



**AG 595: Research Literature Techniques
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2018**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leah E. Wickersham, PhD
Office Location: virtual
Office Hours: virtual via Skype: drleah
Office Fax: 903.886.5990
Office Phone: 214.497.0029
University Email Address: leah.wickersham@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*, 4th edition, Sage publications

Supplemental readings are embedded throughout the course.

Course Description: Research Literature and Techniques. Three semester hours. A careful study of the latest research literature and techniques available in different fields of agriculture. A research paper will be required according to the interests of the individual student.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes are what you are able to do as a result of the activities, readings, instruction, etc. that have occurred in this course - these are my expectations of you. Assignments/activities related to these outcomes are described in the assignments and assessments portion of the syllabus.

Learning Outcome #1: The learner will be an active and engaged team member within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities in order to contribute to and develop a research proposal.

Learning Outcome #2: The learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a written formal literature review that includes properly formatting and citing research via the APA publication style 6th edition

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods / Activities/ Assessments

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc. which will be made available to you on each Friday and close on the following Sunday - allowing for 10 days total to complete the activities. ***The exception is during the first week of the course as the class starts on Monday and your discussion is due Sunday.***

Discussion Forums: 9 total @ 10 points/discussion=90 points total

Learning Outcome #1: The learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

Learning Outcome #2: The learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.

Description: The discussion forums are related to the chapter readings, external resources and activities. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion/debate with your learning community peers. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for **quality** not quantity, **timeliness** of your contributions, and a **detailed analysis** of linking together theory (readings) to application (activities).

One major piece of advice for this assignment....To avoid point deduction, you should have an original post (response to the question) by Friday and interact with at least two peers over the weekend.

Assessment Method:

5=Excellent; 4=Good; 3=Meets Expectations; 2=Needs Work; 1=Below Expectations					
Quality and thoroughness of response in original post. Must be posted on or before Friday	5	4	3	2	1
Quality and level of interaction with others in forum providing more than "I agree" statements	5	4	3	2	1

Literature Review Development Activities: 2 total @ 10 points/activity = 20

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a written formal literature review that includes proper formatting and citing research via the APA publication style 6th edition

Description: We will conduct a series of activities to assist you in developing a formal written literature review. Through the analysis of appropriate research literature, you will identify a problem you wish to further investigate. There will be two check points in the semester to ensure you are on the right track.

Assessment Method:

5=Excellent; 4=Good; 3=Meets Expectations; 2=Needs Work; 1=Below Expectations

Quality of activity produced	5	4	3	2	1
Addressed all of the components to the activity	5	4	3	2	1

Research Literature Review: 100 points

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a written formal literature review that includes properly formatting and citing research via the APA publication style 6th edition

Grading

Grades will be determined via a simple point system and grading rubrics. Rubrics are posted in the course syllabus under each assignment description. **You** are responsible for reviewing them prior to submitting an assignment - they tell you all you need to know in order to earn a passing grade in this course.

Total Points Possible: 210

210-189=A

188-168=B

167-147=C

146s-0=D/F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions *8 Mbps* is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - Adobe Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Adobe Flash Player (*version 17 or later*) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - Apple Quick Time <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Supports
Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Participation & Communication: I expect each of you to be active and thoughtful participants within the learning environment (eCollege) and your learning community. You are to expect the same of me. This includes completing the extensive readings related to course topics.

1. Email is the best way to reach me as I check it daily. A reply will be sent within 12 hours depending upon the time your message was received. Please do not send me panicked last minute emails with the word HELP!!!!!!! in the subject line. **HOWEVER.... in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers I prefer that you post all class related questions in the Q&A forum provided each week. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature should be sent to my email address.**

2. Or if you want to talk via the "phone" download a program called Skype - a free internet calling service that you can use to chat live or place a call to me. I have a video camera and can also transmit my video via a skype call. To download the program, go to www.skype.com and search for **drleah** as the contact to add me to your list. You may also call me on my cell phone listed in the introduction of the syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Late work: Late work is not accepted – you have a total of 10 days to complete your assignment each week.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course.

Attendance: This is an online class therefore attendance is up to you! The quality of your contributions and regular participation activities will be considered attendance. It is strongly encouraged that you attempt to log into the course everyday and/or check your email for messages in order to not get behind.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR FALL 2018

Week	Activities	What's due
1	Course introduction Read chapter 1 and other material provided – begin to identify a topic for your literature review Online discussion #1	Conclusion of online discussion #1
2	Read chapter 2 and other material provided Online discussion #2 Begin literature review development activity #1	Conclusion of online discussion #2
3	Read chapter's 3 & 4 and other material provided Online discussion #3	Conclusion of online discussion #3

4	Read chapter 5 and other material provided Online discussion #4	Conclusion of online discussion #4 Literature review development activity #1 due
5	Read chapter's 6 & 7 and other material provided Online discussion #5 Begin literature review development activity #2	Conclusion of online discussion #5
6	Read chapter 8 and other material provided Online discussion #6	Conclusion of online discussions #6a & 6b Literature review development activity #2 due
7	Read chapter 9 Online discussion #7	Conclusion of online discussion #7
8	Read chapter 10 and other material provided Online discussion #8 Literature review development – finishing touches	Conclusion of online discussion #8 Final Literature review due

