



# ENGL 1302 - English Composition II

## Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 182, CRN 19155

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### Instructor Information

#### Melody Carriere, PhD

Instructional Associate Professor

Email: melody.carriere@tamiu.edu

Office: AIC 318

Office Hours:

MW 9:30-10:30

F 9:30-10:30 online

by appt.

Office Phone: 2661

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### Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

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### Course Description

This course serves as the second-semester introduction to college writing, one that emphasizes research and discourse communities. It teaches argumentative and rhetorical skills intended to aid students in explaining positions and persuading others, skills that are intended to serve students in their college writing and professional and personal lives. Students will complete projects ranging from analysis of others' writing choices to creating their own written products that take into account rigorous research and multiple perspectives. This course emphasizes writing as an intellectual, social process, one that requires students to write multiple drafts, to understand their audience, to consider and reflect upon their purposes for writing, and to engage in collaboration with peers. Prerequisite: ENGL 1301.

Humanities Department, College of Arts & Sciences

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### Additional Course Information

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##### Coursework Description

The theme of this course is "Portrait of a Community," the objective of which is to engage students in the humanistic study of communities and the people and issues that define them.

This course also serves as the gateway to the Humanities certificate. To learn more about the certificate and the ways in which it can enhance students' intellectual and professional skill sets, please visit <https://catalog.tamiu.edu/undergraduate-information/undergraduate-certificates/humanities-certificate/>.

##### Artificial Intelligence Policy

This class has a zero tolerance policy for AI. Unless students are otherwise directed by the instructor, all coursework submitted should be students' original work (i.e., written by the individual whose name is placed at the top of the submission), produced without the aid of artificial intelligence. This includes Grammarly, ChatGPT, and other online resources that either produce text or make substantial changes to text that students have written. Use of such technologies will be treated as cheating and penalties will be applied in accordance with the TAMIU policies listed below.



### Email Policy

It is best to contact the instructor through email [melody.carriere@tamiu.edu](mailto:melody.carriere@tamiu.edu). The instructor typically responds within 24 hours (with the exception of weekends). When emailing the instructor, please make sure to use proper spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization. Use a formal form of address. Start the email with "Dear Dr. Last Name," and finish the email with, "Sincerely, Student Name" or "Best, Student Name." Write in full sentences with clear and correct grammar. Please include the course number in all emails. **Please email me directly rather than use Blackboard messenger.**

### Late Work Policy

I do not accept any late work for any item other than final essays (not drafts). Essays will be penalized by 10 points per day late. After four days the grade will be zero. Any exceptions to this rule would require documentation such as illness, hospitalization, or jury duty. Work conflicts and work responsibilities do not qualify as a legitimate reason for an extension. If a student has a university sponsored absence, then it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor beforehand and make arrangements to submit the work early.

### Assignment Format:

All assignments must be formatted in MLA style and composed inside of Google Docs. In addition to submitting each assignment as a document in Blackboard, you must also include a link to your document. This link should be shared in the comments section where the person with the link is an "editor" of the document. Failure to submit a link may result in a zero on the assignment.

### Photographs & Video & Voice Recorders

Unless permitted by the instructor in accordance with an accommodations agreement, students will not be allowed to take photos of projected materials or capture video or voice recordings of class lectures or conferences. Students will be expected to take their own notes on information and instructions relayed by the instructor in class meetings using their own digital devices or analogue materials. Students who arrive to class unprepared to take notes will not be given the instructor's own materials as a replacement memory aid.

## Program Learning Outcomes

### Program Learning Outcomes

As one class in the First-Year Writing Program, students' successful completion of this course will contribute to their overall ability to:

