



**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**EDAD 718, 09E, Doctoral Dissertation (online)**  
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026 (January 12, 2026-May 8, 2026)

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Elsa Villarreal, Ph.D.  
**Office Location:** Frank Young Education North, Room 203  
**Office Hours:** As Needed Upon Request  
**Department Office Phone:** 903.886.5577  
**Department Office Fax:** 903-886-5507  
**University Email Address:** Elsa.Villarreal@etamu.edu  
**Instructor's Cell Phone:** 281-773-8446  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** e-mail, text  
**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours on weekdays, 48 Hours on weekends

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**Course Description**

EDAD 718 *Doctoral Dissertation* (3 - 12 semester hours) A candidate must present a dissertation acceptable to the student's advisory committee and the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research on a problem in the area of specialization. To be acceptable the dissertation must give evidence that the candidate has pursued a program of research, the results of which reveal superior academic competence and a significant contribution to knowledge.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Develop and understanding of the dissertation process, guidelines and protocols
2. Develop a defend a successful proposal.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

3. Navigate the IRB process with guidance from the chair.
4. Carry out proposed research, collect data and interpret
5. Develop and defend the Final Dissertation Defense.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students should have basic knowledge of MS Office including Word, PowerPoint and Excel documents. The use of Leo Mail is required for communication with the professor and other students. The use of the Learning Management System (LMS) D2L is important to success in the course. Tutorials and support are available to learn these skills. Students should be able to do basic research including library database and internet searches for documents and publications.

### **Instructional Methods**

This web-based course provides a resource base to develop the proposal, carry out research and successfully defend the dissertation. While all work is individualized and developed in consultation with the chair, it is expected of the student to take initiative, be aware of all deadlines and communicate regularly with the chair.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Students will be required to log into the course daily and use University email to communicate with the chair regularly. All established deadlines and product expectations are to be delivered to the chair as specified with each individual student.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based up Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory system. In most cases students will be issued an "I" for Incomplete each semester which are changed to an "S" by the Registrar upon graduating. A "U" may also be issued if the student is not making substantial progress toward completion of the dissertation in any given semester. Three or more "U"s is grounds for exiting a student from the program.

Grading will be determined on progress toward specific deliverables agreed upon by the dissertation chair and student.

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## 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](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](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](mailto: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 ETAMU 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>

#### Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor normally responds to student questions within 2 days. Email is the preferred method of communication. The instructor has provided a cell phone number for students to call for more detailed or urgent communication.

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Assignment/Deliverables Policy**

Assignment due dates are individualized for each student. All paper submissions should be submitted in the course as a .doc or .docx file unless specified otherwise.

#### **Late Work**

Late work will not be accepted in the course.

#### **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.

<https://inside.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:

<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](#)

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

## **Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

**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**

East Texas A&M University Velma K

Waters - Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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 University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **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.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

### **AI Use policy [Draft 2, May 25 2023]**

East Texas A&M University 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 (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

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The course is divided into modules that are open all semester. Generally, each module provides support and examples for each step of the dissertation from Prospectus to

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Final Defense. Student should access any module needed depending upon their progress towards completion and any established timeline.

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