FIN 5380 - International Finance: International Finance (Sub I- May 18 to July 03)

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 680, CRN 53021

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:
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Email: hgarcianunez@tamiu.edu. However, you should send me a message using the Blackboard course message system because I will know the course and student, and I will be able to reply to you sooner.

Location: Building WHTC Office 203K.

Office Hours: This is a Summer Course, and we can use MS Teams for any meeting you request.

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive macroeconomic study of exchange rate determination, exchange rate mechanisms and markets, international parity relationships, the forecasting of exchange rates and measurement of exchange rate exposure, and international trade financing.
Intnl Banking&Finance Studies Department, Sanchez School of Business

Additional Course Information

Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI)

You can use any tool of AI to learn the course material and to practice real cases on your own; this use must be limited to the learning process. However, it is prohibited to use, copy, or submit work generated by AI to any of the following activities:

1- Exams or any assessment process.

2- Discussion forums, including initial posts or comments to your colleagues.

3- Any case report, case analysis, questions, or any written activity to be submitted that is part of the grading process.

If your professor finds that any of the above activities have breached this AI policy, your case will be submitted to the Student Honor Council, and your grade in this course will be an F, including the plagiarism issue in your Transcript.

No exceptions, no excuses.

Course Structure

Teaching Methodology:

This course was designed to be fully online; ergo, you must have the self-study discipline to complete this course. This course requires reading and completing several activities on a weekly basis; reading and understanding the chapters is crucial to later applying the concepts to a real case.

Discussion forums will help you to understand much better the operational part for different types of businesses; it is like having specific experience from different firms operating in different industries. During this course, you are going to be exposed to understanding and assimilating the concepts read from the textbooks, and at the same time, develop the application into a multinational public firm traded in financial markets.

General expectations and responsibility for this course:

Online courses require several skills from the student, because almost everything will be conducted remotely, and students must have honesty, self-motivation, care, duty, and the ability to use technology to enhance the learning experience.

This course is mixed with qualitative and quantitative use of information compared with most of the graduate courses, ergo, students must have the ability to understand not only the concept, but also it requires almost every module to see the application using real-world business cases. Reading the modules every week, seeing the assigned videos, and completing the case reports are some of the major responsibilities for the student during this course.

You must produce one business case report or discussion forum related to your case company. Also, discussion forums will help you to not only see your own business case questions, but also to understand the material using different cases and businesses (learning from your colleagues) out there that will reinforce your learning experience.

Each student will work with a different business case during the semester, ergo you will be exposed to almost all industries and types of firms when you interact using discussion forums.

Finally, exams are going to be related to the application of some concepts using real financial data from your firm. For your exams, you will need Respondus Monitor software. More information is available under the exam weeks, inside the main menu content in Blackboard.

Program Learning Outcomes

Course Goal

This course provides a comprehensive macroeconomic study of exchange rate determination, using exchange rate mechanisms and tools in the currency markets; it also explores the international parity relationship to be able to forecast exchange rates and ergo risk currency exposure. Finally, this course studies how firms use leverage in different currencies to cover operations and use hedging across the world.

Curriculum Objectives Targeted:

Exhibit competency in the basic knowledge of how international finance in organizations operating in different countries helps to improve operations, reduce costs, enhance efficiency, and promote a better strategic position.

Discuss why a firm has decided to operate in different countries and the relationship between labor, materials, and the cost of financing sources.

Interpret the importance of interest rates, exchange rates, international financial markets, and trade for a multinational firm.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will:

- CO1: Describe the globalization process and the rationale behind the existence of multinational companies.
- CO2: Interpret the relation between trade, international flow of funds, and exchange rates.
- CO3: Apply strategies to currency risk management using derivatives.
- CO4: Interpret the relation between international arbitrage, interest rates, inflation, and exchange rates.
- CO5: Calculate Forecast exchange rates for a firm operating in different countries.
- CO6: Compare firms using capital and debt domestically with firms using economic resources in different exchange rates.
- CO7: Describe how Fintech is affecting Financial Markets and Corporations

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	• International Financial Management	Jeff Madura, Chad Zipfel	ISBN-13: 9798214040806

Other Course Materials

- **During the course, your professor will assign you to one multinational firm. You are obligated to download the latest 3 years of SEC 10K Reports to understand the particular international financial operations for your case.** You must visit the official web page of your firm and look at the investor relations link. Detailed information will be given during the first day of classes.