- Critically analyze and evaluate the audience, purpose, and genre of a writing situation or written piece.
- Recognize and apply the writing elements of format, structure, and grammar in a written piece.
- Demonstrate an effective writing process that includes drafting, revising, editing, and respectful and ethical collaboration.
- Apply reflective writing practices across different writing tasks and genres.
- Develop writing-related technological skills that allow them to locate, engage, and evaluate writing activities and artifacts in various genres and across media formats.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following relative to the First-Year Writing Program's Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- Respond appropriately to the needs of various audiences and writing situations through the use of various genres, context, and content. (PLO 1)
- Recognize, critique, and defend the rhetorical choices in writing situations. (PLO 1)
- Apply conventions of Standard American Academic English including word choice, formality, grammar and mechanics, MLA formatting, and essay format. (PLO 2)
- Effectively apply a process of writing from invention, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading. (PLO 3)
- Ethically collaborate in the writing process with peers through peer-review, constructive self-critique, and teamwork. (PLO 3)
- Compose written work that reflects on the writing process, articulates how writing skills transfer across contexts, and identifies the writer's strengths and weaknesses. (PLO 4)
- Engage a variety of technologies in order to locate sources and write across various media for specific audiences and purposes. (PLO 5)

## 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.



## Textbooks

| Group    | Title                | Author   | ISBN              |
|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Required | Everyone's an Author | Lunsford | 978-1-324-04513-7 |

## Other Course Materials

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

Additional materials will be available on Blackboard as PDFs, links, or equivalent

## Grading Criteria

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

## Open Boilerplate

### Grade Breakdown:

**Participation and Discussions 10%** - your virtual participation is critical to your success in this class. You will be contributing to discussion often. Please review the AI policy - this policy applies to all written work in this class, including the discussions.

**Peer Review - 10%** - You will have three main essays in this course and you will be required to read and provide feedback to a classmate's essay. There will be a peer review worksheet that you fill out. This is an important assignment because failure to do the worksheet will not only result in a zero on the assignment, but it also denies your peers of this important evaluation.

**Quizzes 10%** You will be given quizzes on the book chapters. These quizzes will be taken online and are through Blackboard.

**Drafts 10%** You will be required to complete a rough draft of every paper that you submit. Your drafts should still be an attempt to get as close to your final submission as possible.

**Writer Autobiography 5%** See assignment prompt in Blackboard.

**Literary Analysis Project 20%** See assignment prompt in Blackboard.

**Portrait of a Community Project 20%** See assignment prompt in Blackboard.

**The Humanities Connection Final Project 15%** See Assignment Prompt in Blackboard.

## Reading and assignments (also see Calendar in Blackboard)

| Week of | Agenda/Topic                                | Reading(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Due                                        |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 8/24    | Introductions, Reflections, Grammar Refresh | Lunsford Ch 5 Joining Academic Communities: Habits for Success in College 51-63<br>Ch 12 Reflecting on your Writing p151-163<br>Grammar Quizzes Subject Verb Agreement Errors, Verb Tense and Verb Form Errors<br>Reflection p. 53 (Blackboard Discussion) | Quizzes due 8/30<br>BB Discussion due 8/30 |



