



HIED 655 Issues in Higher Education  
Spring 2026

**Professor's Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dimitra Smith, Ph.D Professor
<b>Office Location:</b>	Frank Young Education North Building, ETAMU campus (next to the University Library)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Please make an appointment for a face-to-face or virtual meeting.
<b>Office Phone:</b>	903-886-5618
<b>University Email Address:</b>	Dimitra.smith@etamu.edu
<b>Preferred Form of Communication:</b>	email.
<b>Communication Response Time:</b>	48 hours during the weekdays. I may not be able to respond during the weekends.

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Required Course Materials**

- Bok, D. (2015). *Higher education in America: Revised Edition (the William G. Bowen Series)*. Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0691165580. Please buy the Kindle version through [Amazon](#) for \$15.
- *Starving the Beast*, 2016, 1 hour 34 mins. This is a very interesting documentary video addressing the critical issues facing public higher education in the United States. You can stream this video for 7 days through [Amazon Prime Video](#) for just \$4.99. A one time payment of \$20 is a small investment for your learning in this class.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Supplemental Course Materials**

- I will post information from time to time and alert you to them. These materials will be available at no charge to you.

## **Course Objective**

This course provides an in-depth understanding of prevalent issues to higher education institutions in the United States. Emphasis is placed on understanding, addressing, and resolving critical issues for institutional and systematic self-improvements.

## **Course Contents**

This course has five components, each with its own discussion forum. There will be a required term paper at the end of the course.

- Unit 1: Context of US Higher Education
- Unit 2: Undergraduate Education
- Unit 3: Graduate and Professional Education
- Unit 4: Research
- Unit 5: Epilogue

Your performances in Units 1 through 5 will constitute 80% of your grade. Your final term paper will constitute 20% of your grade.

## **Course Expectations**

## **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

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## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Email me at [Dimitra.smith@etamu.edu](mailto:Dimitra.smith@etamu.edu) . I will reply to email messages within 48 hours, except on the weekends and holidays. Use your etamu email only with an appropriate message title when communicating with me.

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

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

#### **Late Assignments**

There will be a 100% penalty for discussion postings, feedback, and the written assignment that are not completed on time. These assignments have a rippling effect on other components of the class. In such cases, you will be assigned a zero grade for assignments not completed on time or turned in late after the indicated due dates. Remember that any missed or incomplete assignment will have an adverse effect on your final grade.

#### **Respect Differing Views**

As with all graduate-level classes, this course deals with common and differing ideas and opinions. Please always be scholarly, courteous, fair-minded, and respectful of each other's opinions, particularly in disagreement situations. Always be a good listener, attempting to understand other people's rationale, perspective, and beliefs. Any discourtesy and lack of respect will not be tolerated.

#### **Academic Honesty**

Academic integrity is of utmost importance in academia. Acts of academic misconduct and plagiarism are considered egregious matters that will severely jeopardize your career as a student. Plagiarism, depending on severity, will result in a failing grade for either that particular assignment or the entire course. Work produced, whether in part or in whole, from assignments for other courses will not be accepted for credit and will be considered a form of plagiarism.

I expect all assignments for this course to be creative and honest representation of your scholarly work. If the evidence is clear that you have committed academic misconduct, including plagiarism, a formal charge will be filed against you following university policy. At my discretion as the course instructor, if the misconduct is not intentional, I can decide on whether a particular assignment may be rewritten and resubmitted for a maximum grade of 70% of the original total, along with other stipulations, including participation in an academic misconduct workshop.

You are strongly suggested to visit two of these sites for additional information:

- [Plagiarism Tutorial](#), Indiana State University, 2016, 26 mins.

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- [Avoiding Plagiarism: Writing with Integrity](#), 2015, 35 mins.
- [Academic Integrity](#), University of Oklahoma, 2024.
- [Nine Things You Should Already Know About Plagiarism](#), University of Oklahoma, no date.
- [10 Types of Plagiarism](#), 2012, 4 mins.

### **Late Assignments**

No late assignments are accepted, except with prior approval from the instructor.

### **Writing Center**

Students are encouraged to visit the East Texas A&M University's Writing Center and other locations for writing assistance. Graduate students, especially at the doctoral level, are expected to have a high level of writing ability and skills. Also, as the instructor for this class, I will be providing helpful writing guidance and advice. You should also consult with your faculty advisor for any needed assistance.

### **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: [Netiquettehttp://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

#### **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>

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<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](#)

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

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **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

Gee Library- 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/>

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## **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's 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](#) 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.

## **Artificial Intelligence Use Policy (May 23, 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 (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

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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

### **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.

