OLT 595 01W: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Alan Francis
Office Hours: Virtual
Office Phone: 903-886-5507
University Email Address: Alan.Francis@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:** Email
Communication Response Time: Emai – Within 24 hours during weekdays.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

This course uses open educational resources (OER). All required readings, textbook, and multimedia for this course, will be available online to you. OER are openly licensed materials in the public domain used for teaching, learning, and research.

OER Textbooks:
Ewing, R., & Gruwell, C. (2022). *Critical thinking in academic research* (2nd ed.). Minnesota State
    Colleges and Universities. https://minnstate.pressbooks.pub/ctar2/

Symbaluk, D., & Hall, R. (2025). *Research methods: Exploring the social world in Canadian contexts* (3rd
    ed.). MacEwan Open Books. https://openbooks.macewan.ca/researchmethods/

Optional Textbook:
American Psychological Association*.* (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological
Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Course Description
This course provides an overview of research methodology to include core concepts and common procedures employed in quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, engaged students will be able to:

1. Understand what research is and how it differs from other types of studies, such as an evaluation or technical report.
2. Understand the overall research procedures.
3. Compare the use of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research and describe the characteristics of each type of research method and their application.
4. Describe ethical guidelines in conducting research and for the protection of human subjects of research projects.
5. Conduct a literature review locating and retrieving relevant studies related to a topic of research interest.
6. Define research problems and develop a research purpose and research questions.
7. Define and select an appropriate research design for various research problem, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods designs.
8. Determine the use of data collection methods and identify appropriate data collection instrument or protocol.
9. Describe the concepts for analysis of data in quantitative and/or qualitative research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Expectations and Participation:

Active participation in this web-based course is expected. It is recommended that students log into the course module weekly to stay on track with the assigned reading materials, discussion post, assignment, and project.

Students are expected to take an active learning approach in this course and engage in the content to positively impact the learning experience for everyone.

Complete all discussion posts, assignments, and papers by deadlines.

Incorporate knowledge gained from the text, personal experiences, peers' feedback, and other resources to formulate ideas on your responses.

Course Assessments

This course is made up of a series of module assignments and assessments to assist students in achieving the learning outcomes. In each module, the students will work on combinations of reading, discussions, journal articles, videos, and/or self-study research.

Student Introduction (5%): Students will create a video to introduce themselves. Students can either create the video using the Panopto application or any other tool of their choice. The Panopto application may refer to the resource that is available in the Doc Sharing folder. Please refer to Module 1 for the information that needs to include in the video.

Pre- and Post-Course Survey (2.5% each): Students will complete a pre-course survey at the beginning of the course to share their thoughts and understanding about research methodologies. At the end of

the semester, student will complete a post-course survey to share their feedback and reflections on research methodologies. Follow the "Course Calendar" for the due date of this assignment.

Discussion Board (5% each): For each discussion thread topic, students will be required to post an "initial" post and <u>at least two</u> "replies" to their fellow peers' posts. When posting the initial post and replies to peers' posts, think about how the content adds substance or meaning to the discussion topic. For peers' replies, it is strongly discouraged saying simple "yes, I agree" or "I disagree". Students need to explain why they agree or disagree and provide examples, experiences, resources, alternative perspectives, challenging views, etc., to make the dialogue richer. Follow the "Course Calendar" for the due date of the assignment.

References Assignment (5%): Students will develop a reference page with 10-12 scholarly peer reviewed sources that will be used for the research plan using APA (7th ed.) guidelines. Refer to the course module for further instructions. Follow the "Course Calendar" for the due date of the assignment.

Research Design Critique Reports (10% each): One objective of this course revolves around learning about different types of research designs. In Module 3 and 4, students will complete a research design report to assess their understanding of the different designs. Follow the "Course Calendar" for the due date of the assignment.

Research Plan (30%): The core of this course is the development of a research plan. Through the analysis of appropriate research literature, students will identify a problem that they wish to further investigate. The problem needs to be one that is "researchable" and related to an area in their program of study or profession. Throughout the semester, students will conduct a series of activities to assist them in developing and refining their research topic and completing a formal research plan. Follow the "Course Calendar" for the due date of the assignment.

Course Grades

Grading Policy: The course grade consists of

Student Introduction	5%
Pre- & Post-Course Surveys	5%
Discussion Posts	35%
Reference Assignment	5%
Research Design Reports	20%
Research Plan	30%
Total	100%

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

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Course Calendar

Module	Topic	Reading	Discussion/Assignment
Module 1 3/16-3/22	• Introduction to Educational Research • Discussion • Pre-Course Survey	Symbaluk & Hall – Ch1 Article Online Videos	-Discussion Post 3/18 -Discussion Replies 3/21 -Class introduction video 3/21 -Pre-Course survey 3/21
Module 2 3/23-3/29	• Library Search • APA Format • Literature Review	Ewing & Gruwell – VII, VIII Online videos and readings	-Discussion Post 3/25 -Discussion Replies 3/28 -References Assignment 3/28
Module 3 3/30-4/05	• Identifying a Research Problem, Purpose, and Questions	Ewing & Gruwell – V Online videos	-Discussion Post 4/01 -Discussion Replies 4/04 -*Milestone I (no need to submit but start working on it)*
Module 4 4/06-4/12	• Quantitative Research Design • Qualitative Research Design	Symbaluk & Hall – Ch6, 9	-Discussion Post 4/08 -Discussion Replies 4/11 -Research Design Reports #1 due 4/11
Module 5 4/13-4/19	• Mixed Methods Procedure	Symbaluk & Hall – Ch11	-Discussion Post 4/15 -Discussion Replies 4/18 -Research Design Reports #2 4/18 -*Milestone II (no need to submit but start working on it)*
Module 6 4/20-4/26	• The Use of Theory • Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations	Symbaluk & Hall – Ch2, 3	-Discussion Post 4/22 -Discussion Replies 4/25
Module 7 4/27-5/03	• Data Collection • Research Proposal	Symbaluk & Hall – Ch4, 12	-Discussion Post 4/29 -Discussion Replies 5/02
Module 8 5/05-5/08	• Research Plan • Post-Course Survey		-Research Plan due 5/06 -Post-Course Survey due 5/07 by 5:00 pm

Symbaluk, D., & Hall, R. (2025). *Research methods: Exploring the social world in Canadian contexts* (3rd ed.). MacEwan Open Books. https://openbooks.macewan.ca/researchmethods/

Ewing, R., & Gruwell, C. (2022). *Critical thinking in academic research* (2nd ed.). Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. https://minnstate.pressbooks.pub/ctar2/

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This class is 8-weeks long, so the schedule is intense. Please plan to work on your discussions and assignments ahead of time if schedule permits. All discussion posts and assignments are due by 11:59 pm except the post-survey is due at 5:00 pm.

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	Percentage
Pre-course Survey	2.5								2.5
Student Introduction	5								5
Module Discussion	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		35
References Assignment		5							5
Research Design Reports				10	10				20
Research Proposal								30	30
Post-course Survey								2.5	2.5
Total:									100

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@etamu.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

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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

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the Learning Management System Requirements Webpage.

- Learn more on the LMS Browser Support Webpage.

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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 on the Brightspace Support Webpage.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line

- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)

- Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)

- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

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.

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 online in the Student Guidebook.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette Webpage for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

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For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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 (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

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:

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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@etamu.edu

Website: Office of 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 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 ETAMU 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.

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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

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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.

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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