East Texas A&M University

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Biological and Environmental Sciences
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BSC 518 02E
Syllabus (Spring 2026; Jan 12 – May 8)

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University Statements

Academic integrity: As members of Texas A&M University-Commerce academic community, we all are responsible to underpin the principles of academic integrity expressed by this community. We are expected to watch these principles to be kept and appreciated by others.

- The first instance of cheating will result in an automatic Zero on the exam. A second instance will result in Zero course grade (automatic F).
  Cheating is defined as:
  - Copying another's test, assignment, or lecture slides
  - Communication with another during an exam (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
  - Giving or seeking aid from another
  - Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
  - Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key
- Plagiarism is a serious academic criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information with properly accredited. Copying material, whether parts or whole, will result in Zero for your term paper and can incur in further University disciplinary consequences.

Nondiscrimination Notice: Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 Conceal Carry Statement: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 A&M-Commerce 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;
found at
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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Accommodations: The American with Disability Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statue that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other aspects, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have disability requiring accommodation, please contact:
> Office of Student Disability Resources or Services
> Texas A&M University-Commerce
> Gee Library, Room 162
> Tel) 903-886-5150, 903-886-5835
> Fax) 903-468-8148
> Email) StudentDisabilityService@tamuc.edu

Access to student work: Copies or your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file storage for institutional research, assessment, and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will remain anonymous.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, 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

Course Description
Course catalog description: A problem is chosen in the student's major field of interest with approval of the major professor. No credit is given until an acceptable thesis is completed. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Textbook is not needed; reading materials will be assigned based on consultations between the student and faculty member.

Student learning outcomes
Through the implementation of scientific study and employing the scientific method, students will, throughout their program, gain experience and proficiency in the following areas:
1. Development of research hypothesis.
2. Composition and successful defense of research proposal.

3. Implementation of study design and collection of scientific data.
4. Analysis and synthesis of research data.
5. Composition and successful defense of a thesis.

Course Requirements
Minimal Technical Skills Needed:
1. Must be able to use the learning management system (MyLeo Online).
2. Must willing to conduct the activities required of the supervising faculty.
3. Must be maintain proper attendance and working hours as designated by the supervising faculty and the study design.
4. Must have skills in writing and the analysis of statistical data.
5. Must be able to communicate via email or other necessary communication platforms.

Instructional Methods
This is a practical training course. The times and activities required to fulfill the thesis requirements will be established by the supervising individuals. On average, ten to twenty hours per week of research-related activities will be required for a productive research program. However, times will vary relative to progress and stage of research.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
You are responsible for ensuring that you complete all of the activities established in the research proposal and by your thesis supervisor in a timely manner. However, it is recognized that the research focus may change somewhat based on the vicissitudes inherent to biological research. In such cases the student and faculty are expected to adapt as appropriate. Students are expected to be punctual, courteous, and show ambition. Ask pertinent and relevant questions in an engaging and constructive manner. Ask to do additional work if possible and demonstrate due diligence.

Grading and Course Content
This is a pass/fail course that can be taken multiple times. Course content will vary with the type and nature of the thesis research and the stage of the research. This will be established by the thesis supervisor in consultation with the thesis student throughout their program. Thesis students are advised to keep a daily log of activities which will be reviewed at the end of each semester. Grading will be based on evidence of substantial progress or completion of the thesis program.

Grading Scheme
I=Incomplete. Student continues to make progress toward thesis completion.
S=Satisfactory. Student has successfully completed the requirements of the thesis.
U=Unsatisfactory. Student has failed to complete the requirements of the thesis.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer

- o Speakers or headphones.
- o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp) http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - o [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - o [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
  - o [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
  - o [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

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 TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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Student 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 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.