



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

HHPK 595-01W/81B – Critiquing & Conducting Research

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Steve Prewitt, Associate Professor

Office Location: NHS 138

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: x5544

University Email Address: steve.prewitt@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during the week. Emails received during the weekend may not be returned until the following Monday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required (Inclusive Access): Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (6th Edition). SAGE Publications, Inc. (US).

Software Required: Basic computer

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Textbook Suggested

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA

other assigned readings posted on D2L

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

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

1. Understand terminology related to research.
2. Understand various types and designs of research in health, kinesiology, and sport studies
3. Critique research in their respective fields.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write an intro, lit review, and methodology sections of a research proposal.
5. Demonstrate the ability to write in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Student should be proficient in Microsoft Word, web browsing, and navigating an online learning platform.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist of required readings from the textbook, quizzes to test your knowledge and understanding of the material, and written assignments. More detail into these aspects of the course is provided in the grading section below.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

It is your responsibility to submit all required quizzes, assignments, and discussion posts by the due date and time listed for each section.

Students submitting late work will receive an automatic 20% reduction in grade if the late work is submitted within a week of being due. Assignments submitted between one week and two weeks late will receive an automatic 30% deduction. Assignments submitted later than two weeks after the due date will receive a zero.

I believe in being fair to all students and I simply cannot justify a student who misses the opportunity to complete activities earning the same grade as a student who finishes every class assignment on time.

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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

Assessments

Homework Assignments

The purpose of the weekly assignments is to develop your research skills as it relates to your culminating requirement for the graduate program. Assignments include CITI training certification, research sampling plan, data interpretation, and article reviews. Professionalism is imperative and students will be graded accordingly. More importantly, each assignment prepares you for your critical assignment: Research Proposal for a thesis or project. *Accurate and professional submissions are important. Give yourself plenty of time each week to complete this assignment. It is strongly recommended to read, view resources, and complete the quiz prior to completing the assignments.* Assignments are due each week before or by Day 7 (Sunday) by midnight, unless otherwise stated.

Quizzes

Quizzes are a combination of scenarios, multiple choice questions, and short answer essays. This assignment is not intended to trick you, it is intended to "check for understanding" and highlight the most important concepts from the reading. They are *cumulative* in nature, meaning some questions may include previous week's information. There is no time limit, but once you begin you are forced to complete the assignment in one sitting. *It is strongly recommended to read and view resources prior to completing the quiz.*

CAP: Critical Assignment Preparations

For the duration of the course, you will be working to complete a series of critical assignments that demonstrates your mastery of the major course concepts. There will be three separate supportive submissions that will assist you in developing skills/content towards completing your critical assignment. Specific instructions and examples will be posted in My Leo during the week in which that supportive submission is due.

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Critical Assignment – Research Proposal

The critical assignment in this course is to complete a Research Proposal. Your submission should completely integrate all required components into a coherent, well-organized whole, and relevant connections between individual components (when applicable). The proposal should be clear, insightful, and follow the appropriate order. ***Please note**— feedback provided to you throughout the semester (especially from CAPS 1-3) must be included within the final revision of your critical assignment. Failure to adhere to this standard will significantly affect your earned score. As a way of demonstrating your understanding of qualitative and quantitative research design, you will design a research project proposal using either methods. You will not be collecting and analyzing data in this course, but your plan should have enough detail for you to continue the study if you wanted

Introduction & Literature Review

Think of the introduction as a big funnel: You should identify a broad topical area, specify a particular focus area within that topic, and then present your purpose statement and research question in a specific form. Your introduction should draw the reader into the importance of your topic and research question. You should use the literature review as a way to familiarize the reader with the research questions, findings, and a discussion that informs and impacts your study.

Research Methods Plan

The research plan explains how you propose to find an answer to your research question. Think about the design of a research project that you particularly liked from the literature. What kinds of questions did they ask? What *type* and *quality* of data would you need in order to address your research question? (For example, "We know that repetitive traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) cause damage to short term memory in HS football players, but we don't have an enough data on the effectiveness of grading systems and rest on preventing future TBIs. This study proposes to examine...")

See your text, as well as the research examples on D2L and the appendices to this syllabus, for additional information on content and formatting of the research proposal.

All work submitted for this course must be your own work, must have been developed specifically for this course, and may not have been submitted for evaluation or assessment in any other course. The Critical Assignment must be passed at an acceptable rate in order to pass the course.

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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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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.

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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

It is my goal to respond to any questions you have within a 24-hour period Monday through Friday (weekends are an exception). If the matter is urgent, please include the word "urgent" in the email subject line.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- 1) Because this is an online course, you may never meet me or your other classmates face-to-face. That means that written communication must be clear in all circumstances.
- 2) While completing assignments, chatting, etc within the D2L environment (within this class), be professional. Write clearly with correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Actively prepare by reading the assigned materials. Share your thoughts (ask and answer questions). Have course materials with you when you are online (you can use materials during quizzes, etc).
- 3) Due dates: The "due dates" listed for sections are the LAST chance to submit them. Please submit your work early.
- 4) If you have a question or concern, e-mail me. Please include in the subject of the e-mail ("HHPK 595") and the subject of the message. I will respond within 24hrs during the week.
- 5) Use the following e-mail address for me: steve.prewitt@tamuc.edu
- 6) You MUST check your e-mail regularly in case I need to communicate with you.

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.

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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](#)

<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>

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<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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

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/)

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

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](#)

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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 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.



Use of AI for Assignments

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

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Learning Activities	Assignments Due
Week 1 Jan 29 – Feb 8	APA formatting, Course Tips, Finding research articles, Introductions, Syllabus	Introductions Intro Quiz
Week 2 Feb 9 – 15	Ch. 1 – Selection of Research Approach Ch. 4A – Writing Strategies	Assignment 1 Quiz 1
Week 3 Feb 16 – 22	Ch. 4B – Ethical Considerations	Assignment 2 Quiz 2
Week 4 Feb 23 – Mar 1	Ch. 5 – The Introduction	CAP 1 Quiz 3
Week 5 Mar 2 – 8	Ch. 6 – Purpose Statement Ch. 7 – Research Question & Hypothesis	Assignment 3 Quiz 4
March 9 – 15 Spring Break - No Class		
Week 6 & 7 Mar 16 – 29	Ch. 2 – Review of Literature	CAP 2 Quiz 5
Week 8 Mar 30 – Apr 5	Ch. 8 – Quantitative Methods Ch. 9 – Qualitative Methods Ch. 10 – Mixed Methods	Quiz 6 Assignment #4
Week 9 April 6 – 12	Methodology	Assignment #5 CAP 3
Week 10 April 13 – 19	Bringing it all together	Proposal Poster Rough Draft due April 19 @11:59pm
Week 11 April 20 – 26	Sharing is Caring	Peer Review due Apr 26 @11:59pm
Week 12 - Finals Apr 14 – Finals Week	Return Rough Draft with Peer Reviews	Critical Assignment due May 8 @11:59pm

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