SOCI 4370 - Medical Sociology: Medical Sociology-WIN (F13- Feb 05 to May 14)

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 262, CRN 28094

Instructor Information

Kyle Breen
Assistant Professor of Sociology
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Office: AIC 384
Office Hours:
Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Times and Location

TR 6:15pm-7:50pm in Pellegrino Hall 116

Course Description

The role of social and cultural factors in the distribution and causes of disease; doctor-patient relationships; beliefs about health, illness, treatment and recovery; access to health institutions and the organization of health care systems. Prerequisite: Junior standing.
Social Sciences Department, College of Arts & Sciences

WIN-Designation

This course is designated as a writing-intensive (WIN) course. In this course, writing will not only be the subject of study, but it will also serve as a method of learning. Students will learn how communication in written, oral, and visual forms change according to purpose and genre. Brainstorming, drafting, revising, and peer-workshopping are integrated into the course curriculum and are the required components of this writing-intensive course. The final Research Paper is the designated assignment for WIN assessment.

Additional Course Information

Communication

The best way to get in touch with me is via email or by stopping by my student drop-in hours for a chat. For email communication, please include a subject line for the email with the course/course number. For example: Subject: Question about midterms-Sociological Theory. I will do my very best to respond to all emails in a timely fashion. If you send an email Monday-Friday, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. If it is the weekend, I will have a response by Monday at the latest.

Please use and check your TAMIU Email regularly!

Attendance and Presence in Class

This course relies heavily on in-class discussion and participation in activities. Therefore, attendance in class is a baseline expectation and will account for part of the final grade. Each student will be entitled to **TWO (2)** unexcused absences during the semester. After those unexcused absences, every subsequent absence will result in a loss of 5 points of the 50 total for the participation grade. This class also relies on in-class activities to enhance student learning. It is essential for students to attend class **on time** to ensure that activities can begin and be as successful as possible. In-class activities also make up a portion of the final grade. If an absence is unexcused, students will not receive credit for in-class activities that are missed.

Please do NOT attend class if you are sick, having a flare-up from a chronic illness, or experiencing a personal emergency. If this is the case, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can excuse the absence and work with you to provide any missed course content.

If you are undergoing a personal emergency or a hardship that impacts your class attendance, I strongly encourage active communication with me so we can work together to ensure your success in the class.

If you do not communicate about absences in a timely manner, I will not provide excused absences for the course. This means providing 24 hours notice in advance of an absence, or in the case of emergency, no more than 72 hours after an absence.

If you miss class:

You are responsible for **ALL** missed work. Before asking Dr. Breen what you missed, please use the resources available to you:

- Ask a classmate about what you missed in class
- Check Blackboard for all materials and readings
- If you are still unclear, then email Dr. Breen any questions or stop by during drop-in hours

Late Work Policy

Submitting assignments late* will result in the assignment being marked down 50% where the maximum grade the student is eligible to earn will begin at 50% of the original point total. If students need an extension, students will be required to submit a request in writing via email at least 24 hours prior to the deadline. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Late work can be submitted until the **FINAL CLASS DAY**. The final class day is the last day of class prior to final exams. **NO** late work will be accepted following the final class day. There are no exceptions.

*as a general rule, I will not consider an assignment late if submitted within an hour of the deadline. This grace period allows for technological difficulties or connectivity issues. Beyond that grace period, an assignment will be subjected to the late work policy listed above.

Extensions on Assignments

For some assignments, I will offer the opportunity for extensions if students need them. Extensions are available to every student if needed. With an extension, it is required to notify me in writing at least 24 hours prior to the due date that an extension is needed. Extensions on assignments will be up to the discretion of the instructor.

If a student receives an extension, it is the responsibility of the student to submit the assignment on the agreed upon exension date. If the submission is late, the assignment will be subject to the late work policy.

Technology in the Classroom

You may use your laptop, iPad, tablet, or other device to take notes during class; however please leave class to take phone calls.

While in class, please refrain from distracting activities such as online shopping or social media scrolling during class time.

Students may not use recording devices to record lectures or other in-class activities without the expressed written consent of the instructor and/or the necessary documentation from TAMIU Disability Services.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Students should not have another person or AI do the writing of any assignment for them, including AI tools like ChatGPT, Caktus.ai, Claude.ai, or others. While AI can be a useful tool to help with framing or structure, it should not be used to complete the assignments for you. We will go over an example in class of how you can use AI as a tool.

