



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

HIED 655: ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Syllabus
Spring 2020
On-Line Class

Instructor: Dimitra Smith, PhD; Associate Professor

Department: Department of Higher Education and Learning Technologies

Office Hours: Available by appointment on Tuesdays (10:00 -12:00 noon CST on campus);
and on Wednesdays (10:00 am-1:00 pm CST via distance communication)

University Email Address: Dimitra.Smith@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Email is the best way to reach me as I check it daily. A
reply will be sent within 48 hours, depending upon the time your message was
received.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required:

Thelin, J. R. (2017). American higher education: Issues and institutions (Core concepts in
higher education. New York, NY: Routledge

Course Description:

Provides an in-depth analysis of prevalent issues to higher education institutions.
Emphasis is placed on addressing or resolving the effects of these issues on the total
institution.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will understand the context, challenges, and complexities of the American
higher education system; and apply ideas for possible resolutions for institutional
sustainability, improvements, and continued progress.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Readings in the course textbook as assigned and in supplementary resources as necessary.

Mandatory participation is required in online threaded discussions (see course
modules in e-college) over each course module. No late discussion posts will be
accepted/graded. **This represents 20% of your grade.**

Participation in online threaded discussion over each research/reading assignment. (Note—no late participation will be accepted. **IMPORTANT**--relying solely on the lectures and the text for your threaded discussion posts will be considered average work and will be graded accordingly. In addition, please remember to cite all references appropriately, quoting any use of exact wording of authors and adhering to APA and university standards. Deviation from these standards will also result in a reduced grade. Initial responses to the discussion questions are due by Wednesday of each week. Responses to at least 2 of your peers are due by the Saturday of each week. No partial credit/points will be given. Both the initial response and responses to your peers must be completed and completed by the due date to receive credit. Both components: 1) the initial discussion question and responses to peers and 2) initial response and responses to the peers, must be completed for credit/points. Failure to complete one or more components will result in no points/credit being given.

Personal reading logs of each selected reading chapter is required (see course modules in e-college). Write a two-page summary (approximately 500 words) for each selected reading chapter. Each chapter log should be separate – in other words – you cannot put 2 chapters in one reading log. Each chapter must be separate. Post your summary into the appropriate location in dropbox. When posting make sure that you post under the correct module and assignment number. **This represents 30% of your grade.**

A total of 6 critical analysis five-page papers are due in this course. The papers are intended to serve as demonstration of your in-depth content knowledge, conceptual understanding of the relationship among multiple variables of an issue or context, and ability to apply ideas and plausible resolutions for institutional sustainability, improvement, or progress. Post your summary into the appropriate location in dropbox. When posting make sure that you post under the correct module and assignment. **This represents 50% of your grade.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer or a competent mobile device with Internet access is necessary for success in this course. Wireless connection is available to students on campus. Computers are available for student use in the Gee Library, UCD computer labs, and other locations. For more information concerning library or campus computer labs, visit <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library/>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Email me at Dimitra.smith@tamuc.edu I will reply to emails within 48 hours, except on the weekends and holidays. Use your TAMU-Commerce email only when communicating with me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Respect Differing Views

As with all graduate courses, this course deals with ideas and opinions. It is important to be courteous and respectful of individuals who have expressed opinions and beliefs that are different from your own. In a disagreement, please ask for an explanation

and rationale for their beliefs or opinions. Often, matters are more complicated than they seem. Only civil, sincere, and even-tempered written discussions will be permitted in this course.

Academic Honesty

Acts of academic misconduct and plagiarism are very serious matters and will severely jeopardize your career as a student here at this institution. Plagiarism within an assignment will result in a failing grade for that assignment. I expect all assignments for this course to be honest and original scholarship produced specifically for this course. At the instructor's discretion, if the plagiarism may have been accidental, an assignment may be rewritten and resubmitted for a maximum grade of 70% of the original total. Work produced, whether in part or in whole, from assignments for other courses will not be accepted for credit.

Late Assignments

There will be an automatic minus 10-point deduction penalty for written assignments turned in late.

Religious Holidays Policy

Reasonable accommodation will be given to students who require class absences because of religious holidays.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to visit the A&M-Commerce Writing Center for writing assistance. Also, I am available to help with the writing process during my office hours or by appointment.

University Specific Procedures**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 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Campus Concealed Carry

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

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| COURSE OUTLINE |
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Spring 2018

Modules Covered in this course will focus on:

Diversity of Institutions

Teaching and Student Life

Faculty, governance, and government

Institutional fitness - budgets, fund raising and the cost of education

Peculiar Institutions - Intercollegiate athletics, research and development, and

Internationalization in American Education