ENGL 1302 - English Composition II: English Composition II-TXA

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 209, CRN 27973

Instructor Information

Paul J. Niemeyer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, English
Email: pniemeyer@tamiu.edu
Office: AIC 336
Office Hours:
MW 2:30-3:30
T noon-3:00
And by appointment
Office Phone: 956-326-2645
Office is best called during office hours or mornings on class days. I can't always catch calls on Thursdays or weekends. Emails are usually answered within 24 hours

Times and Location

MWF 9:40am-10:35am in Pellegrino Hall 107

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

Additional Course Information

This course meets face-to-face. Method of delivery: traditional, in-person instruction.

One goal I have for this course is for you to either choose a major or to determine if the major who have chosen is the right one for you. Therefore, the research and writing you do here will be in a field you want to explore and learn about and will introduce the kinds of writing you may have to do in that field.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Unless students are otherwise directed by the instructor, all coursework (including any stage of the writing process such as brainstorming, drafting, revising, or editing) 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.

Policy Guidelines 1. Original Work Requirement: **All submitted assignments must be entirely your own work.** Any content generated or significantly altered by AI will be considered academic dishonesty. 2. Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Using AI to generate ideas, paraphrase sources, or compose text violates the university's academic integrity policy. Any instance of AI-assisted writing may be treated as plagiarism and subject to

disciplinary action. 3. Permissible Resources: You may use grammar-checking tools such as Grammarly (free version) or spell checkers, but AI-generated content, summaries, or rewrites are not allowed. 4. Detection and Consequences: If AI use is suspected, students may be required to explain their writing process, provide drafts, or complete an alternative assignment. Violations may result in penalties, including a failing grade on the assignment or further disciplinary actions. 5. Clarification: If you are unsure whether a tool is allowed, ask your instructor before using it. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree to abide by this policy.

Email Policy

It is best to contact me through email at pniemeyer@tamiu.edu (please note the spelling--I before E). I usually respond to emails within 24 hours (except on weekends).

When emailing me, please make sure to use proper spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization. **NO TEXTSPEAK** (i.e., "How RU? Gr8!") Use a formal form of address. Start the email with "Dear Professor Niemeyer," 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**.

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:

1. Critically *analyze* and *evaluate* the audience, purpose, and genre of a writing situation or written piece.
2. *Recognize* and *apply* the writing elements of format, structure, and grammar in a written piece.
3. *Demonstrate* an effective writing process that includes drafting, revising, editing, and respectful and ethical collaboration.
4. *Apply* reflective writing practices across different writing tasks and genres.
5. *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):

1. *Apply* genre-specific, academic writing techniques. (PLO 1)
2. *Recognize*, *critique*, *defend,* and *apply* rhetorical choices in writing situations. (PLO 1)
3. Effectively *apply* conventions of Standard American Academic English, including word choice, formality, grammar and mechanics, MLA formatting, and essay format. (PLO 2)
4. Expertly *apply* a process of writing from invention, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading. (PLO 3)
5. Ethically *collaborate* through such writing processes as peer-review, constructive self-critique, or teamwork. (PLO 3)
6. *Compose* written work that reflects on connections between writing situations encountered in College Composition I, College Composition II, and beyond. (PLO 4)
7. *Apply* various research methods or techniques in order to *synthesize* multiple sources of information as a means of engaging with an ongoing academic conversation. (PLO 4)
8. *Engage* a variety of technologies in order to *locate* sources and write across multiple media for specific audiences and purposes. (PLO 5)
9. *Evaluate* and *critique* scholarly, scientific, and popular sources in order to determine reliability and to capably integrate sources with one's own ideas. (PLO 5)

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	Everyone's an Author. 4th edition	Andrea Lunsford	978-1-324-04527-4

Other Course Materials

Additional materials and readings will be available on Blackboard.

Grading Criteria

Grading

The instructor does NOT round grades. For instance, if a student receives a 69.9999 total grade at the end of the semester, that student will receive a D grade for the course. The instructor does not give additional extra credit to individual students. The instructor is aware that students in this course have GPA goals in mind. Anticipate these goals early in the semester and strive to improve rather than ask for a grade at the end of the course. The instructor will happily discuss any assignment grade during office hours after a 24 hour "cool down" period.

