



## CID 2301: The Human Experience

### Technology and Futurism

COURSE SYLLABUS  
CID 2301.07E, 82481

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Cheri Davis

**Office Location:** McFarland Science Building, suite 148

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:15-9:15 am

**Office Phone:** 903 468 8650

**University Email Address:** [cheri.davis@tamuc.edu](mailto:cheri.davis@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** please email to the address above

**Communication Response Time:** generally, a couple of hours week days

**Course Location:** this class **will meet in the planetarium; STC 125 on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2-3:15 pm**. The assigned location is STC 123 and may be used as an alternate as needed, an announcement of location change will be made in advance if needed.

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Course Description

CID 2301: The Human Experience introduces students to humanities-based inquiry by guiding students through an exploration of important humanistic questions across all elements of the human experience. Through the deep focus on a connecting theme, students will engage in holistic discussions of topics addressing fundamental questions about human life and human interactions, develop the skills of humanistic inquiry (including critical thinking, research, literacy skills, and communication skills), and learn to apply their knowledge to their personal, professional, and academic goals.

This course is the foundational course for the Humanities Certificate program, a grant-funded, TAMU System-wide initiative designed to create an intentional connective pathway through the core curriculum to infuse the humanities and humanities-based inquiry (critical thinking, research, communication, ethics, morality, cultural awareness, empathy, etc.) into student degree pathways and encourage students to see the relationships between larger questions of the human experience and their own lives and goals. The course is based on Transformative Texts and a Transformative Project.

**Technologies and Futurism** is the focus for the content developed in this course. We will read material and discuss aspects of the content exploring how it applies to individuals and communities.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

The readings for this course are partially drawn from a system-wide list of Transformative Texts.

**Transformative Texts** are books, films, artwork, music, documents, memoirs, etc. from diverse regions, cultures, ethnicities, ideologies, religions, genders--around the world and through time--that reflect the core ideals, ethics, and moralities of the human experience.

**Required Readings** for this section of CID2301: both required texts are available in the campus bookstore or you may purchase elsewhere as available. **PRINT version highly recommended** (Electronic versions are available but difficult to follow and navigate during course discussions-I **do not recommend electronic** versions for this class.

- Timeline; by Michael Crichton, **ISBN: 9780345539014**
- Utopia Project: Everyone Must Die; by Billy Dering, **ISBN: 9781735492919**  
(First text-need when classes start)



**Additional Readings:** if time allows, there are several other texts that may be included. If additional material is used, the material will be made available to you without additional purchase.

- 1984
- Fahrenheit 451
- Animal Farm
- Frankenstein
- iRobot
- Andromeda Strain

## Student Learning Outcomes

**1. Critical/Integrative Thinking:** Students will apply insights from the humanities (i.e., examinations of human history, culture, language, ethics, and aesthetics) to problems or questions that intersect with other areas of inquiry, including STEM and professional disciplines. (Core Outcome Alignment: Critical Thinking)

**2. Communication:** Students will communicate ideas effectively through writing and, where appropriate, through oral communication, visual communication, or creative performance. (Core Outcome Alignment: Communication)

**3. Ethical Reasoning:** Students will engage with multiple perspectives in exploring the human dimensions of real-world situations and problems. (Core Outcome Alignment: Personal Responsibility; Critical Thinking)

**4. Cultural Awareness:** Students will demonstrate an appreciation for social and cultural diversity while engaging in critical analysis of various forms of literary, artistic, or cultural expression. (Core Outcome Alignment: Social Responsibility; Critical Thinking)

Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed by the Transformative Project (see discussion below) presented during the Celebration of Student Learning held Exam Week, more information to follow. The Transformative Project is a required component of the course.

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# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Instructional Methods and Assessment

This course will be centered on classroom discussion of assigned works, using small group and large group discussions, with short low-stakes writing and reflection assignments that scaffold to a final Transformative Project. The Transformative Project showcases student learning and development of humanities skills, including information literacy, critical thinking, and communication. Students will read, discuss, listen, analyze, and develop an understanding of the assigned texts and their connections to their own lived experience, goals, and beliefs; conduct research; and communicate their ideas. In engaging with the core learning objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility, students will gain a greater appreciation of the complexities of the world and their place within that complexity, and gain new skills derived from deep textual reading and analysis, critical thinking and engagement, research and information literacy, and the ability to communicate their ideas. These skills provide a key foundation for the college experience and will bolster students' employability after graduation.