Other Optional Academic Resources

These books are recommended if you want to explore additional concepts and enhance your learning experience. In addition, these references are going to help you in your graduate business program.

- **[Financial Management: Theory and Practice. Brigham and Ehrhardt 17th Edition] ISBN-13 978-0357714614.**
  - This book can help you to understand the financial foundations of the firm, which operates "locally" and not in a multinational environment. Concepts of diversification, capital structure, and governance are used to understand the operations of a firm that is exposed to just one economy. Basic concepts such as risk, return, and capital structure are covered for a local firm.
  - If you feel that you require additional assistance in the foundations of any topic throughout the course, this textbook will support you in almost any topic covered in this course. The course alignment file will guide you for each module, with each specific learning objective the relation to this optional book. Essentially, this optional book will create much better topic foundations for you in almost all modules.

Financial Reporting, Financial Statement Analysis, and Valuation. 10th Edition. Stephen P. Baginski, Mark Bradshaw. Cengage. ISBN-13: 978-0357722091. This book provides the basics and foundations to analyze any firm; it explains in detail the four major statements and financial ratios. This book is highly recommended when the student needs additional explanations regarding the statements and ratio analysis. This book can help you to understand much better how the firm releases financial information and how you can access important information regarding the annual reports and the SEC 10K forms.

- If you feel that you require additional assistance in the foundations of how to read and access and understand the format of a SEC 10 K form, this textbook will support you to discover more information about your firm, hidden in the SEC10K. Essentially, this optional book will create much better topic foundations for you in almost all modules.

Grading Criteria

Course Grades

Grading Policy: All requests regarding course record corrections (e.g., exams, case reports) must be submitted in writing within one (1) week after graded materials were handed back, reviewed, and/or after grades have been posted on the Blackboard System. After that time, all grades and records become final. **Please note that all changes are at the sole discretion of the instructor.**

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU DO NOT SUBMIT EXAMS, CASE REPORTS, OR DISCUSSION FORUMS, YOUR GRADE IS GOING TO BE EQUIVALENT TO ZERO.

Activities

Exams (2 Exams Total) 70%/2 exam equals 35 % of each exam.

Case Reports (2 Reports Total) 20% / 2 case reports equal 10.0 % each.

Discussion Forum (2 Total) 10% / 2 Discussion forums equal 5.0 % each.

The assessment process for this course will be divided into 2 exams, 2 weekly case reports, and 2 discussion forums.

***For example, if you have average 75%, 90%, and 70% respectively in all exams, all case reports, and all discussion forums, then your cumulative grade will be (70% X 75) + (20% X 90) + (10% X 70) = 77.5% which is a grade of a "C".**

All averages will be the arithmetic average for all seven weeks for cases, exams, and forums. For example, if you have in your exams 95 and 85, then your cumulative average will be 90.

- Exams will be scheduled in advance, and exams will be available in a window form, having 2-3 days open 24/7, remember all hours in this course are in Central Standard Time. Exams will be open-ended or multiple-choice questions, and it will be required to know the material covered during the previous weeks. It is going to be required to have a calculator to perform some calculations. All answers will be graded according to the material, and all answers count the same. For example, if the exam requires 30 questions or problems to answer, each answer will count 100% of the full grade divided by 30 questions, which is equal to 3.334% out of 100%. The time required in each exam will vary because it will be necessary to answer open questions in some cases, but you should expect to block at minimum 120 minutes of your time. Once you start the exam, it cannot be paused or aborted; you must finish the exam. Exam results are going to be released within 48 hours after the due date. See the Exam Instructions in the course to know exactly the chapters that are covered for each exam.
- This is an online course, ergo it requires connectivity and a stable network connection. Please be sure you plan ahead before you take the exam, to avoid any problems regarding system failure, network errors, or any other problem during the exam. For your exams, you will need Respondus Monitor software. More information is available under the exam weeks, inside the main menu content in Blackboard.
  - Exam 1 will include Modules 1 to 5.
  - Final Exam 2 will include Modules 1 to 5 and Modules 6 to 8.