Extra Credit

No extra credit is given in this course. The only way to get more points in this course is to complete the assigned work and submit it on time.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted in this course. However, students have one opportunity to submit a single late assignment: see the One-Exception Rule below.

One-Exception Rule

Students are allowed one request to have one, and only one, late assignment accepted after the deadline. Request for acceptance of a late assignment must occur via email and within seven (7) days of the missed deadline. This one-exception rule does not apply to the Final Project due at the end of the semester. A late Final Project will receive a 0 grade in all circumstances.

Extensions and Flexible Deadlines

Students may request extensions on coursework (but not the Final Project due at the end of the semester) when they anticipate they will not be able to meet a deadline. Requests for extensions should be rare, limited to one or two assignments per semester and prioritizing major assignments (like Final Drafts). Requests should also be made via email at least 24 hours in advance of a deadline.

Requests for extensions cannot be made after an assignment deadline—in such an instance the work is already considered late and it is therefore appropriate only to request use of the one-exception rule, if applicable. For students with documented accommodations, flexible deadline requests are allowed but they are not applicable to all coursework nor are they comprehensively retroactive or proactive. Flexible deadline requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and are the first step in a conversation with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility in each instance to reach out to the instructor with a request and proposal for the length of extension needed.

Grade Breakdown – Below is the grade breakdown and a detailed description of each segment:

Homework and Participation: 20%

Research and Writing Projects: 30%

Reflective Writing Assignments: 15%

Final Portfolio: 35%

Homework, and Participation (20% of course grade): For each essay writing project, quizzes, worksheets, rough drafts and participation in peer review and discussion boards with your classmates will factor into your homework grade.

Writing Projects (30% of course grade): The projects for this course will require you to work in certain genres, but they also allow you to choose your own topics and positions. Short descriptions are provided below. For each writing project, a more extensive assignment prompt will be provided on Blackboard. The major projects include:

- **Research Genre 1: *Annotated Bibliography*.** 10% of course grade.

This first genre of research will allow you to gather, select, organize, and summarize multiple peer-reviewed journal articles on a topic related to your chosen major field or one that you may be interested in. This assignment must be 1,500- 2,000 words.

- **Research Genre 2: *Literature Review Essay*.** 10% of course grade.

In this second genre of research, you will write an essay that asks you to synthesize the sources gathered in the Annotated Bibliography assignment into a coherent narrative about the research on your topic. This essay must be 1,200-1,500 words.

- **Research Genre 3: *Position Essay*.** 10% of course grade.

In this third genre of research, you will construct an argument about your topic that engages in conversation the sources you gathered in the Annotated Bibliography and synthesized in the Research Analysis. This essay must be 1,500-2,000 words

Reflective Writing Assignments (15% of course grade): This course is designed to encourage you to reflect continually on your writing processes and to revise your projects in light of your reflections. Your instructor will assess these reflective assignments and will assign each one a grade. Reflections should be taken as a serious component of the course and should not be done in the minutes before it is due. You will write three reflective essays this semester—one for each unit of researched writing.

Final Portfolio (35% of course grade): For your final project in this course, you will create a portfolio that showcases the writing you completed in this course. As a whole, your portfolio will walk your instructor through your learning process in ENGL 1302.

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
Wed	1/21	Introduction to the course and each other		
Fri	1/23	Introduction to the course	Read “How to Recognize Peer- Reviewed (refereed) Journals” Read “Evaluating Information Sources: What Is a Peer-Reviewed Article?” Read Lunsford Ch. 5, “Understanding College Expectations”	
Mon	1/26	Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography Complete the Invention Management Worksheet	Read Lunsford Ch. 26, “Annotating a Bibliography”	
Wed	1/28	Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography	Read Lunsford Ch. 21, “Starting Your Research,” Ch. 22, “Finding Sources”	
Fri	1/30	Video: Finding Peer Reviewed Journal Articles Demo Complete Annotated Bib. Sources Worksheet		
Mon	2/2	Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography	Read Lunsford Ch. 7, “Annotating, Summarizing, Responding,” Ch. 30, “MLA Style”	
Wed	2/4	Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography	Read Lunsford Ch. 28, “Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing,” Ch. 29, “Giving Credit, Avoiding Plagiarism”	DRAFT of annotated bibliography due by MIDNIGHT
Fri	2/6	Unit 1 Conferences Draft 1 of the Annotated Bibliography		
Mon	2/9	Unit 1 Conferences Draft 1 of the Annotated Bibliography		
Wed	2/11	Peer Review Workshop		
Fri	2/13	Writer’s Workshop: Proofreading Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography Final Draft due Unit 1 Annotated Bibliography Reflection Essay due	Read Lunsford Ch. 35, “Polishing and Editing Your Writing,” Ch. 10, “Reflecting on Your Writing”	
Mon	2/16	Unit 2 Literature Review Complete the Invention Management Worksheet		FINAL DRAFT of annotated bibliography due

