CRIJ 3325 - Drugs in Our Society: Drugs in Our Society (F13- Feb 05 to May 14)

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 282, CRN 28527

Instructor Information

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On-line
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Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

Provides students with a realistic perspective of the drug problem. Areas of concentration includes (1) history of drug abuse public policy; (2) nature of common drugs; and (3) legislative and enforcement issues including the legalization debate, organized crime, and political dimensions.
Social Sciences Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Student Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this on-line course, the student will be able to execute the following:

1. The student will understand the process of the social construction of drug use as a social problem.
2. The student will have the knowledge of the various types of drugs, both legal and illegally available in the American society.
3. The student will be familiar with the different laws that combat drug abuse and the outcome they have in the American society.
4. The student will have the knowledge of government programs and enforcement efforts associated with drug abuse.
5. The student will understand how several orientations toward police supervision and how these orientations influence policing behaviors.
6. The student will have the knowledge and understanding of the risk factor associated with drug usage, individuals who abuse drugs and the potential to abuse drugs.

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Drug Use and Abuse: Comprehensive Introduction	Howard Abadinsky	1305961544

Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Quizzes	15%
Discussion Board Assignment	15%
Tests	20%
Research Paper/PowerPoint	20%
Comprehensive Exam	30%

2026 Program of Instruction

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
2/2	1. Read Course Syllabus and Meet and Greet 2. Read Chapter 1 3. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 1 4. Respond to the question in discussion area 5. Take On-Line Quiz #1 over Chapter 1	Lesson 1: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Drug Use and Abuse	Feb. 8 - Quiz #1 Due Feb. 8 - Discussion Board
2/9	1. Read Chapter 2 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 2 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On - Line Quiz # 2 over Chapter 2	Lesson 2: Chapter 2: History of Drug Use and Drug Legislative	Feb. 13 - Quiz #2 Feb 14 - Discussion Board
2/16	1. Read Chapter 3 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 3 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 3 over Chapter 3	Lesson 3: Chapter 3: The Biology of Psychoactive Substances	Feb. 20 - Quiz #3 Feb 21 - Discussion Board
2/23	1. Read Chapter 4 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 4 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 4 over Chapter 4	Lesson 4: Chapter 4: Stimulants	Feb. 27 - Quiz #4 Feb. 28 - Discussion Board Feb. 28 - Exam #1 Feb. 28 - Due and submit Term Paper Topics for approval – first come –first serve.
3/2	1. Read Chapter 5 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 5 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On –Line Quiz # 5 over Chapter 5:	Lesson 5: Chapter 5: Depressants	March 6 - Quiz #6 March 7 - Discussion Board

3/9	No Class - Spring Break	Spring Break	No assingments due
3/16	1. Read Chapter 6 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 6 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 6 over Chapter 6	Lesson 6: Chapter 6: Hallucinogens, Marijuana, Inhalants, and Prescription Drugs	March 20 - Quiz #6 March 21 - Discussion Board
3/23	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 7 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 7 over Chapter 7	Lesson 7: Chapter 7: Psychology and Sociology of Drug Use	March 27 - Quiz #7 March 28 - Discussion Board
3/30	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 8 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 8 over Chapter 8	Lesson 8: Chapter 8: Preventing and Treating Drug Use	April 2 - Quiz #8 April 2 - Discussion Board
4/6	1. Read Chapter 9 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 9 3. Respond to the question in the discussion 4. Take On – line Quiz # 9 over Chapter 9 5. Review for Assessment Exam #2 over Chapters 5 through 8 6. Take On – Line Test # 2 over Chapters 5 through 8: Scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Portal will open at 8A and will close at 11:59P (end of day).	Lesson 9: Chapter 9: The Drug Business	April 7 - Exam #2 April 10 - Quiz #9 April 11 - Discussion Board
4/13	1. Read Chapter 10 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 10 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Research paper and PowerPoint due by midnight on Sunday, April 12, 2026. 5. Take On – Line Quiz # 10 over Chapter 10: Scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2026. Portal will open at 8A and will close at 11:59P (end of day). 6. Response to peers PowerPoint (Research) – 4 comments	Lesson 10 - Chapter 10: Drug Laws and Law Enforcement	April 12 - Research Paper and PowerPoint April 17 - Quiz #10 April 18 - Response to peers PowerPoint (Research) – 4 comments April 18 - Discussion Board
4/20	1. Read Chapter 11 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 11 3. Respond to the question in discussion area 4. Take On – Line Quiz # 11 over Chapter 11: Scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2026. Portal will open at 8A and will close at 11:59P (end of day).	Lesson 11: Chapter 11: U.S. Drug Policy	April 24 - Quiz #11 April 25 - Discussion Board