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100
B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

Case Reports description: All case reports are individual. You will be assigned to one public firm traded in one of the major financial markets. Below are the instructions:

1. You will be assigned to one public firm during the semester.
2. You must visit the company's official web page to download the latest 3 SEC Filings 10K Reports. You must download the pdf's files from the last 3 years.
3. Inside the SEC 10K Annual reports, you must read the sections related to Part 1. Business Descriptions and Risk Factors. Part 2. Selected Financial Data and Management's Discussion and Analysis. Part 4. Financial statements and notes to the consolidated financial statements.
4. You will be required to provide economic data for 3 different countries.

Each case report will be turned in using the designated drop box. The drop box will be closed during the designated week after Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CT. Case reports are going to be graded within 48 hours after the due date. I do not accept late work; late work is graded with ZERO.

All files of Weekly Case Reports must pass the SAFE ASSIGN TOOL NO MORE THAN 10% ORIGINALITY SCORE. Visit the following page if you need to learn more about the Safe Assign Tool http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/elearning-orientation.shtml or contact the eLearning team at elearning@tamiu.edu. Your report must pass the originality report with a score lower than 10%. If your file is above the 10% limit, you can modify and resubmit the file until you reach the maximum 10%. You cannot copy sections from your previous reports or use paragraphs from your previous case reports. Each case report is completely different. If your case report is above the 10% originality score maximum accepted level, your grade will be zero. Please avoid any additional complaints if you have above 10% and then receive a zero grade in your weekly report. You will have the opportunity to reduce your originality score as long as the drop box is open; sometimes it will be required to submit the file several times to reach below the 10% permitted. No late submissions are accepted. Late work equals zero. The rubric will be included in Blackboard.

Discussion Forums: All discussion forums are different, so you cannot copy or use sections from your case reports to make your discussion forums. One way to enhance the learning experience is by using discussion forums, for example, if you know the importance of interest rates and currencies in your case firm in terms of relative importance, or in terms of countries, and then you want to know these variables with other firms within the industry (competitors) or with different sectors. You will be able to ask your colleagues because they are going to have different firms within the sector or in different sectors. Discussion forums simulate a classroom experience and will require you to share your experience and knowledge from your case firm with your colleagues. We are going to have discussion questions, and your professor can enhance the discussion using additional real case examples. You will be required to answer the question from your own company, but you will also need to comment on at least two of your colleagues' answers every week.

Please post your initial response (first post) by Wednesday, no later than 11:59 p.m. CT of the corresponding week, and comment on the posts of two classmates by Friday, no later than 11:59 p.m. CT of that same week.

Mechanics of the Discussion Forum. We are going to explore some Questions per Week (Module) and two comments in two different cases (or colleagues) per Module (Week). Questions are related to your own semester case company and the countries where the firm operates. See below the questions that we are going to explore every week.

For all the questions below, we assume that your firm is a US-based firm with business operations outside the US.

Discussion 1(3 questions)

1. Identify how your firm produces cash flows, using trade, licensing, franchising, joint ventures, or foreign investments, then describe the implications of the Balance of Payments for the US as a result of this relationship. For example, if your firm earns cash flows from Mexico due to franchising, what would be the implications for the US Balance of Payments?

1. Identify the countries and the currencies where your firm operates and has business relationships, then describe in which international financial markets your firm should have operations. Select at least two countries where you can describe the inflation and interest rates, which will help you to calculate the exchange rates for these two countries.

1. One tool to manage risk inside the organization is the use of derivatives. Reading the SEC10K (section notes to the consolidated statements) describes the type of derivatives and the reasons for use. Describe which particular currencies your firm is using to hedge.