If there is any suspicion of the use of AI to complete an assignment, the assignment will automatically be graded at a 50% maximum grade, and the assignment will be subject to reporting for academic dishonesty.

**If at any time, a student feels as though they need to use AI to complete an assignment, please come talk to me, judgment-free. This allows us to work together to come up with a plan to complete the assignment with academic honesty and integrity.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the role of social and cultural factors in relation to access to medical care, doctor-patient relationships, and disease distribution.
- Describe the relationship between society, health, and illness through social determinants of health and illness.

- Identify how social statuses and identities, including socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age, and more, inform health and illness experiences.
- Apply course material to understand students' own experiences of health and illness, as well as the social world around them.
- Enhance communication skills through asking analytical questions, leading discussion, and presenting to the class.
- Demonstrate analytical skill through a major final project.

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	The Sociology of Health & Illness: Critical Perspectives	Peter Conrad & Valerie Leiter	9781071850824

Other Course Materials

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

Additional course materials will be made available via Blackboard.

Grading Criteria

Grading and Extra Credit Information:

Listed below is the grading scale that will be used for this course. Grades will strictly adhere to this scale and final grades will not be rounded. Therefore, if a student receives an 89.9% in the course, they will receive a "B".

Extra credit will not be provided to any individual students per TAMIU Policy. If there are extra credit opportunities that the entire class has the opportunity to participate in, everyone will be made aware in class or via email.

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

Assignment Overview

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Participation	50 points
In-Class Activities	100 points
Module Recap Quizzes	100 points (10 points each)
Take-Home Midterm	50 points
Term Project (Grade Breakdown Below)	Total: 150 points
Term Project: Topic Choice	5 Points
Term Project: Project Outline	5 points
Term Project: Annotated Bibliography	20 points
Term Project: Paper Section: Introduction	15 points
Term Project: Paper Section: SDOH	25 points
Term Project: Paper Section: Inequalities	15 points
Term Project: Paper Section: Systems and the Environment	15 points

Term Project: Paper Section: Recommendations	15 points
Term Project: Paper Section: Conclusion	5 points
Term Project: Clarity, Formatting, Writing	10 points
Term Project: PSA Infographic	20 points
Cumulative Final Exam	50 points
TOTAL	500 Points

TERM PROJECT - WIN ASSIGNMENT: HEALTH PSA & PAPER

This semester, each student will engage in a term project that will fulfill the WIN assignment for this course that focuses on a health issue/disease that impacts members of the community. Students will write a paper that draws on all of the material presented throughout the course and discusses how social factors play a role in health outcomes related to the health issue/disease they have chosen to write about. In addition to the paper, students will create a public service announcement (PSA) infographic that displays helpful information about the disease aimed at informing a broad audience in the community. Students will have an opportunity to view one another's PSAs in class. Below, I have listed additional information regarding the final paper and PSA.

Term Project - WIN Paper:

For the written portion of the Term Project asks students to research a health issue/disease that impacts their community and identify the social aspects of that particular issue. Explanations of each of the sections of the paper can be found on Blackboard under the "Term Project" Module.

Students will be required to choose a topic by the midterm with an outline of their project, and an annotated bibliography. **This will be part of your midterm grade and is built into the overall Term Project Grade.**

It is important to note: This paper is **iterative**. This means that throughout the semester, students will turn in portions of their papers to receive feedback so they are able to make changes prior to turning in the final version. Each section of the paper is worth 50% of the total for that section. For example, the introduction section is worth 15 total points. It will be graded out of 7.5 points for the first draft and then again out of 7.5 points for the final paper. This means even if you receive a 5/7.5 for the initial draft, you are able to make corrections to receive the maximum number of points for that section. The iterations for the paper include:

- Introduction (7.5 for draft)
- Social Determinants of Health (12.5 for draft)
- Inequalities (7.5 for draft)
- Systems and Environment (7.5 for draft)
- Final Version including Revised Sections, Recommendations Section, Conclusion and Formatting/Clarity (65 points)

In class, I will provide detailed instructions for what is needed in each portion of the Term Project WIN Paper.