To prepare for and develop the Transformative Project, students will engage in short writing, research, and oral presentations that provide a scaffolded foundation for their final project, as set out in the Course Schedule. Through reflective assignments, students will develop a project focus that sets out the large issue drawn from their study of the chosen Transformative Text and the relevance students find to their lives and goals. They will conduct research on different approaches to that large issue to understand in a holistic sense the different perspectives on the large issue, and make arguments about how such different perspectives might shape a society's understanding of the issue. Students will prepare a product that articulates the connections between the larger issue they researched and discussed and their own lives, goals, and experiences. The final Transformative Project will be presented using Adobe Creative Campus suite of programs, in a format that makes the most sense to students, to allow them creativity of expression in making the connections between their humanities inquiry and their personal experiences.

Throughout the course, discussions and assignments will be geared to reinforcing the basic premises of university education and to emphasizing students' development of skills central to their college career and beyond—exposing students to new ideas, different perspectives, and the variability of the human experience; developing relationships between and among students, mentors, and faculty; reinforcing persistence and resiliency; encouraging reflection and sense of purpose; and honing reading, writing, and communication skills.

Assignments are broken down as follows:

**READINGS: (20% of course grade)**

- **Students will read the assigned passages outside of class** in preparation for the full-class discussion to follow. **(SLO: 1-4)**
- Students will complete a **reading quiz** online in the course shell, it will be due by the following class, before class discussions. **(SLO: 1-4)**
  - If the assignment is given on Tuesday, the quiz will be due *before the start of class* on Thursday; likewise, if the assignment is given on Thursday, the quiz will be due *before the start of class* on Tuesday.
  - **The quiz will automatically close at the time due and will not be reopened.** Please **make sure that the reading and quiz are completed on time.** This is preparation for the

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work we will be doing in class so it is important that the reading/quiz are completed as assigned.

- *You may use your printed text for the quiz, you may not use any other online resources or each other. (This is also why digital copies of texts are NOT recommended-it is difficult to search for specific content.)*

#### **DISCUSSIONS: (10% of course grade)**

- ALL students are expected to participate in all **class discussions**, individual grades will be issued according to participation. If you are absent for a class discussion, you will receive a ZERO grade for the daily discussion, this cannot be made-up; if you miss the class, you miss the discussion. **(SLO: 1-4)**

#### **PRESENTATIONS: (20% of course grade)**

- Students will participate in the **“Transformative Project”** by completing several small **presentations using “Adobe Creative Cloud”** in preparation for the Learning Showcase. (More information below) **(SLO: 1-4)**
  - Each unit will focus on a specific topic (reading/reflection/support material/presentations) and should be the focus for the unit presentation.
  - The final project will be the culmination of all material studied this semester.
  - Your project should include a minimum of 2 elements from the course. These elements should come from 2 of the presentations made during the semester and topic specific.
  - Resources will be listed as a component of each presentation (cite all sources).
  - If you do not have a digital device where the Adobe Cloud apps are accessible, you may use the computers in the library.
  - You may use AI as a **part of your presentation** however you must contribute original work to the process. You will explain what is original and what is AI when presenting your work.

#### **REFLECTION PAPERS: (20% course grade)**

- **Reflection papers** will be 1) completed online, 2) typed, and 3) uploaded as a Word Doc in the course shell. Papers will be due the day following the class discussion, the assignment will be announced in class. Papers may not be handwritten, physically handed in, or submitted via email. Google documents are NOT compatible with our learning system, make sure that you save all documents as a Word file and upload the saved document. Links will not be accepted as feedback and grades cannot be attached to the submission. **STUDENTS WILL NOT USE AI TO WRITE PAPERS**-the purpose is for your reflection (thoughts and feedback) of the topic. Make sure that you are able to manage your work in the course shell. Feedback and grades will be given in the assignment after uploading. **(SLO: 1-4)**

