In Class
Tue	10/27	Final Project Scripts, Storyboards, & Shot Lists Workshop		
Thu	10/29	Final Project Enters Production Meet in class to submit scripts, storyboards, and shot lists		Final Project Scripts, Storyboards & Shot Lists Due
Tue	11/3	Final Project in Production		
Thu	11/5	Final Project in Production		



Tue	11/10	Final Project in Production - Meet in class for check-in	Show Dailies in class & Critique
Thu	11/12	Final Project in Production	
Tue	11/17	Final Project Enters Post-Production; start editing Final Project in Production - Meet in class for check-in	Show Dailies in class & Critique
Thu	11/19	Final Project in Post-production; focus on editing	
Tue	11/24	Continue with editing; Final Project Post-production Meet in class to for Rough Cut Check-in	Show Rough Cut in class
Thu	11/26	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday
Tue	12/1	Final Project Post-production - Final Touches	
Thu	12/3	FINAL EXAM – Final Project Final Cut complete	FINAL EXAM – Final Project Final Cut complete

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.tamtu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

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 Student Handbook (<https://www.tamui.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.

TAMU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
 - **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
 - **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
 - **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMU Honor Council of their intent

to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMU E-mail (tamui.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (<https://www.tamui.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@tamui.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, TAMU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMU Student Handbook (URL: [Student Handbook \(URL: Student Handbook \(https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)\)](https://www.tamui.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 TAMU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamui.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamui.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamui.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

TAMU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments.

The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.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@tamiu.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@tamiu.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@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt (<https://www.tamiu.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.