



**EDAD 695.01W RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGY  
Spring 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Julia Ballenger, Professor

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Commerce, TX, 75429

**Office Hours:** Monday & Thursday 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

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**University Email Address:** julia.ballenger@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email address

**Communication Response Time:** Twenty-four hours, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Textbook(s) Required**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC.

Babbie, E. (2016). *The practice of social research* (14th. Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-1-305-10-494-5

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D., (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approach* (5<sup>th</sup>, Ed.). Thousand, Oaks, CA: SAGE. ISBN-13 978-150638 6706

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## Course Description

This course provides an overview of research methodology. The students will evaluate social science research using a variety of approaches. The instructor will teach basic issues regarding the formulation of purpose statements, research questions and/or hypotheses, research design, and data collection and analysis techniques. The course instructional materials encompass quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research approaches in the discussion of the basic components of the research process: conceptualization and measurement, sample selection, and data collection and analysis.

In addition to teaching techniques and conventions of writing a research proposal, students will apply the skills learn to analyze empirical research. Students will develop a variety of matrices and identify software programs to organize and manage research information. The course also includes application of survey research, including sampling, measurement, questionnaire construction, validity and reliability, data reduction, and analysis. This course meets the requirements for a Level I research tools course. Prerequisite: Doctoral status or consent of the instructor.

### **Student Learning Outcomes, *upon completion of this course*, students will be able to:**

1. Apply the basic components of systematic research to develop a research proposal.
2. Evaluate the appropriateness of specific data gathering and analysis techniques.
3. Apply research skills learn to analyze peer-reviewed research articles.
2. Describe characteristics of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research approaches.
3. Apply the principles and procedures related to standardized measurement in selecting an appropriate data collection instrument.
4. Describe ethical guidelines and apply trustworthiness principles when proposing empirical research for the protection of human subjects.
5. Identify research problems and structure appropriate purposes for the research study associated with the problem.
6. Develop research questions and/or hypotheses based on the review of the literature.
7. Develop an appropriate data interview protocol for the proposed research study.
8. Select an appropriate research design for the purpose statement and research questions and/or hypotheses within the context of experimental, quasi-experimental, non-experimental quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed methods approaches.
9. Identify techniques used to analyze data using descriptive and inferential statistics.
10. Develop a variety of matrices and identify software programs to

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- organize and manage research information retrieved.
11. Describe the components of survey research.
  12. Demonstrate the understanding of sampling techniques, measurement, questionnaire construction, validity and reliability, data reduction, and analysis in writing the research proposal.
  12. Articulate an understanding the role of the researcher, personal bias, and worldview of the qualitative researcher in the proposal research.
  13. Demonstrate the application of the six steps in writing a literature review.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

You will be expected to know how to use the learning management system, use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Some of the assignments require you to make a virtual presentation with a variety of graphics designs. You will be required to understand how to participate with others in a Google + Hangout, on SKYPE ZOOM, or Adobe Connect.

### **Instructional Methods**

The instructor will create an engaging, positive learning environment and provide guidance for engagement with the content and learning activities. The instructor will provide learner-learner, learner-content, and learner-instructor opportunities for each student to be actively engaged in the learning. It is my desire that you experience a quality learning environment as you master the skills and knowledge needed to accomplish each of the student learning objectives.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

This course is taught fully online. It is instructor led with a course schedule. The course content is presented in learning modules in LearningStudio (eCollege). Each module contains instructions, and the course schedule includes the due dates. In each module you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc., which will be made available to you on the first day of the Module.

As a graduate-level course the instructor expects quality work from each

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student supported by adequate preparation and active engagement.

## GRADING

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This is an online class. All instructional activities and assignments will be delivered and received online using the eCollege learning media platform.

### Grading Scale

A = 113-125

B = 100-112

C = 88-99

D = 75-87

F = 74 and below

### Assessments

Explanation by graded assessment type (points toward final grade)

**Module Assignments:** All assignments have to be completed to earn an A for this course.

Module	Assignment/Points	Discussion Points
Module 1	Assignment 1- 20pts.	No Discussion
Module 2	Assignment 2- 20pts.	No Discussion
Module 3	Assignment 3- 10pts.	Discussion 3 – 5pts.
Module 4	Assignment 4- 20pts.	Discussion 4 – 5pts.
Module 5	Assignment 5- 10pts.	Discussion 5 – 5pts.
Module 6	Assignment 6- 15pts.	Discussion 6 – 5pts.
Module 7	Assignment 7- 10pts.	No Discussion
Total Points	105pts	20pts.
Grand Total Points		125 pts.

## 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

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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**

<b>Browser</b>	<b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>	<b>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</b>
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

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## 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 <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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
- 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.

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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/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
  - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <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](mailto: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 Support

#### Need Help?

#### Student Support

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

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## 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

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

## Interaction with Instructor Statement

Assignments and discussion board threads will be graded either during the assignment period or no later than two days after the due date. Constructive feedback will be provided on all assignments. The instructor expects students to review feedback and make corrections to the assignments. The instructor does not want to see the same errors in future assignments. The preferred mode of communication is via email at [Julia.ballenger@tamuc.edu](mailto:Julia.ballenger@tamuc.edu). Response time to students will be within 24 hours unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., illness or conference attendance).

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

No late work should be submitted unless prior approval is granted by the professor.

### 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.

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## **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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

### **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

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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](mailto: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.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

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