#### **PARTICIPATION: (30% of the course grade)**

- **Attendance (5%)** is a small percentage of the grade however if you miss class you are going to miss material that you will need to complete assignments. All of the work completed for this class will build from previous material. To be successful in this course, you need to attend every class. Class discussions will not be recorded so an absence can create problems for completing the required material for each unit. **One absence will be dropped at the end of the semester.**
- **Transformative Project: (25%)** The Transformative Project will ask students to use the course theme, **Technologies and Futurism**, engage in research about that topic, **identify relevant sources**, present an argument, and link the outcomes to an issue relevant to their own career or

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personal trajectory. The Transformative Project aligns with and assesses all Student Learning Outcomes for the course. **The Transformative Project must be completed using Adobe Creative Cloud. You will upload your mini-presentations into the course shell under the assignment for each topic. At the end of the semester, you will select two of the presentations created to contribute towards your final project. This will be digital and you are required to use Adobe Creative Cloud components. (SLO: 1-4)** Due dates and more information will be available at a later date.

**Transformative Project:** The Transformative Project will ask students to take a theme from the course, engage in research about that topic, identify relevant sources, present an argument, and link the outcomes to an issue relevant to their own career or personal trajectory. The Transformative Project aligns with and assesses all Student Learning Outcomes for the course. Participation is **mandatory** for all students enrolled in CID 2301.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Assessment weights for the final grade calculation:

Daily work	70 %
• 10 % Discussions	
• 20 % Quizzes	
• 20 % Presentations	
• 20 % Reflections	
Transformative Project	25 %
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>5 %</u>
TOTAL	100 %

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

In addition to our regular coursework (see below), **Student Success** resources will be available and will be a part of the varied discussions. These may include: establishing priorities, time management, coping with failure, navigating syllabi and D2L, finding campus resources, engaging with diverse people and experiences, the Writing Center, Tutoring, College Life Coaches, etc.

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Week 1      **Navigating syllabi & D2L**

- Managing expectations, syllabi, D2L navigation
- Syllabus quiz
- Class policies

Week 2-5      **Notetaking skills**

**Unit 1**

- Assigned Reading 1 & Quiz 1 (**DUE** before the start of class)
- Discussion from text, reflection paper 1, presentation 1 (**DUE** before the start of class)
- Video/support material
- Discussion from support material, assign presentation topic & Adobe component
- Presentation 1 in class

Week 6-9      **Finding resources/Writing center**

**Unit 2**

- Assigned Reading 2 & Quiz 2 (**DUE** before the start of the next class)
- Discussion from text, reflection paper, presentation 2 (**DUE** before the start of class on (to be announced))
- Video/support material
- Follow-up discussion from support material
- Presentation 2 in class

Week 10-13      **Time Management & Priorities**

**Unit 3**

- Assigned Reading 3 & Quiz 3 (**DUE** before the start of the next class)
- Discussion from text, reflection paper, presentation 3 (**DUE** before the start of class on (to be announced))
- Video/support material
- Follow-up discussion from support material
- Presentation 3 in class

Week 13-14      **Coping with failure**

**Unit 4**

- Assigned Reading 4 & Quiz 4 (**DUE** before the start of class)
- Discussion from text, reflection paper, presentation 4 (**DUE** before the start of class on (to be announced))
- Video/support material
- Follow-up discussion from support material
- Presentation 4 in class

Week 15      **Wrap-up & Feedback, Final Projects**

**Transformative Project Showcase**-Celebration of Student Success:

\_\_\_\_\_ The date and time for the showcase was scheduled by the university and participation is mandatory for all students in the CID 2301 courses.

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## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## 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, the campus library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please take advantage of office hours; that time is scheduled for you. Otherwise please email any questions you may have.

