PSYC 5370 - Cognitive Science

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 162, CRN 19494

Instructor Information

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TR 4:30-5:45 PM
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Times and Location

T 6pm-8:45pm in Pellegrino Hall 106

Course Description

Additional Course Information

The course explores cognitive science, which, in most general terms, is the study of the human mind. Some of the questions that cognitive scientists are interested in are: What is the mind? How do we perceive the world? What processes are involved in attention, reasoning, or problem solving? How does our memory represent information about the world? How do people learn languages? What are emotions and how do they interact with our cognition? In order to address those and other questions about the mind, cognitive science draws on many disciplines, such as, for example, psychology, biology, philosophy, neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, linguistics, social cognitive neuroscience, computer science, and artificial intelligence. This course aims to bring together those varied perspectives and approaches to studying the mind.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students will:

1. Gain knowledge of the processes and representations in the human mind.

2. Demonstrate understanding of the different theoretical approaches to studying the mind and cognition.

3. Be able to critically evaluate practical, real-world implications of cognitive science and become more aware of how their own mind works.

4. Develop experimental and analytical skills and apply them in their discussions and oral presentations of the critical concepts in cognitive science.

5. Be able to critically integrate research findings in the discipline of cognitive science and discuss them through the oral and written modes of communication.

6. Gain knowledge of the methods and technologies that cognitive scientists use to investigate the mind and apply this knowledge towards developing their own research proposal.

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Choose One	Friedenberg, J. & Silverman, G. (2022).Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the study of mind. 4th Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.Print ISBN: 9781544380155, 1544380151 eText ISBN: 9781544380148, 1544380143		

Grading Criteria

Evaluation and Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is not only mandatory, but crucial for this course to function well. You will be allowed 2 absences for emergencies, and you should provide adequate notice or documentation of these. Failure to provide notice or documentation or having more than 2 absences will result in dropping a whole letter grade.

Examinations (200 pts): There will be two exams (midterm and final), each worth **100 points,** consisting of general essay questions. Exams will be taken in class.

Discussion Points (100 pts, each assignment worth 10 points): To be able to actively participate in class discussions and to get the most out of the course, you need to read assigned reading materials critically and carefully. To help you do it and to encourage you to critically evaluate the readings for each lecture, you will be expected to submit a set of 2 discussion points related to the broad themes of all the readings from your textbook and supplementary materials included in the folder LECTURES). Discussion points should be empirical or theoretical implications raised by the material that suggest creative connections to other issues or follow-up experiments. Do not submit clarification questions of the material. Discussion points must reveal thoughtful reflection on the material. Each discussion point should include a short summary of the issue you are referring to, statement of a problem/question, formulation of your own viewpoint, and invitation to further discussion (about a paragraph long). You will be expected to email the instructor and the discussion moderator/facilitator assigned for each session the discussion points **no later than 6pm on Sunday of the week** when the class takes place. Discussion points should be sent in the body of the email, **NOT AS AN ATTACHMENT.** Be prepared to discuss the issues you raise and please bring a copy of your discussion points to class**.** Your discussion points will allow the instructor to get some feedback about how you find the reading assignment and will serve as a springboard for the moderator-led discussions that we are going to have in class. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Presentation and Discussion Facilitation (50 points): Individually (or in pairs/groups), you will search for a scholarly article related to a particular topic that we are going to discuss in class (you can also select a reading from the folder READING RESOURCES). Based on the article, you will prepare a ppt presentation summarizing its major points and will deliver a presentation in class. Since only the presenter(s)/facilitator(s) will be familiar with the reading, your presentation should be detailed and exhaustive, summarizing the case studies and/or experiments described, as well as the underlying theoretical background. Do NOT include in your presentation the material from the textbook chapters, as this will be known to everybody. However, you can make references to the textbook as you try to tie the research included in your readings to what you have learned from reading the chapters. The presentation will be evaluated according to the Oral Presentation Rubric that is available on the course website. If presenting in pairs, each person needs to present a separate article. Schedule of presentations will be agreed upon in the first week. The student(s) presenting in any given week will in addition serve as discussion facilitators for the class. The job of the facilitator(s) will be to collect weekly responses from all the students and, based on those and their own processing of the material, to facilitate in-class discussion concerning the readings. The presentation should last around 20 minutes. Below is a list of the facilitator's responsibilities:

- Coordinate with another person (when working in a pair) how you want to go about the presentation and discussion (i.e., who will present first, how you will deal with the discussion questions, etc.)
- Collect weekly discussion points from all the classmates (they should be sent to you by 6 p.m. on a Sunday of each week)

- Analyze the collected discussion points and use them to guide a discussion. You can collate them and have them displayed on your ppt document for everybody to see. You are welcome to identify authors of the particular discussion questions that you decide to single out so you can ask them to elaborate or clarify their contributions.

