PSY 490: Honors Thesis
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kelly M. Carrero, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA-TX; Associate Professor
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 pm-5:30 pm CST via Zoom or by appointment
Office Fax: 903.886.5510
University Email Address: Kelly.Carrero@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Virtual Office Hours (VOH) for general course questions; Email for questions and/or information specific to individual students
Communication Response Time:
Using VOH through D2L = within 36 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer
Using University Email = within 48 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Readings

American Psychological Association. (2020). _Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)._ https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000

Any current and published guidance from The ETAMU Honors College.

Software Required
Contingent on the doctoral candidate's project

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (1995). _The craft of research._ The University of Chicago Press.

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Silvia, P. J. (2007). *How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing.*
   American Psychological Association.

Other resources. East Texas A&M University's Waters Library provides access to thousands of online journals. Of particular interest to this class are resources found in the ERIC and PsychInfo databases. You may access these resources on campus or from home by using your CWID and password at http://www.tamuc.edu/library/

Course Description

Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. Graded on a (S) satisfactory or (U) unsatisfactory basis.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will evaluate research to develop a research project.
2. Students will synthesize research on their topic.
3. Students will identify techniques for data collection and analysis.
4. Students will write a formal research paper and adhere to all ETAMU Honors College requirements for successful completion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

To be successful in this course, you will need to know how to access and navigate (a) Desire2Learn, (b) ETAMU's Waters Library OneSearch, (c) Microsoft Word, and (d) Microsoft Excel. If you use the program **PAGES**, you will need to convert your file to a Word document or PDF before submitting it. I will not serve as technical support. TAMUC has multiple professionals (e.g., Instructional Technology, CITE, librarians) who will be able to help you troubleshoot and/or teach you how to navigate the necessary technical requirements for this course.

Instructional Methods

This is an independent project. Students will attend regular meetings with the advisor for progress reports and guidance. During our weekly meetings, it is expected that students prepare an agenda with NO MORE than 3 points of discussion to make sure the meeting is efficient and productive. One of the points of discussion will be reviewing/discussing whatever action items were discussed at the previous meeting. Finally, it is expected that students create and maintain a thesis progress report that is frequently updated and shared with the advisor and any other faculty/staff required by the ETAMU Honors College using an accessible format (e.g., Google docs).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To be successful in this class, I recommend you access your resources fully, frequently, and without timidity. Email the instructor if you have any questions or concerns that are specific to you. Reach out to other scholars who are doing work that you are interested

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in if you want/need to unpack some concepts applicable to your thesis. Contact the ETAMU librarians (they have provided multiple ways to contact them) for assistance in accessing available resources. Schedule time with the ETAMU Writing Center to identify some writing behaviors you need to work on before sending your document out to your committee members for review.

GRADING

S/U is the grading scheme. Students are assigned a grade of I while the dissertation is in progress, and this grade will be converted to an S upon successfully defending the final dissertation. Students may be assigned a grade of U if they are not making progress on their project.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M 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@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.

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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

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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.

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 can be found at https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

 If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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 student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

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Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

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:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Website: http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx

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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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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**

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.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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