|       |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                 |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/31  | Reading Rhetorically                               | Lunsford Ch. 6 Reading Rhetorically p 64-75<br>Ch. 7 Annotating, Summarizing, Responding 76-96<br>Quiz Rhetorical Situations<br>Quiz Elements of Argument                                                                                               | Writer Autobiography 9/2<br>Quizzes due 9/06                                    |
| 9/7   | Short Stories and Discussions                      | Short Story 1 Story of an Hour by Chopin<br>Short Story 2 The Necklace by Maupassant<br>Short Story 3 The Veldt Ray Bradbury<br>Blackboard Discussions                                                                                                  | BB Discussions (two) Due 9/13<br>Quiz 9/13                                      |
| 9/14  | Plagiarism and MLA, Thesis Statements              | View Assignment Prompt in Module 5 to be working on your draft<br>Ch 31 Giving Credit, Avoiding Plagiarism 568-77<br>Links on Proofreading, MLA, and Peer Review<br>Lunsford Ch 30 Quoting, Paraphrasing, Summarizing 554-566<br>Quiz Thesis Statements | Quiz 9/16                                                                       |
| 9/21  | Editing & Polishing<br>Draft & Peer Review Paper 1 | Lunsford 37 Polishing and Editing Your Writing 756-777<br>Draft and Peer Review This Week! Literary Analysis                                                                                                                                            | Draft for Literary Analysis 9/22<br>Peer Review 9/25                            |
| 9/28  | Portrait of a Community                            | Final Version Literary Analysis<br>Introduce "Portrait of a Community"<br>Read Sandra Cisneros' "Woman Hollering Creek" and Discussion                                                                                                                  | Final Version Literary Analysis 9/28<br>Blackboard Discussion 10/04             |
| 10/5  | Community Connections                              | Read "Gate A-4" by Naomi Shihab Nye<br>"Je suis cadien" Jean Arceneaux The Cajun Community<br>Blackboard Discussions                                                                                                                                    | Blackboard Discussion 10/07<br>Blackboard Discussion 10/11                      |
| 10/12 | Community Connections                              | Read "Inside Out" by Francisco Jimenez<br>Questions Worksheet<br>See Assignment Prompt for Paper Draft                                                                                                                                                  | Worksheet 10/18                                                                 |
| 10/19 | Draft and Peer Review Paper 2                      | Draft for Paper 2 Portrait of a Community<br>Peer Review for Paper 2                                                                                                                                                                                    | Draft for Paper 2 10/20 Portrait of a Community<br>Peer Review of Paper 2 10/24 |
| 10/26 | Research, Sources, Library                         | Lunsford Chapter 23 Starting Your Research p.486-95<br>Ch 24 Finding sources Online/At the Library<br><br>Quiz Finding Sources                                                                                                                          | Quiz 11/01                                                                      |
| 11/2  | Final Version Paper 2                              | Revise Drafts<br>Final Version Paper 2 Portrait of a Community due                                                                                                                                                                                      | 11/04 Paper 2 Final Version                                                     |
| 11/9  | Summary vs. Analysis                               | Quiz: Integrating Sources<br>Summary vs. Analysis Activity Part I<br>Summary vs. Analysis Activity Part II                                                                                                                                              | Quiz 11/09<br>Activity Part I 11/12<br>Activity Part II 11/15                   |
| 11/16 | Summary vs. Analysis                               | Quiz Fused (Run-on) Sentences                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Quiz 11/20                                                                      |
| 11/23 | The Humanities Connection                          | Draft for Paper 3 The Humanities Connection                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Draft 11/24                                                                     |
| 11/30 | Peer Review and Final Paper                        | Peer Review Paper 3<br>Final Version Paper 3                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Peer Review Dec 1<br>Final Paper Dec 4                                          |



# Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes

## Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes

Core-Curriculum Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills (COM)** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** - manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
6. **Personal Responsibility (PR)** - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## 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.tamtu.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 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 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 \(https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)](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@tamiu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@tamiu.edu), 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.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@tamiu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Distance Education Courses

### Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Section 2.202 ([https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202)), defines distance education as the formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50%) of instruction. Distance education includes hybrid and 100% online courses and programs as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

- **Hybrid Course** - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.
- **100-Percent Online Course** - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

In this online course, be sure to confirm what in-person meetings may be required of you (if applicable).

### Course Structure

This layout of this course is within specific modules. You are to go through each module, which also has the due dates. It is your responsibility to pace yourself through the modules and take note of the due dates so that you do not fall behind.

### Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

The instructor will respond to emails within 24 hours. This excludes weekends, where response time may be longer. Please direct all correspondence to me directly at [melody.carriere@tamiu.edu](mailto:melody.carriere@tamiu.edu) rather than use BB messaging.

#### Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

I will frequently post course announcements, so please check your Blackboard page daily. These announcements are always forwarded to your university email accounts.

#### Assignments and Assessments

### 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.tamiu.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.tamtu.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml>) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

**Additional Hardware.** For this class, you will need to have access to a desktop computer or laptop. 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.

**Additional Software.** You will need the following additional software: Any word processing software such as MS word or equivalent. TAMTU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamtu.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 either be found free of charge at TAMTU'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@tamtu.edu](mailto:elarning@tamtu.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**.

## Late Work Policy

I do not accept any late work for any item other than essays. Essays will be penalized by 10 points per day late. After four days the grade will be zero. Any exceptions to this rule would require documentation such as illness, hospitalization, or jury duty. Work conflicts and work responsibilities do not qualify as a legitimate reason for an extension.

## 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 Or Other Types of Assignments in Other Systems

### 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.