Discussion 2 (4 Questions)

1-Identify how your firm can produce triangular arbitrage using the previous answers, and identify how these currencies are affected by the PPP and IFE theories.

2-Describe in which currencies your firm is probably forecasting exchange rates, support your answer with the type of operations and investments your firm is related to different currencies, and describe the type of forecasting your firm is probably using.

3-Describe the list of different debentures that your firm is exposed also describe the currencies related. See SEC10K sections notes to the consolidated financials.

4-Describe how your firm uses Fintech in its daily operations. If not, explain at least 3 different areas where your company can benefit from using Fintech.

Below are the activities, due dates, and weight of the activity out 100%. ***PLEASE NOW INCLUDE ALL THESE 6 ACTIVITIES IN YOUR PERSONAL AGENDA. REMEMBER I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.***

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Discussion 1 due on 5/27/26	5%
Case Report 1 due on 6/5/26	10%
Exam 1 from 6/10/26 to 6/13/26 before midnight	35%
D2 due on 6/17/26	5%
CR2 due on 6/26/26	10%
Final Exam From 7/2/26 to 7/5/26 before midnight	35%
Total activities	100%

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
5/18	1. Multinational Financial Management: An Overview. 2. International Flow of Funds.	Course Objectives CO1, CO2	
5/25	3. International Financial Markets. 4. Exchange rate determination 5. Currency Derivatives.	CO2, CO3	Discussion 1 due on 5/27/26
6/1	7. International Arbitrage and Interest Rate Parity. 8. Relationships among Inflation, Interest Rates, and Exchange Rates	CO4	Case Report 1 due on 6/5/26

6/8	9. Forecasting Exchange Rates. 10 Measuring Exposure to Exchange Rate Fluctuations.	CO5	Exam 1 from 6/10/26 to 6/13/26 before midnight
6/15	11. Managing Transaction Exposure. 16. Country Risk Analysis.	CO6	D2 due on 6/17/26
6/22	17. Multinational Capital Structure and Cost of Capital. 18. Long-Term Debt Financing.	CO6	CR2 due on 6/26/26
6/29	22. Fintech and Financial Markets		Final Exam From 7/2/26 to 7/5/26 before midnight

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml)).

TAMIU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMIU student, you are bound by the TAMIU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMIU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism**: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
  - *Caution*: Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
  - *Caution*: Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating**: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
  - *Caution*: Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal**: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e- mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml) for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to $100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to $250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at karla.pedraza@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides
LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: Student Handbook (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit (https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/index.shtml).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.#As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule.#Both rules can be found in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissaM.cortez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt (https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and

explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

*[The ITALICIZED INFORMATION BELOW is where you are to ADD your course information. **Please don't forget to remove these instructions and all ITALICIZED content.**]*

Regular and Substantive Interaction (Note to Instructors):
The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has issued Regular and Substantive Interaction: Background, Concerns, and Guiding Principles which went into effect on July 1, 2021. Under the new regulations, the U.S. Department of Education requires that all online courses and programs for which students may use Title IV funds (federal financial aid) include regular and substantive interaction between students and their instructors. This ruling applies to both synchronous and asynchronous courses, with the primary focus being asynchronous courses. The Department of Education has the authority to audit courses and programs at institutions, like Texas A&M International University, with online offerings.

Be sure that your course provides for regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students, students and students, and students and content. (C-RAC, OSCQR, QM, SACSCOC, SC)

1. *Regular and substantive instructor-to-student expectations and predictable/scheduled interactions and feedback are present, appropriate for the course length and structure, and are easy to find. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)*
2. *Expectations for all course interactions (instructor to student, student to student, student to instructor) are clearly stated and modeled in all course interactions/communication channels. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)*

Be sure to add clear statements on your syllabi about these instructor-to-student expectations.