Wed	2/18	Unit 2 Literature Review	Read Lunsford Ch. 27, "Synthesizing Ideas" Read "Synthesis" by The University of Arizona	
Fri	2/20	Unit 2 Literature Review	Read Lunsford Ch. 24, "Keeping Track," Ch. 25, "Evaluating a Source	
Mon	2/23	Complete the Article Analysis Worksheet	Reread Lunsford Ch. 28, "Quoting, Paraphrasing, Summarizing," Ch. 29, "Giving Credit, Avoiding Plagiarism	
Wed	2/25	Complete the Article Analysis Worksheet		
Fri	2/27	Complete the Synthesis Worksheet using the Articles Analysis Worksheet		
Mon	3/2	Complete the Synthesis Outline Worksheet using the Synthesis Worksheet and Articles Analysis Worksheet		
Wed	3/4	Work on Draft 1 of the Literature Review		
Fri	3/6	Work on Draft 1 of the Literature Review Spring Break: No Classes Spring Break: No Classes		DRAFT of literature review ue by MIDNIGHT
Mon	3/9	Spring Break: No Classes		
Wed	3/11	Unit 2 Conferences Draft 1 of the Literature Review		
Fri	3/13	Unit 2 Conferences Draft 1 of the Literature Review		
Mon	3/16	Writer's Workshop: Editing & Proofreading Unit 2 Literature Review Final Draft due Unit 2 Literature Review Reflection Essay due		
Wed	3/18	Unit 3 Researched Position Complete the Invention Management Worksheet		FINAL DRAFT of Literature Review due.
Fri	3/20	Unit 3 Researched Position	Read Lunsford Ch. 13, "Arguing a Position," Ch. 19, "Analyzing and Constructing Arguments"	
Mon	3/23	Unit 3 Researched Position	Read, "Developing Strong Thesis Statements"	
Wed	3/25	Unit 3 Researched Position	Read Lunsford Ch. 20, "Strategies for Supporting an Argument	
Fri	3/27	Complete the Researched Position Outline Worksheet		
Mon	3/30	Reading Day. Easter Holidays; no classes.		
Wed	4/1	Work on Draft 1of the Researched Position Essay		DRAFT of Researched Position essay due.
Fri	4/3	Unit 3 Conferences Draft 1 Researched Position Essay		
Mon	4/6	Unit 3 Conferences Draft 1 Researched Position Essay		
Wed	4/8	Peer Review Workshop		
Fri	4/10	Writer's Workshop: Editing	Read Lunsford Ch. 32, "What's Your Style"	
Mon	4/13	Writer's Workshop: Proofreading Unit 3 Researched Position Final Draft due Unit 3 Reflection Essay due		FINAL DRAFT of Researched Position essay due by MIDNIGHT.
Wed	4/15	Oral Presentations		
Fri	4/17	Oral Presentations		
Mon	4/20	Portfolio and Digital Design	Read Lunsford Ch. 38, "Making Presentations"	
Wed	4/22	Portfolio and Digital Design	Portfolio Workday	

Fri	4/24	Portfolio and Digital Design	Portfolio Workday	
Mon	4/27	Last Class Day	Course Wrap-Up	
Wed	4/29	Reading Day; no classes		
Mon	5/4			PORTFOLIO DUE 9:40 a.m.

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. **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
4. **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.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.