PSA Infographic

As part of the Term Project, students will be required to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Infographic that shares important information about your chosen topic with the appropriate audience. This aspect of the project is a chance for students to be creative with how they are sharing what they learned with the general public. PSA Infographics can be created in Microsoft Word, Canva, etc. and should be informative, but also easy to read. Full instructions on what is needed for a successful infographic and grading criteria is provided on Blackboard in the "Term Project" module. Examples of infographics are also located in that module to help spark ideas.

Detailed Assignment Descriptions

In Class Participation

This course is largely centered around class discussions and activities where students will share their thoughts and deepen their sociological knowledge by engaging with one another and the material. Therefore, it is imperative that students participate during in-class discussions, activities, reflections, and small group breakouts. To successfully participate, students are required to complete the readings, videos, podcasts, or other materials listed in the Syllabus or on the Blackboard Course Page **Before Class**. For each Learning Module, the required course materials will require 2-3 hours to complete. For more information on excused/unexcused absences, please refer to the Absence Policy.

Class participation can look very different for each individual student! Our classroom must be viewed as a space where everyone can feel valued. While the main mode of participation will be engaging in conversation around the Learning Module topic or participating in activities, I will have online tools available for students who may not be as comfortable as others speaking in a group setting to submit their questions and thoughts.

In-Class Activities

Throughout the semester, we will do in-class activities to establish our knowledge about a particular topic for the module. These in-class activities will include simulations, scenarios, case studies, discussions, reflections, and debates. To fully demonstrate your learning, it is critical that students are present in class for the activities. These activities **are graded** and require attendance to participate.

Module Quizzes

At the end of each module, there is a recap quiz that consists of 10 multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank style questions aimed at reviewing your knowledge of the module content. The questions will largely be concept-driven, placing the course content into scenarios that requires critical thinking as opposed to rote memorization. Students will receive **one (1)** untimed attempt at the quiz. However, I do permit using notes, the textbook, PowerPoint slides, and working with your classmates to answer quiz questions.

Each module quiz will be due by the end of the week that we complete the module. For example, if we complete Module 1 on Tuesday, January 28, the module quiz will be due on Sunday, Februrary 2 at 11:59 PM. Because module quizzes are open throughout the entirety of the module, any quiz submitted after the deadline will be subject to the late work policy.

Take-Home Midterm

For the midterm, students will be required to submit 3 of the components of their term project: their topic choice, their term project outline, and their annotated bibliography. Complete instructions for each of these components is listed on Blackboard. In addition to these components, students will have a midterm quiz that covers the modules we have discussed to that point. The midterm quiz will have multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions as well as one (1) short essay response. The short essay response should be approximately 500 words--no more than a few paragraphs. Students will have **one week** to complete the exam.

Cumulative Final Exam

The final exam for this course will consist of multiple choice, matching, and fill-in-the-blank style quesitons. The multiple choice questions will be similar to the weekly module quizzes. **This exam will be taken in class on the final exam date.**

Schedule of Topics and Assignments (Subject to Change)

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Thu	2/5	Syllabus, Course Information, Introductions Term Project Discussion and Outline		
Tue	2/10	Module 1: How is Medicine Social? Learning Activity	Conrad & Leiter: Reading 1 Krieger (2001) A glossary for social epidemiology	
Thu	2/12	Module 1: How is Medicine Social? Dr. Hotspot Video Discussion Activity		Module 1 Quiz Due Sunday, 2/15/26 at 11:59 PM
Tue	2/17	Module 2: Why is there a drug for everything? Learning Activity	Everyone: Conrad (1992) Everyone: Lantz et al. 2023	
Thu	2/19	Module 2: Why is there a drug for everything? Discussion Activity	Group 1 - C&L: Reading 21 Group 2 - C&L: Reading 22 Group 3 - C&L: Reading 23	Module 2 Quiz Due Sunday, 2/22/26 at 11:59 PM
Tue	2/24	Module 3: Why does my zip code determine my lifespan? Learning Activity: Group Investigation	View: https://www.rwjf.org/en/insights/our-research/interactives/whereyouliveaffectshowlongyoulive.html C&L: Reading 9	
Thu	2/26	Module 3: Why does my zip code determine my lifespan? Documentaries (In Class): Poisoned Waters & There's Something in the Water Take-Home Midterm Distributed	Read: Toxic Waste and Race in the United States Read: Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty (Executive Summary) Listen: Into the Mix Podcast Series on Cancer Alley (3 episodes)	Module 3 Quiz Due Sunday, 3/1/26 at 11:59 PM