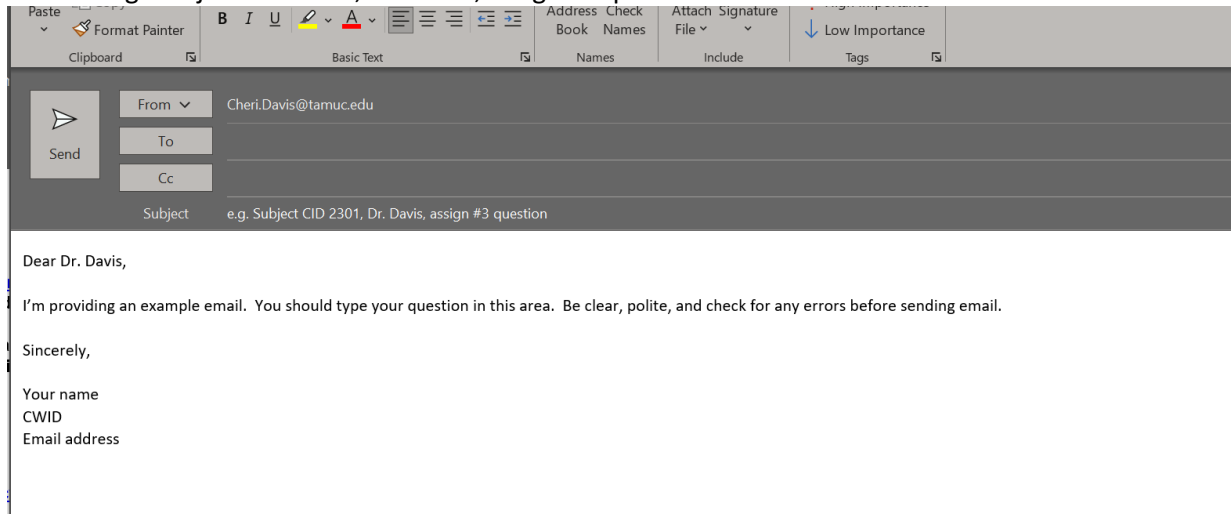
Students are welcome to visit during office hours or at any other time I am in my office and available. For a specific time outside of the scheduled office hours please feel welcome to call my office (903 468 8650) or email to schedule an appointment.

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All written communication should be through email at this address: [Cheri.Davis@tamuc.edu](mailto:Cheri.Davis@tamuc.edu)

Students will be expected to regularly check their email provided by the University through D2L as this address is provided to the instructor. In **ALL email**, students are required to include the following information in the subject line: **the course name, last then first name, and a (very) brief statement/inquiry.**

e.g. Subject CID 2301, Dr. Davis, assign #3 question



This will allow all inquiries to be answered as soon as possible. If a response is not received within 2-weekdays then assume there was a problem with the email and please follow-up through other contact options. I have had recent IT issues, if you do not hear back, please stop by the office or give me a call.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- Students are expected to attend all classes. A missed class means missed material and discussions. Students will receive a grade of zero for missed work.
- Students are expected to be on time to class. Late arrivals miss material, interrupt class in progress, and are disruptive to everyone. If class is meeting in the planetarium and the door is closed, late admission will not be possible for safety navigating the darkened dome.
- Students are expected to complete and turn in all work according to the dates due.
- Students are expected to participate fully to the best of their ability in all components of the course as outlined above. Late work is not accepted. Extra credit is not an option for this course.
- Students are expected to follow the class policies as determined week 1.
- Students are expected to be respectful of each other and the professor.
- Students will not bring (or use) electronic devices to class unless preapproved by me before the start of the semester; this includes but not limited to: cell phones, head phones/ear buds, computers, tablets, or recording devices. These (and other) devices become a distraction and reduce class interaction.

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- If you do not understand an assignment or have questions, please ask. It is not recommended that you wait until the assignment is due to start asking questions. Dr. Davis is available to meet with you and welcomes student interaction.
- If you use a spiral and tear out pages, please be kind to pick up all the tiny pieces.
- When meeting in the planetarium, following these recommendations will allow you to be more successful:
  - Be on time to class; if the door is closed late admission means flooding the dome with light. A dark dome is not safe to navigate. A closed door indicates class has already started and texting a friend to let you into the class is not an option.
  - Use a black or blue ink pen or a regular pencil. Pastel or colored ink is not visible when using colored lights in the dome.
  - FOOD OR DRINKS (including candy & gum) are prohibited in the planetarium.
  - Left-handed students, find the two left-handed desks in the planetarium seat # 12 & 41. There are only 2 so make sure you are early to class if you want a left-handed desk.

### **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 posted in the announcements or announced in class.

## **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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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

### **AI use in course**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>  
[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx?\\_ga=2.155025585.88835869.1690383140-287760818.1685563747](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx?_ga=2.155025585.88835869.1690383140-287760818.1685563747)

### **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.

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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.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)