

PSYC 4305 - Psychology of Language: Psychology of Language (F13- Feb 05 to May 14)

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 202, CRN 28460

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:
TR 4:30-5:45 pm or by appointment
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Times and Location

TR 2:40pm-4:15pm in Academic Innovation Center 220

Course Description

Additional Course Information

The course explores mental processes that are involved in language use. Some of the topics addressed are: the structure of language, biological and developmental bases of language, speech perception, reading, learning to read and spell, understanding speech, sentences and word meaning, language production, conversation, language acquisition, and the structure of the mental lexicon. Through lectures, discussions and assignments completed in class, and primarily through your own reading and thinking, you will gain an understanding of the major psychological principles of language use.

Class Format:

Class will consist of a mixture of lecture, in-class spoken and written activities, and in-class demonstrations of experiments. The lectures in the course are designed to supplement the readings. As such, you can expect lectures to present ideas that are not always covered in the readings. It is strongly recommended that you read the textbook chapters **before** class. To better prepare for class participation and understand the chapters, please visit a website designed especially for students at <https://study.sagepub.com/ludden> which provides eFlashcards, Video and Multimedia and Web Resources that reinforce understanding of the key terms and concepts, multimedia links, additional explanations, as well as links to other related websites.

Attendance: Attendance is **obligatory**. By attending lectures regularly and participating in class activities, you get a better understanding of the course material and are likely to perform much better on the exams.

Evaluation:

Examinations (350 pts): There will be 3 examinations (each worth 100 points) throughout the semester and a final exam (worth 150 points). The final exam will be comprehensive. The lowest score that you have received on one of your midterms will be dropped, so only two midterm exam scores (**each midterm= 100 points, total max with one dropped 200 points**) plus the final (**max. 150 points**) will count towards your final grade. Exams are online, but will be taken during regular class time. You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

*****Missed exams:** Students will be allowed to make up missed exams only if they experience a serious emergency, where it was impossible to complete an exam as scheduled. Legitimate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, a religious service program, a letter verifying a

university sponsored event, etc.) must be provided within a week of the missed exam. You may not make up an exam without proper documentation. Makeup exams must be completed within two weeks of the absence.

Written homework assignments (15 points- 3 assignments times 5 points each): Homework assignments are due at the date specified in the syllabus in the **Blackboard Assignment/Dropbox**. Since points will be deducted for late submissions (1 point for each day after the deadline), it is absolutely necessary to submit homework via Blackboard where the record of submission date can be maintained.

In-class writing activities (Writing Assignments) (20 pts): In-class writing activities will be posted along with the lecture ppts on the BB a day prior to class. Make sure to have a hard copy or electronic one with you, as we will work on them during the lecture. They can be submitted either electronically on the Blackboard (the assignment dropbox) or as a hard copy after class. Writing assignments can be submitted all the time until **last day of class (May 2)**, with no penalty incurred for late submission, as their purpose is material review and better consolidation of what we have learned in class.

Language diary (25 points): As you go through this course, I want you to become more aware of your language use, as well as of language use around you, and start keeping a diary to record those observations. You might reflect on how other people around you use language or you might have seen an ingenious commercial capitalizing on word play, or a public figure using a phrase or expression that has evoked a subsequent debate in the media. Anything that catches your attention pertaining to language use will be a good thing to record in your language diary. Maybe you have learned a new word, and you want to share it or maybe you have a nephew/niece/son/daughter who is just discovering language, and you want to share some observations based on his/her language acquisition and use. For more examples and ideas, please go to the LANGUAGE DIARY EXAMPLES folder on our BB website, to see Language Diary samples from other students. To be successful in this assignment, try to reflect on your language use or any language-related experience at least once every two weeks and write a short entry about this experience. This entry should be a paragraph (about half a page) long. If you are systematic and work on your diary every two weeks, with 12 weeks in the semester, you will have around 5 entries for your diary (2.5 pages). The diary is due in the drop box on last class day, May 2nd at 11:59pm.

Class Participation: (10 pts): Class participation entails being present and actively participating in class discussions. 10 points correspond to 100% attendance and participation. Any missed class decreased the percentage and points you can gain for class participation.

Extra Credit:

Research Participation: You are encouraged to engage as participants in the various research projects available through the department. 5 extra credit points will be offered for each research study completed. Some announcements for extra-credit opportunities will be made in class. Only research projects approved by TAMIU IRB are acceptable. A maximum of **15 points (3 studies)** may be earned this way, and you must provide proof of participation. All proof of participation will be provided as scanned document/picture (for example, a scanned THANK YOU screen that follows an on-line survey, a list of credits visible on SONA, etc.) in the respective Drop Box (Drop Box for Research Participation 1-3). All proof of research participation is due last class day, May 2nd, at 11:59pm.