Tue	3/3	Module 3: Why does my zip code determine my lifespan? Discussion Learning Activity: Case Studies	Group 1: Love Canal, NY Group 2: Flint, MI Group 3: Houston, TX Group 4: Belle Glade, FL Group 5: Navajo Lands in Western USA	
Thu	3/5	Module 4: Why are some groups of people impacted more than others? Documentary Showing: Birthing Justice WIN: Introduction Overview		Midterm Due Tonight at 11:59 PM Term Project Topic, Outline, Annotated Bibliography Due Tonight at 11:59 PM
Tue	3/10	No Class		
Thu	3/12	No Class		
Tue	3/17	Module 4: Why are some groups of people impacted more than others? Learning Activity	Read: LaVeist et al. (2023) Group 1: C&L: Reading 3 Group 2: C&L: Reading 4 Group 3: Cabral & Cuevas (2020) Group 4: Pinxten & Lievens (2014)	Module 4 Quiz Due Sunday, 3/22/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	3/19	Module 5: How do Gender and Sexuality impact health? Dr. Neumann Guest Lecture Discussion: Readings and Documentary		WIN: Introduction Section Draft Due Tonight at 11:59 PM
Tue	3/24	Module 5: How do Gender and Sexuality impact health? Learning Activity: Jigsaw SDOH Section Overview	C&L: Reading 5 C&L: Reading 29 C&L: Reading 38 C&L: Reading 39	Module 5 Quiz Due Sunday 3/29/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	3/26	Module 6: What is the experience of illness like? Documentary: Blood Sugar Rising Discussion		
Tue	3/31	Module 6: What is the experience of illness like? Learning Activity: Reaction Sheets	Read: Larsen (2014) C&L: Reading 13 Read: Charmaz (2020)	WIN: SDOH Section Draft Due Tonight at 11:59 PM Module 6 Quiz Due Sunday 4/5/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	4/2	Module 7: Why does mental health matter? Discussion - Class-wide Inequalities Section Overview	Everyone: Billings (2021) Everyone: Read: https://www.lmtonline.com/local/article/laredo-suicide-mental-health-last-study-director-19794430.php	
Tue	4/7	Module 7: Why does mental health matter? Discussion - Breakout Groups	Group 1: The Sociology of Mental Health: Surveying the Field Group 2: Listening to Voices: Patient Experience and the Meanings of Mental Illness Group 3: The Medicalization of Mental Disorder Group 4: Public Beliefs about Mental Illness Group 5: The Sociological Study of Mental Illness: A Critique and Synthesis of Four Perspectives	Module 7 Quiz Due Sunday, 4/12/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	4/9	Module 8: How has the medical profession changed? - Other providers, non-western medicine Learning Activity: Small Group Debate Systems and Environment Section Overview	C&L: Reading 15 C&L: Reading 17	WIN: Inequalities Section Draft Due Tonight at 11:59 PM

Tue	4/14	Module 8: How has the medical profession changed? Discussion	Read & Explore: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/exhibition/healing-ways/index.html C&L: Reading 20	Module 8 Quiz Due Sunday 4/19/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	4/16	Module 9: Can I learn to give myself stitches from YouTube?		WIN: Systems and Environment Section Draft Due Tonight at 11:59 PM
Tue	4/21	Module 9: Can I learn to give myself stitches from YouTube? Learning Activity	Listen: The New World of DIY Medical Tests Choose Between C&L: Reading 31 or C&L: Reading 35 C&L: Reading 42	Module 9 Quiz Due Sunday 4/26/26 at 11:59 PM
Thu	4/23	Module 10: Why isn't any of my care covered by insurance? Discussion	C&L: Reading 24 Read: 9 Things Americans Need to Learn from the Rest of the World's Health Care Systems Optional: Watch Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point	
Tue	4/28	Module 10: Why isn't any of my care covered by insurance? Learning Activity: Debate	Watch: Health care: America vs. the World	Send Term Project PSA to Dr. Breen TONIGHT by 11:59 PM
Thu	4/30	Term Project PSA Gallery Walk		Module 10 Quiz Due Today at 11:59 PM Term Project Due Sunday 5/3 at 11:59 PM
Tue	5/5	Final Exam Date (In person)		Final Exam
Thu	5/7	No Class		
Tue	5/12	No Class		
Thu	5/14	No Class		

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.