

# FCS 425 Housing & Home Improvement-Syllabus

**Course Description** This course addresses contemporary issues relevant to residential family housing and home improvement.

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**Text** Anacker, Katrin B. (2024) *Housing in the United States: The Basics*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis, New York, NY.

Due to the low number needed, I did not submit a textbook request through the university bookstore. I apologize if this presents and inconvenience.

<https://www.routledge.com/Housing-in-the-United-States-The-Basics/Anacker/p/book/9781032655710?srsId=AfmBOorEM5eMriCWLzPfrOoAcgCct625kLT97MzovABj6WDJOn6ZW0Sy>

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**Online** This is an online course that includes face-to-face class meetings and web-based instruction consisting of 14 specific online modules through D2L. These modules consist of print notes (summarizing general points), fact sheets (publications from Cooperative Extension sources and other governmental agencies), slide presentations (from various sources), related websites, and video clips. Additionally, there will be 1-2 chapters from the text assigned to each module.

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**Field/Lab Activities** Field activities will consist of self-study or team activities that require in-person observations at an alternative or virtual location. There will be one field activity associated with residential housing/design/access and one associated with another aspect of housing/home improvement.

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<b>Grading</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Online discussion and participation	140
Introductory video	60
Research Project- <i>Trends, Choices, &amp; Challenges</i>	100
Field-Based Lab Activities (2@100)	200
Assignment- <i>Owning vs. Renting</i>	100
Exam- <i>Home Improvement</i>	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>700</b>

Your Final Grade =  $\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Possible Points}^*}$

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**Student Learning Outcomes** Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Recognize current trends, options, and challenges in housing in the US.
2. Analyze spaces and design options for effective housing.
3. Compare rationales for home ownership and renting.
4. Describe factors associated with renting or buying a home.
5. Explore techniques, tools, and materials for home improvement.
6. Interpret residential building codes and housing laws/policies.
7. Discuss social and economic implications related to U.S. housing policies.

**AMC Graduate Distinction Addendum** Students registered for **graduate credit** are required to complete all lecture activities associated with FCS 425, designated field/lab activities and additional activities deemed relevant for graduate credit. These additional requirements consist of **one** of the following activities:

- \_\_\_ Review (one page abstract) of four research articles related to course.
- \_\_\_ Complete a 6-8 page (APA format) term paper on a relevant topic.
- \_\_\_ Develop lesson plans, handouts, and assessment activities for two home renovation or home improvement videos.

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**Course Assignment & Activities** The activities are listed elsewhere in the syllabus. More details will be in D2L.

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**Professional Conduct** Student participation in class discussion and instructional activities should follow the basic principles of common courtesy and decency. Rude and disruptive behavior, as well as cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated.

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**ADA/504** Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, contact Coordinator of Disability Services at 903/886-5835.

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**Office Hours** I have an open door policy and will try to assist students any time that I am available. However, advising, outreach and research activities may prohibit immediate drop-in service. Typically, I am in the office on Monday and Tuesday 9:00-11:50 a.m. Other days 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](mailto: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.

The professor will usually be available in the university cafeteria for informal conversation and breakfast (you buy your own) on Fridays between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. This is a good chance to get to know the professor and allow him to know more about you.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### *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>

#### **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**

#### **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

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

### **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 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.

**College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Fax: 903-886-5990**

*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*

Dr. Bob Williams, AGIT 247  
903/886-5350 or [bob.williams@etamu.edu](mailto:bob.williams@etamu.edu)

*assignments, projects, or presentations on an individual basis when determined to be in the best interest of the student and class activities.*