*If you complete an anonymous online survey and do not have documentation, you may write 2-3 sentences describing the survey content as proof of participation.

*If you attend a lecture for extra credit and no sign-in sheet is distributed, you can briefly describe the content of the lecture and take a picture of the venue as proof of participation.

Academic paper (length: 5 double-spaced pages; around 1,500 words): Students who want to get extra points can write a paper on a language-related issue. The prompt for the paper is the following:

*Choose your favorite topic that we discussed in class. Explain why this is your favorite topic and what you learned in class about it. How is it confirmed by your own experience? For example, if you have a small child in the family, how do theories of child language acquisition support your observations and interactions with the child? Be specific and use concrete examples of what was discussed in class. Papers not following the prompt and not based on what was discussed in class will be considered off-topic and graded as zero points. The paper will be worth **15 extra points**. It is due in DROPBOX on May 2nd, at 11:59 pm.*

For all written assignments: One of the purposes of this class is to stimulate your mind and enhance your critical thinking skills. You will **not develop** these skills if you **rely on AI** to complete the assignments for you. Therefore, usage of AI for any assignments is **strictly forbidden**. Written assignments generated by ChatGPT or other AI platforms will be graded as **zero points (an F grade)** and considered **plagiarism** for the first offense. The subsequent use of AI will result in an **F grade for the class** and report to the **honors council**. You are allowed to use **Grammarly** only on the condition that you attach **the original draft version** that you prepared and the version edited by Grammarly.

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 access ppts, handouts, as well as read important announcements concerning the class. The turnaround time for replying to student emails via BB will be 48 hours.

Technology Requirements

The lectures will be uploaded in the Microsoft PowerPoint format and the handouts and homework assignments 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.tamtu.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.tamtu.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.tamtu.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.tamtu.edu/distance/technical-support-services.shtml>), or the TAMIU eLearning Team at elearning@tamtu.edu.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students will:

1. Be familiarized with the major areas of study in psycholinguistics (psychology of language).
2. Develop the ability to think critically about psychological theories of language.
3. Be able to identify major research methods employed in psycholinguistic studies.
3. Gain knowledge about how to evaluate practical, real-world implications of psycholinguistic theories.
4. Know how to use the knowledge gained in the course in interpreting psychological experimental research

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamtu.edu](http://www.tamtu.edu)) (<https://www.tamtu.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
	Ludden, D. (2016). The Psychology of Language: An Integrated Approach. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN 978-1-4522-8880-2 (available on course website through BryteWave)		

Grading Criteria

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
Thu	2/5	Introduction Animal Communication	Ch.1	
Tue	2/10	Human Language	Ch.1	
Thu	2/12	Theories of language evolution Living Fossils	Ch.1 Ch. 1	
Tue	2/17	Living fossils Language in the Brain	Ch. 1 Ch.2	
Thu	2/19	Techniques of Viewing the Brain	Ch.2	Writing Assignment# 1
Tue	2/24	Speech Perception: The Speech Stream	Ch.3	
Thu	2/26	Development of Speech Perception Review for Exam 1	Ch.3 Ch. 1-3	Writing Assignment #2
Tue	3/3	Exam 1	Ch. 1-3	Hmwk #1
Thu	3/5	Speech Production	Ch. 4	Writing Assignment #3
Tue	3/10	SPRING BREAK		
Thu	3/12	SPRING BREAK		
Tue	3/17	Speech Production How Words are Learned	Ch. 4 Ch. 5	
Thu	3/19	How Words are Learned	Ch. 5	Writing Assignment #4
Tue	3/24	Reading and Writing	Ch. 8	Writing Assignment #5
Thu	3/26	Reading and Writing	Ch. 8	
Tue	3/31	Review for Exam 2	Ch.4-5, 8	Writing Assignment #6
Thu	4/2	Exam 2	Ch.4-5, 8	Hmwk # 2 due
Tue	4/7	Bilingualism	Ch. 9	
Thu	4/9	Second Language Acquisition	Ch. 9	
Tue	4/14	Language, Culture, and Thought	Ch.12	Writing Assignment #7
Thu	4/16	Language, Culture, and Thought/Language and Technology	Ch.12/Ch.13	
Tue	4/21	Language and Technology	Ch. 13	Writing Assignment #8
Thu	4/23	Review for Exam 3	Ch. 9, 12-13	
Tue	4/28	Exam 3	Ch. 9, 12-13	Writing Assignment #9
Thu	4/30	Review for the final exam		Hmwk # 3 due

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.tamiau.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.tamiau.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 \(https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)](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.