

UNIV 1302 - Signature Course

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 207, CRN 27989

Instructor Information

Timothy Rubel (he/him/his), MFA, CYT

Assistant Professor of Dance

Email: timothy.rubel@tamui.edu

Office: FPA 130-A

Office Hours:

Mondays and Tuesdays: 2:00-4:00pm OR By appointment.

Please email or call to make an appointment outside of regular office hours.

Office Phone: (956) 326-2625

Times and Location

MWF 12pm-12:55pm in Bullock Hall 104

Course Description

This course builds on UNIV 1201 by expanding student focus from self-awareness to global awareness. Designed to introduce undergraduates to in-depth analysis from an interdisciplinary perspective, students will explore community issues through a problem-based approach. This course will foster community engagement by integrating University and other relevant resources. Prerequisite: Successful completion or concurrent enrollment in UNIV 1201.

University College Department, University College

Additional Course Information

Introduction to Contemporary Dance Studies.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the field of Dance Studies. This field examines the art of dance and dancing bodies as sites for cultural, political, and historical inquiry. Using an interdisciplinary framework from other fields such as sociology, anthropology, and performance studies, students will engage with readings, class discussions, and collaborative projects that situate dance within global discourses about identity and other cultural phenomena. Though we will explore different genres of dance, we will mostly examine various contemporary dance modalities. The majority of the course will be delivered in a lecture format but we will have 1-3 sessions in one of the dance studios on campus where students will learn introductory movement skills that are applicable to the course material. In class assignments as well as homework essays will be given throughout the semester and there will be one ethnographic project that will be due in the second half of the course. Lastly, the final for the course will be a group research project that students will devise as a culmination of the material learned during the semester. More information will be given on this at a later date.

Further Information from the Professor:

Course Delivery: This course is taught exclusively in-person. Attendance is mandatory.

Attendance: As with any dance related class, attendance is absolutely crucial to successful completion of the course. Therefore, it is required that you attend every class unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from doing so.

Absences: There are no excused absences. Each absence will result in five points being deducted off of your final participation grade unless they are due to one of the following reasons AND you have notified me of your absence within 24 hours of the missed session:

- *Testing positive for COVID-19.
- *Participation in an authorized University activity.
- *Death or major illness in a student's immediate family or partner.
- *Illness of a dependent family member or partner.
- *Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require student's presence.
- *Religious holiday.
- *Required participation in military duties.
- *Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.
- *Severe Illness.

If you are going to be absent, you must send me an email or leave a message on my office phone (phone and email listed above). This shows courtesy and professionalism. Do the same as you would if you were going to miss work. You **do not** need to give me specific details about your absence. Simply tell me that you are missing class because of one of the approved reasons above. I will take attendance each day but **you** are responsible for keeping track of your absences. You are also required to make up any homework or in class assignments you miss by the next scheduled class in order to receive full credit for them.

Tardiness: Excessive lateness to class will not be tolerated. Consistent lateness is distracting. It may also cause you to fall behind in the course and lose points on your participation grade. Every 5 tardies will count as one absence unless your tardiness has been excused. If you arrive after attendance is taken, you must check in with me at the end of class to make sure you are marked present. Please be on time for class.

General Conduct and Etiquette: It is important that the entire class time be devoted to the course material. Therefore, please refrain from using any kind of electronic device during class other than a laptop or tablet for taking notes. Cell phones, and any other device that makes noise must be silenced or turned off completely. No texting, emailing, or using social media during class. If you must message someone via one of these channels, you need to leave class in order to do so. Please keep this to a bare minimum, as you will miss valuable discussion and lecture time.

Taking Notes: It is highly recommended that you take notes on the lecture presentations and during class discussions when applicable. Good note taking allows you to put ideas from the lecture into your own words so you can best understand the course material. Please **DO NOT** take notes on your phone. Phones should be put away during class. Use either a laptop, tablet, or handwritten notebook for note taking.

Restroom use: If you must use the restroom during class, **DO NOT** ask my permission to do so. Simply excuse yourself and return as soon as possible. We are all adults. It is best to use the restroom before class begins.

Communicating with the instructor: If you have any questions or concerns about the course outside of class time, please email or call me. I am here to support you! In most cases I will respond to an email within 24 hours, but it may take up to 48 hours, depending on the day or week. Please be patient. The best time to reach me by phone is during my normal office hours. You may visit me in my office either in-person or by calling my office phone during my office hours. If you would like to visit me virtually, please call my office phone to let me know and I will open a Zoom room for us to chat. Again, my office is FPA 130-A in the Fine and Performing Arts building.

NOTE: I will **NOT** respond to class emails on the weekends. Emails sent to me after 5pm on Friday will be returned by 5pm on the following Monday at the earliest.

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments will be given in class throughout semester. They will consist of readings or collaborative projects with some of your class mates. Readings will always be followed by a class discussion about them during the following class meeting. Additionally, you will sometimes be required to write an in-class essay about the reading. Specific instructions about these essays will be provided at the time an essay is assigned.