Research Proposal Presentation (50 points): Based on the questions asked throughout the semester, the experiments discussed in the text book, and additional readings, you will develop your own proposal for research and present it in class. Detailed instructions and template will be provided.

For all written assignments: Written assignments generated by ChatGPT or other AI platforms will be graded as zero points and considered as plagiarism. You are **NOT allowed** to use Grammarly to edit your work as one of the goals of this class is to help you become a successful writer on your own, independent of AI platforms.

Rubrics

- Written assignments will be graded using the **Rubric for Psychology Writing Assignments**, which includes the following categories: 1) Focus, 2) Organization and Development, 3) Style/Sentence Structure, 4) Grammar/Mechanics. The rubric's *Focus* category refers to the thoroughness with which relevant research is discussed and key concepts operationally defined, as well as clear acknowledgement of audience. The rubric's *Organization and Development* category refers to whether the content is logical and whether hypothesis, research support as well as conclusions are fully and clearly articulated. The rubric's *Style/Sentence Structure* category refers to the ability to use objective, efficient academic language with sophisticated and varied sentence structure and length. The rubric's *Grammar/Mechanics* category refers to the ability to write with no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. Scoring using the rubric ranges from 0-4 (0= Unacceptable, 1= Beginning, 2= Developing, 3= Accomplished, 4= Exemplary).
- Oral presentations will be graded based on the Oral Presentation Rubric, which assesses performance for (1) Speaking Style/Delivery, (2) Language Skills, (3) Organization, (4) Mastery of the Subject, (5) Visual Aids, and (6) Critical Thinking. The rubric's *Speaking Style/Delivery* category refers to the ability to speak clearly and at an understandable pace, maintaining eye contact with audience, and the presentation being well rehearsed, with limited use of filler words and appropriate use of body language. The rubric's *Organization* category refers to being logical, defining background and importance of research, as well as being able to identify relevant questions. The rubric's *Mastery of the Subject* category refers to the pertinence, depth of commentary and the ability to answer questions. The rubric's *Critical Thinking* category refers to the ability to clearly identify main issues in the area, to make recommendations for further work and properly consider competing explanations or theories. Scoring using the rubric ranges from 0-4 (0=Unacceptable, 1=Poor, 2=Average, 3=Good, 4=Exceptional).
- Both rubrics are available on the course website.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Course Messages/Emails

- All electronic communication with students will take place via the TAMIU e-mail system (BLACKBOARD). You should check your TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly and visit the course site to download ppt notes before the lectures, as well as important announcements concerning the class. The turnaround time for replying to student emails via the BB will be 48 hours.

Assignments and Assessments

- Weekly assignments (discussion questions, oral presentations) will be graded on a weekly basis. The grading of research papers and midterm exams will be completed within the framework of 1-2 weeks, depending on the number of students in class.

Technology Requirements

The lectures will be uploaded in the Microsoft PowerPoint format and the exams/syllabi, research proposal guidelines, etc. will be in the Microsoft Word format. TAMIU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at https://dusty.tamiu.edu/. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/documents/Microsoft-Office-2016-Download-Instructions.pdf).

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Guidelines on how to use the BB are available at Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' Student eLearning Tutorial Videos page (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/elearning-orientation.shtml).

Technical Support Services

For any technical issues or help with Blackboard Collaborate, Blackboard, etc., please contact the OIT Help Desk, E-mail support: Technical Support Services (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technical-support-services.shtml), or the TAMIU eLearning Team at elearning@tamiu.edu.

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	Introduction to Class	Ch. 1	
Tue	9/1	The Psychological Approach: A Profusion of Theories	Ch.3	Discussion points for Ch. 3
Tue	9/8	The Philosophical Approach: Enduring Questions	Ch.2	Discussion points for Ch.2
Tue	9/15	The Cognitive Approach: Vision, Pattern Recognition, and Attention	Ch.4	Discussion points for Ch. 4
Tue	9/22	The Cognitive Approach: Memory, Imagery, and Problem Solving	Ch.5	Discussion points for Ch. 5
Tue	9/29	The Neuroscience Approach	Ch.6	Discussion points for Ch. 6
Tue	10/6	MIDTERM	(Ch. 1-6)	
Tue	10/13	The Evolutionary Approach: Change Over Time	Ch.8	Discussion points for Ch. 8
Tue	10/20	The Linguistic Approach: Language and Cognitive Science	Ch. 9	Discussion points for Ch.9
Tue	10/27	The Emotional Approach: Mind as Emotion	Ch.10	Discussion points for Ch.10
Tue	11/3	The Social Approach: Mind as Society	Ch.11	Discussion points for Ch.11
Tue	11/10	The Network Approach: Mind as a Web; The Artificial Intelligence Approach	Ch.12&13	Discussion points for Ch.12&13
Tue	11/17	RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS		
Tue	11/24	RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS		
Tue	12/1	FINAL EXAM	Ch.1-13	

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 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, 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@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) 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.