



## **PSY 718: Dissertation**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Kendra Saunders, PhD, NCSP

**Office Location:** Henderson 213

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00am – 1:30pm (online), or by appointment.

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Office Fax:** N/A

**University Email Address:** [Kendra.saunders@etamu.edu](mailto:Kendra.saunders@etamu.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Within 48 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

No materials are required. Students will utilize the university library to locate readings related to their dissertation project.

#### **Course Description**

Doctoral dissertations must be acceptable to the student's advisory committee and the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research on a problem in the area of his 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 competency and a significant contribution to knowledge. Graded on a (S) satisfactory or (U) unsatisfactory basis.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

**SLO 1:** Students will evaluate research to develop a research project.

**SLO 2:** Students will synthesize research on their topic.

**SLO 3:** Students will identify techniques for collecting and analyzing data.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**SLO 4:** Students will write a formal dissertation and orally defend their dissertation.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Assessments**

- I. Proposal** – Before conducting their project, students will write a formal proposal and orally defend it. This will include a literature review and a description of the project's methodology.
- II. Final Dissertation** – A final dissertation that includes the literature review and methodology along with the results and interpretation of the results will be required. A corresponding presentation will be required to defend the final dissertation.

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Required skills: Proficiency in Microsoft Office or a similar program is required. You will also be required to search for articles from the university library. Proficiency in data analytical software (e.g., SPSS) is also required.

### **Instructional Methods**

This is an independent project.

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

Making a structured work plan will help students progress through completing their project at a quicker rate. Set aside time for writing.

## **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.

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

### **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/>.

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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 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:

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.

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## **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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## **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 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](http://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.

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## **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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfficeEmployeesAndStudents/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.

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