Visit for additional guidance on including Regular and Substantive Interaction: https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/faculty/regular-and-substantive-interaction.shtml

Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Section 2.202 (https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202), defines distance education as the formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50%) of instruction. Distance education includes hybrid and 100% online courses and programs as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

- **Hybrid Course** - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.
- **100-Percent Online Course** - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

In this online course, be sure to confirm what in-person meetings may be required of you (if applicable).

Course Structure

[Description of how students should approach the course regularly. A description of course menu items and their contents may be found here. The description may also describe how students should approach the materials per lesson/module/week. It should include what type of materials students may encounter, the types of activities and assessments they may see, and other expectations from the students in each module. This section should help the student understand how to navigate the course.]

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails
[The instructor must provide information on the type of communication that will be provided to students on a regular basis, including the frequency of this communication (such as "Announcements will be posted regularly on Mondays."). Also, information on the turnaround time for communication from course messages or emails sent to the instructor.]
Assignments and Assessments
*[The instructor must list the turnaround time **for providing feedback to students on their submissions of an assignment or assessment.** Expectations on how students will receive feedback should be listed for each type of assignment.]*

Course Communication Guidelines (Netiquette)

There are course expectations concerning etiquette or how we should treat each other online. We must consider these values as we communicate with one another. Visit **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' web page on Netiquette (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml)** for further instruction.

Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

Student Support Resources

The University wishes to have all students succeed in their courses. To provide support to our students, an array of services in the areas of technology support, academic support, student support, and accessibility support may be found at the University. For more information, visit the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services page on **University Resources and Support Services**.

Computer/Technology Requirements

[Technology requirements must be listed for the course. Information on how to obtain software for purchase or download should be provided. See the following example. Customize technologies to include those that pertain to your course:]

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Online students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage (https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: ***[list any additional required hardware here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]*** Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have this equipment, it is recommended to purchase a stand-alone webcam, microphone, or a webcam with a built-in microphone from your local electronic store or any online store.

NOTE: Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services may check out available webcams to students on a first-come, first-served basis. To check out a webcam, please stop by Killam Library, Room 259, and request an available webcam.

Additional Software. You will need the following additional software: *[list any additional software required here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]* TAMIU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at **https://dusty.tamiu.edu/**. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. **See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite**.

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware or software or do not have access to the Internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, my goal is to assist you in finding solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either be found free of charge at TAMIU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronic store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

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

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

[The description of the minimal technology skills is linked to OIT's statement of minimal skills. Faculty are required to update statements for additional technological skills from students.]
When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Students in distance education should have knowledge of basic computer and Internet skills, as mentioned on the **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage**.

Technical Support Services

Because of the nature of distance education courses, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) computing and information services are vital to the success of online students. This webpage covers contact information for Distance Education Services (Blackboard Support), the OIT Help Desk, and E-mail support: **Technical Support Services**.

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

[Instructors that host synchronous virtual meeting sessions should list details on how students will meet with the instructor in this section and whether these meetings are optional or required. Include the frequency of these meetings and a general explanation of the purpose for these sessions.]

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

[The inclusion of rubrics in the syllabus is usually up to the instructor. If rubrics are not included in the syllabus, this area should convey to students that rubrics are included in the course and will provide an understanding of how they will be assessed on the course's assignments.]

Late Work Policy

Instructors should include the policy stating what may or may not be acceptable for late assignments.

Course Evaluation

At the end of this course, students are encouraged to complete a course evaluation that will be distributed to them via email and through a course link.

Turnitin Policy Or Other Types of Assignments in Other Systems

[Instructor's policy on assignments held within the Turnitin system.]

Proctoring

[Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor OR Examity. Contact elearning@tamiu.edu for the syllabus statement and other information.]

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

[Information on the accessibility and privacy policies of all course technologies must be provided to the students. At TAMIU, the eLearning team has compiled a list of accessibility and privacy statement links on their website. Link to these pages and contact eLearning if any new technologies should be listed on their pages. See the following example. Customize technologies to include those that pertain to your course:]

At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this class on the following pages: **Accessibility Statements and Privacy Statements**.

In this class, we will utilize: [insert the technologies here].