



HIED 655 Issues in Higher Education

COURSE SYLLABUS: **Fall 2024**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: David Tan, Ph.D.; Professor
Department of Higher Education and Learning Technologies

Office Hours: Available virtually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00am to noon. I am also available via telephone at 903.886.5619. Making an appointment to see me is best.

University Email Address: david.tan@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 (except on weekends and holidays), depending upon the time your message was received.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Course Description:

- Provides an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the American higher education system and the most prevalent issues facing it. Emphasis is placed on addressing or resolving the effects of these issues from an institutional or systematic perspective.
- This course will cover 5 major topics: the context of US higher education, undergraduate education, graduate education, and research.

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.

Textbook Required:

- Bok, D. (2015). *Higher education in America: Revised Edition (the William G. Bowen Series)*. Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0691165580.
- “Starving the Beast” (2016) Documentary at a nominal rental cost.

Course Objective

This course provides an in-depth understanding of prevalent issues to higher education institutions in the United States. Emphasis is placed on understanding, addressing, and resolving critical issues for institutional and systematic self-improvements.

Course Contents

This course has five components, each with its own discussion forum. There will be a required term paper at the end of the course.

- Unit 1: Context of US Higher Education
- Unit 2: Undergraduate Education
- Unit 3: Graduate and Professional Education
- Unit 4: Research
- Unit 5: Epilogue

Grading

Your performances in Units 1 through 5 will constitute 80% of your grade. Your final term paper will constitute 20% of your grade.

If you received an average weighted score of 79% or less, you will get a grade of "C." A score between 80% to 89% will earn you a grade of "B," and any score 90% or higher will earn you the highest grade of "A."

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must familiarize with the use of D2L and Microsoft Word.

Instructional Methods

The course is conducted completely online. You will get feedback on your papers via the tracked feature of MS Word.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

It is your responsibility to log in the course website regularly (several times each week), to compile with all the course requirements, and to engage actively in all required class activities.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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.

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>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email me at david.tan@tamuc.edu. I will reply to email messages within 48 hours, except on the weekends and holidays. Use your TAMUC email only with an appropriate message title when communicating with me. I can also be reached on my office phone at (903) 886-5619 or you can visit me in my office on the TAMUC campus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Unless stated differently elsewhere in the syllabus, there will be a 10% penalty for written assignments turned in late. In some instances, failure to turn in an assignment has a rippling effect on other components of the class, such as timely threaded discussions or collaborative exercises. In such cases, you will be assigned an "F" for the class.

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

Academic integrity is a critical part of scholarly experience. 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 plagiarism is 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 and will be considered a form of plagiarism. All acts of academic misconduct will be formally charged.

Students are strongly suggested to visit two of these sites for additional information:

- [“Plagiarism and How to Avoid It”](#) (University of Oklahoma)
- [“How to Recognize Plagiarism: Tutorials and Tests”](#) (Indiana University)

Writing Center

- Students are encouraged to visit the A&M-Commerce Writing Center and other locations for writing assistance. Graduate students, especially at the doctoral level, are expected to

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have a high level of writing ability and skills. Also, the instructor is available to help with the writing process by appointment.

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](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities—ADA Statements

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:

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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: please click [here](#).

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.

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

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.

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy (Draft 2, May 25, 2023)

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are 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 instructors' 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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty