



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

ENG 776: RESEARCH METHODS IN WRITING STUDIES

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Charles Woods, Director of Writing and Assistant Professor of English
Office Location: David Talbot Hall 326
Office Hours: TBD
Office Phone: --
Office Fax: --
University Email Address: charles.woods@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

1. *Try This: Research Methods for Writers* [ISBN: 978-1-64215-144-2 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-145-9 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-312-5 (pbk.)] [\[OPEN ACCESS | WAC CLEARINGHOUSE\]](#)
2. *Methods and Methodologies for Research in Digital Writing and Rhetoric: Centering Positionality in Computers and Writing Scholarship, Volume 1* [ISBN: 978-1-64215-154-1 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-155-8 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-382-8 (pbk.)] [\[OPEN ACCESS | WAC CLEARINGHOUSE\]](#)
3. *Methods and Methodologies for Research in Digital Writing and Rhetoric: Centering Positionality in Computers and Writing Scholarship, Volume 2* [ISBN: 978-1-64215-166-4 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-167-1 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-388-0 (pbk.)] [\[OPEN ACCESS | WAC CLEARINGHOUSE\]](#)

Other Texts and Materials via D2L

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to research methods and methodologies commonly used in rhetoric, composition, writing studies, and literacy studies. Topics include the following: histories of research methods and methodologies; connections among (and understandings of) methods; practical guidance for student-selected, original research; and methodologies as theories that guide our use of methods. Students will learn how to create and sustain a research project by drawing attention to how methods and methodologies can enable, constrain, and complicate our work. Students will have the chance to learn about various methods (such as interviewing, archival work, grounded theory, ethnography) as well methodologies (such as feminist, transnational, racial).

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. **Critically engage various discussions in the scholarship** related to academic research and the field of Writing Studies (and its collegial fields). Use critical reading and discussion to observe the core histories, theories, and concepts promoted in the field.
2. **Enhance your critical reading skills** including identifying arguments, methods, and contribution to the scholarly conversation. Use critical reading to find gaps in the conversation where you can contribute with your research.
3. **Understand the core stages of academic research** and determine your own unique workflow.
4. **Develop a theory- and practice-informed orientation as a researcher**, including considering how your experiences and beliefs inform your methodological commitments.
5. **Expand your personal tool kit of research methods practices**. Examine your current practices and how different approaches and frameworks may inform your future research.
6. **Present original, persuasive ideas** in formal, informal, and multimodal contexts. Use academic writing when appropriate but strive for clear and thought-provoking writing.
7. **Set and evaluate your own goals**.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You will need regular access to the internet, digital storage (hardware or cloud storage), a valid working ETAMU email address, knowledge of D2L, and a computer with a word processing software.

Instructional Methods

The modality for this Fall 2025 section of ENG 776: Research Methods in Writing Studies is online. We will follow institutional protocols if ETAMU reconsiders instructional methods during the term.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Your success in ENG 776: Research Methods in Writing Studies is tied to active participation in digital spaces (D2L), including the completion of all readings, activities, and assignments throughout the course.

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 90-100 Points

B = 80-89 Points

C = 70-79 Points

D = 60-69 Points

F = < 59 Points

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

Example:

Memo of Introduction	5%
Weekly Readings Discussions (D2L)	40%
Journal Analysis	20%
Research Proposal	25%
Final Reflection	5%
Online CITI Trainings	5%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

Memo of Introduction: The purpose of this assignment is help me to better understand your goals for enrolling in this course, to learn more about how you come to the field of rhetoric and composition or writing studies, the topic of research methods, and to help you to establish a rapport with me.

Weekly Readings Discussions (D2L): The ENG 776 Weekly Readings Discussion forum is where we will engage in dialogue about the readings for each unit. Your initial post for each unit should substantially engage with the readings, introduce *at least* one (1) new resource (e.g., online/news article, blog post, discipline-specific reading), and make connections to your personal/professional lives.

Journal Analysis: Select an academic journal in your field of study or in Writing Studies. After identifying a journal, review at least two years (no fewer than 4 issues) paying attention to the kind of articles being published, the topics being addressed, any unique features, publishing motto and process, competing journals, and other important elements.

Research Proposal: A formal research proposal that demonstrates a need for research on an issue and outline research questions, methodologies, and protocols. You will create a research proposal for an issue of your choosing using any of the qualitative approaches/methods discussed in the course.

Final Reflection: You will complete a final reflection for this course.

Online CITI Trainings: Review Board (IRB) requires researchers to complete online CITI trainings, which introduce you to the ethical considerations and legal liabilities of research. You will complete the Social and Behavioral Research (basic) course (~5 hours). Once you complete the training, you will submit your certificate as well as a reflection.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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](#).

<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>

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Departmental-Specific Procedures

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.