AI Policy: In general, the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is prohibited in the course. Any idea that you express, either written or oral, must be your own. However, you may use programs such as Grammarly or online language translation tools if you need to help you write papers. If there is an additional AI platform that you believe would support your learning in the course, please speak with me **before** using it so we can decide if it is appropriate or not. Anytime you use an approved AI assistant like the ones listed here, please make sure you do so minimally. A paper that is mostly filled with AI-generated statements will not be accepted and you will be reported for plagiarism.

Recording Policy: Recording of any class sessions, discussions, lectures, or individual meetings (including office hours) is **not permitted** unless you have received explicit written permission from the instructor. This includes video recordings, audio recordings, screen captures, and any form of digital reproduction.

Course materials, including lectures, slides, discussions, and assignments, are protected intellectual property and may not be recorded, distributed, shared, or posted on any platform (including social media, group chats, websites, or third-party services). Students who require recording accommodations should contact **TAMIU Disability Services** to request an approved accommodation. Any authorized recordings are for personal academic use only and may not be shared.

Unauthorized recording or distribution of course content is a violation of university policy and may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

Performance: You are required to attend the annual TAMIU Spring Dance Concert of faculty and student choreography. This concert will be Friday April 24th at 7:30pm in the CFPA Theater. There will be a homework assignment and possibly a group project based off this performance so put it in your calendars. The performance is FREE for all TAMIU students. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Course Final: The final for the course will be collaborative research project that you will devise as a culmination of the material learned during the semester. These projects will be done in small groups and will be presented in class during finals week. Check the course calendar for the exact date. A handout about the final will be posted to Blackboard later in the semester and more information will be forthcoming.

Participation: You must give your best effort to each class meeting. The participation grade is calculated based on the following criteria:

- *Attendance for all classes.
- *Actively participating in all class discussions and group projects.
- *Adhering to the policies of the course.
- *Being respectful and kind to all students and to me at all times.

Final Grade Breakdown:

- *Participation: 30%
- *Written and Group Assignments: 25%
- *Mentor Meetings: 15%
- *Final Project: 30%

Student Mentors: support your growth through individual meetings at critical points in the semester; they also help you connect with helpful campus resources. Student mentor grades are based on attendance. Each student will be required to attend **6 mandatory** mentor meetings to receive 15% of their overall grade for UNIV.

Spring 2026 Mentoring Schedule

Date

January 26 - 30 February 9th - 13

February 23 – 27th

March 9th – 13th

March 23rd – 27th

April 6th – 10th

April 20th – 24th

1st Mentor Meeting - Introduction

March 2nd – 6th

Spring 2026 Mentoring Schedule
Mentor Meetings/ Events Mentor – Student Objectives

Mentor Week @STC Rotunda

Spring Break

NO SESSIONS

1st Checkpoint – Faculty will receive the attendance report of students.

4th Mentor Meeting – Health and Wellness

5th Mentor Meeting – Presentation Skills

Final Grades will be submitted to the faculty.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will have gained an introductory understanding of dance as a mode of critical inquiry which will prepare them for more challenging course material in dance studies or related fields. Additionally, they will learn about dance from interdisciplinary perspectives as well as their own embodied experience through movement practice and ethnographic research.

Important Dates

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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional		There is no textbook for this course	

Grading Criteria

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

Schedule of topics and assignments: The instructor reserves the right to alter or change any of this material at their discretion.

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
1/21	Introduction to the course Course Syllabus Analyzing Contemporary dance	Assigned Reading	
1/26	Analyzing Contemporary Dance Concerning and discerning the dancing body.	Assigned Reading	
2/2	Dance Histories and Identity	Assigned Readings	
2/9	The Africanist Presence in Concert Dance	Assigned Readings	
2/16	Identity and Appropriation	Assigned Readings	
2/23	Dance and Gender Roles	Assigned Readings	
3/2	Authenticity in Performance	Assigned Readings	



3/9	No class! Spring Break	
3/16	Movement Skill sessions-in dance studio	
3/23	Ethnography in Performance Ethnographic research project assigned.	Assigned Readings
3/30	Ethnographic projects presented The Performance of Citizenship	Assigned Readings
4/6	Final project introduction Dis/Abled Bodies: Reimagining a dancer's body.	Assigned Readings
4/13	TBA Final Project Work	
4/20	TBA Final Project Work	
4/27	TBA Final Project Work Last day or regular class Friday May 1st.	
5/4	No Class. Work on final projects. Professor will be available for consultation.	
5/11	Final projects presented Monday May 11th during normal class time. Have a Great Summer!	

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. **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
5. **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.tamtu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU 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.tamtu.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.

TAMU 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.tamiau.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@tamiau.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.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.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@tamiau.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@tamiau.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@tamiau.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@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt (<https://www.tamiau.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.