

Textbook:

Most of the materials used in the class will be available online through designated hyperlinks in the D2L online course management tool. You may access D2L through your myleo account. Access to a printer for your computer is recommended for success in this course due to the need to print reference materials for various assignments and online class discussions.

The textbook for this course is available online for free.

Bhattacharjee, Anol. (2012). *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices, 2nd edition*. Textbook Collection, 3.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3?utm_source=digitalcommons.usf.edu%2Foa_textbooks%2F3&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

We will have a new module/unit each week that includes:

1. Review of textbook chapter assigned.
2. Viewing of videos or weblinks posted in the module.
3. Reading of assigned research article for the week.
4. Online discussion (1-2 prompts) of key topics from module.

There will be 3-4 major assignments that require interpretation of research, synthesis into your own words, citing sources, and application to professional context such as a research proposal for thesis or similar project. You will also be expected to select research methods appropriate to solving problems or finding answers to research questions in one or more agricultural-related contexts.

This course is designed to prepare you as a consumer and user of research literature and provide a foundation on research methodology used in the various academic disciplines within Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. It is designed for students pursuing a thesis as part of their master's degree.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Apply the *scientific method* to solving agricultural-related problems.
2. Demonstrate understanding of ethical issues and responsible conduct in research related to human or animal subjects¹.
3. Analyze research articles and:
 - a. Discuss relevance to your profession.
 - b. Distinguish between research methods.
 - c. Determine the purpose(s) of each study.
 - d. Recognize limitations of the study.
 - e. Discuss implications for educators or stakeholders.
4. Utilize library and online databases and bibliographic search indexes.

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.

5. Review master's thesis and/or dissertation research projects.
6. Explain the importance of validity, reliability, and usability to research.
7. Recognize the types of, factors affecting, and methods used to determine validity and reliability.
8. Describe the basic procedures of survey research using questionnaires.
9. Discuss various types and applications of experimental designs.
10. Discuss qualitative research methods and uses.
11. Prepare and defend thesis proposal or completed thesis.
12. Compose a literature review and cite sources appropriately.

¹ Indicated by completion of Responsible Conduct in Research/IRB training

Grade Determination:

	<i>Possible Points</i>
Online interaction and discussion participation	120
Reflection on of quantitative research articles	50
Comparison of qualitative research articles	50
Conference attendance or proceedings review	50
Introduction/background/problem statement/purpose	100
Literature review on an approved topic or theme	100
Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) training for Soc Sciences	80
Written description of proposed research method for thesis	100

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{650}$$

Online Interaction and Participation in Discussions

Students are expected to respond to each discussion prompt using proper grammar including spelling, capitalization (when applicable), and punctuation. You do not have to reply to posts of other classmates unless specifically directed to do so.

Comparison of Quantitative Articles

Students will utilize online databases, bibliographic indexes, and journals to select at least three articles that report research that used *quantitative methods*. They will complete a comparison exercise per instructions that demonstrates their understanding of the methods used.

Comparison of Qualitative Articles

Students will utilize online databases, bibliographic indexes, and journals to select at least three research articles that utilize *qualitative methods*. They will complete a comparison exercise per instructions that demonstrates their understanding of the methods used.

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.

Research ethics assignment (University-approved online RCR training/quizzes)

This assignment will allow the student to demonstrate:

1. Consider case studies related to ethical issues in research.
2. Interpret, define, and/or utilize key vocabulary related to research.
3. Recognize strategies for protecting Human and/or Animal Subjects.
4. Discuss implications of research to a profession, population, or society.

Conference proceeding paper or poster summary

The student attend a research conference or review the proceedings of at least one relevant research conference and select a research paper or poster to summarize as directed.

Thesis or Research Project Introduction

Students will compose and introductory section/chapter for a research/thesis proposal that includes background information, problem statement, purpose of the study, and relevant definitions.

Thematic literature review and citations

Each student will compose a review of literature (minimum of 10 references) on a topic or theme approved by the professor. This will most likely be for your thesis proposal for final thesis. Format of the written proposal shall be written in a format compatible with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication, 7th* or latest edition (unless your thesis advisor specifies an alternative format). This reference may be purchased through the bookstore or online from various sources. It will be a very useful tool for this semester and future graduate courses.

Syllabus Addendum for Dr. Bob Williams for the Semester

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professor's control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appointments for professor or his household dependents.

Monday	9:00-9:50 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00-9:50 a.m.
Thursday	by appointment
Friday	by appointment

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course. 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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The professor and GAs or SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. **Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor.** Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.

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

Gea Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.

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.

COVID-19 Conditions and Response

In the event of another pandemic, you may face periods of isolation or restriction of movement. Since this is an online course, it is designed for your completion from anywhere that internet access exists. If you do not have internet access in your current residence, you need to identify how you will access your assignments if you cannot leave. This may include the use of a smart phone or other digital device that can offer connectivity. Most assignments can be completed offline, but the internet may be required for research, online discussions, and the uploading of assignments/projects. If you have a medical reason for an assignment to be delayed, I will excuse that. Internet access, or the lack of it, is not a medical excuse.