4/27	1. Read Chapter 12 2. Review PPT presentation for text Chapter 12 3. Respond to the question in the discussion area for Lessons 12 4. Take On – line Quiz # 12 over Chapter 12: Scheduled Friday, May 1, 2026. Portal will open at 8A and will close at 11:59P (end of day).	Lesson 12: Chapter 12: Global Drug Policy	May 1 - Quiz #12 May 2 - Dicsussion Board May 2 - Exam #3
5/4	1. Clarifications, if any, on course materials 2. Review for Final Exam 3. Take on-line Comprehensive Exam on Wednesday, May 6, 2026	Lesson 13: Review for Final Exams	May 6 - Comprehensive Exam

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.

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), 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 is thirteen (13) weeks consisting of 13 lessons. Lesson or module folders are located within the Lessons Tab of your course shell for this course. Each of the lesson folders has a time and date to open; they cannot be accessed in advance. For example, if today's date were November 21, 2024, only the Introduction to the Course folder which will be accessible to students. This timed access is purposefully done so that students get to focus only on the materials at hand, and also to keep students within track and in accordance with the course schedule.

In each of the lessons folders, you will find the following: (1) introduces the specific lesson, (2) the learning objectives, (3) the required and optional tasks, and (4) the materials that students need to go over. The tasks range from reading specific chapters from the textbook, viewing the MS Power Point Presentations and to engaging in a quiz, discussion threads and a writing assignment.

Assessments such as quizzes and final examinations will be under the weekly lesson. The quizzes and examinations will be due at specific times and dates which will be provided to students during this course. The research paper/project and the Final Examination have their own portals with their respective opening and closing times/dates. Please visit your Blackboard Lessons Tab for more details on these.

This is an intense and demanding course. Hence, students will need to have the dedication, energy, and time to engage the materials, activities, and assessments within the specified time frame. For more details, refer to the course calendar found on pp. 9 – 22 of this course syllabus.

Students will log into Blackboard on a daily/weekly basis to get access to course materials and to interact with classmates. On the first day of class, students must enroll in the course by clicking on the "Start Here" section and complete the "Meet and Greet" discussion forum. Students are also responsible for reading through the weekly modules, which are accessed by clicking on "Content" on the Blackboard Course Menu and should do this each week to complete the assignments in each module.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

The best way to contact your instructor for this course is through email (course email). For the purpose of this course, all communication will be through the course email facility. Instructor's responses to a student's email will be within 48 hours. Please use the Middle Point Forum for clarification and additional questions.

Announcements are posted weekly, and they should make sure they read them to get instructions for completing assignments with the deadline dates. They are also used to post notifications for examination/quiz dates and any changes to the syllabus.

Assignments and Assessments

The instructor will provide feedback within 48 hours unless the assignment requires the instructor to read essays, summaries, and research papers. The instructor will need approximately two weeks to read the assignment, depending on the amount of students registered for the course, if not sooner.

Grades for Discussion Board assignments will be available a week from the due date. Some assignments may take additional time to grade, and if this happens, students will be notified and given an expected post date. Quizzes in this class are virtual, and grades are posted on the same day they are taken.

Discussion Boards: Discussion topics will be drawn from assigned readings. Initial posts and responses to classmates are always due before midnight every Friday, unless directed by the instructor. Students are encouraged to engage in classroom discussion throughout the week, and all posts should **not be** submitted on the same day.

Responses to the discussion board questions should be authentic, and the use of AI information should not be used to complete this assignment. Any information that is not the student's original thought, perspective, or idea should be cited when it is taken from any source (scholarly or non-scholarly). Students who consistently submit plagiarized work or use unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.

Examinations: Students will be required to take three (3) examinations. All examinations are virtual, and students are required to take them using theLockDown Browser, and they are all scheduled on Saturdays unless otherwise changed by the instructor. The dates for each examination will be listed on the syllabus for this term. You will receive specific instructions on what you can and cannot do when you take your examination using the LockDown Browser. It is very important that you read the "Dos and Don'ts" to avoid getting a zero for violating these rules.

Research paper and PowerPoint: Students must submit a term paper (refer to syllabus) for instructions. Late research papers will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor due to extenuating circumstances.

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

Minimum Technology Requirements

For students enrolling on the course, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. It is recommended that they meet the following technical requirements when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University:

Internet Browser

Various browsers may be able to access the learning management system. By using the following information:

- Use Mozilla Firefox 3.5 or higher (Mac or PC), Internet Explorer 7 or higher (PC). *(Please note that eLearning (learning management system) may not fully be compatible with the latest versions of each browser.*
- Be sure to properly configure the Internet browser. *(Please note that Mozilla Firefox is the university-preferred browser. To download Firefox, please visit http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/.)*
- Check to make sure the proper configured via the Browser Check provided below. This component will also be provided in the learning management system.

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 when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: A computer (desktop/laptop) or mobile device (smartphone/tablet) that is less than five years old. 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:

- An Internet Browser, Mozilla Firefox preferred. (See Internet Browser section for more information.)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader,
- Flash Player (latest version),
- Java (latest version),
- Quicktime Player
- Windows Media Player
- Respondus Monitor
- A stable Internet connection of 56K or greater is required. *(However, please note that a 56K connection may degrade the quality of the experience.)*
- Mircosoft Word 7, Mircosoft 10 or Miscosoft 11

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**.

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 TAMIU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronic store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

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

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

udents enrolling in the course should be familiar with utilizing the latest versions of Microsoft (MS) Office and its software such as MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point. They are expected to have access to a computer and/or laptop with reliable Internet access and connection and be familiar and possess basic computer skill set, Internet navigations skills, and emailing skills. Atomic Learning training videos are provided by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for students that may be lacking any skill.

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**.

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

This class is not required to meet at a specific time unless otherwise informed by email. Email the instructor through the course message on Blackboard for all questions.

Grading Scale/Schema (after Grade Breakdown section)

In determining the final course grade, the following scale is used in percentage or point value.

- *90-100% = A*
- *80-89.99% = B*

- *70-79.99% = C*
- *60-69.99% = D*
- *less than 60= F*

Rubrics (may be included here and in the Syllabus and Overview in the course)

a. 100-90 = Follows assignment, excellent command of material, exemplary writing.

b. 89 -80 = Follows assignment, minor flaws in command of material, minor writing flaws.

c. 79 -70 = Flaws in following assignment, minor flaws in command, significant writing problems.

d. 69 -60 = Flaws in following assignment, flaws in command and documentation, very poor writing

e. 59 - 00 = Assignment not followed, negligible command of material, writing significantly below the 300-university level.

Late Work Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted unless exigent circumstances exist. The instructor will review requests on a case-by-case basis. Students are required to provide proof of the emergency circumstances. Also, there is no makeup for writing assignments, quizzes, midterm exams, research paper or the final exam unless some foreseen circumstances exist, and prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students must not wait until the last minute to contact the instructor about the issue at hand. Therefore, I have the final decision on what absences are legitimate and when makeup will be allowed or given.

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

Students must submit term papers, which is the major written requirement for this on-line course. Submission must be processed through Turnitin (an originality checker software and drop box) prior to submission and grading. Only research with a similarity index of less than 20% (i.e., SI ≤ 20%) will be accepted and graded. Hence, students are encouraged to compose a pre-final draft (or multiple of the research earlier than the deadline. This will allow them the opportunity to run it through Turnitin in order to comply with the SI ≤ 20% threshold.

If pre-deadline entries run through Turnitin indicate similarity indices greater than 20%, students will need to rewrite their papers until they meet the SI ≤ 20% threshold. A research paper that satisfies the SI≤20% threshold will still be subject to further scrutiny for originality and plagiarism. A research paper that does not meet the threshold criterion will not be considered submitted and hence not graded.

Proctoring

Requirements for tests and exams:

LockDown Browser Requirement
This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online tests and exams including webcam which is available for the one-time purchase price between $10.00 to $15.00. A short video (http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml) provides basic understanding of the LockDown Browser.

Contact elearning@tamiu.edu for additional information.

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.