AI 595: 24315
Research Literature and Techniques
Courses Syllabus Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Christian F. Hempelmann
Office Locations: DAL 2072, HL 226, Zoom
Office Hours: daily 5-6pm on Zoom by appointment
University Email Address: c.hempelmann@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time: within 24h

COURSE INFORMATION

This courses the capstone course for the MS in Artificial Intelligence. You should only take this course as your final course for your degree. Check with your advisor to make sure you should be enrolled.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: none
Software Required: access to LMS
Optional Texts and/or Materials: all materials are included in the LMS shell

Course Description

Catalog description: A course designed to acquaint the student with the role of research in the initiation, development and modification of concepts and theories in computer science. A final written report and presentation and/or demonstration of results obtained during the course will be made to interested faculty members and students.

In practical terms, the students will discuss online or meet (in person or more commonly using other technology: zoom, skype, phone, etc.) with the instructor and will work on a research paper from deciding the topic to turning in the paper for its evaluation.

Student Learning Outcomes

• conduct a presentation-ready research paper
• identify appropriate methods of research in Artificial Intelligence
• find and appraise the quality of published research
• match relevant research questions with the methods in the specific field
• select an appropriate outlet for publication

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word, Web Browser, Google and Google Scholar, or similar search engines, use library web site.

Instructional Methods

The course is delivered entirely online. The course follows the writing of a research project step by step: from the selection of a research topic, the gathering of sources, their evaluation, the creation of an annotated bibliography, the writing of a proposal/outline, a first draft and a final project artifact. Each step is assessed independently. Class participation (primarily in the form of completion of the content and conferences with the instructor) is also part of the assessment (see below). Conferences are required by the instructor, who notifies the students when a conference is necessary, but of course students may request conferences at other times as well.

GRADING

Satisfactory: 80% or greater; Unsatisfactory: 79% or lower.

Assessments

Class Participation: 10%
Contract/Proposal: 10%
First Bibliography: 10%
Annotated Bibliography 10%
Outline for final artifact: 10%
Draft of paper: 10%
Presentation: 10%
Final artifact: 30%

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students will be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the syllabus and all course instructions found in the online course platform
Students will be responsible for reading all online materials

Students will be responsible for completing and submitting all assignments online. Acceptable file formats are MSWord (.docx), PDF, .rtf, .txt. All other word processing formats will have to be converted to one of these formats. Preferred format is pdf.

Students will be responsible for contacting the professor via the LMS or email regarding questions on assignments PRIOR to the due date.

Students are required to have virtual conferences with the instructor as indicated on the syllabus and may also be required to have extra virtual conference(s) with the instructor, especially in the last weeks, at the instructor's discretion. These conferences are part of the class participation.

Work week: the work week starts on Monday at 0:00 am and ends on Friday at 23:30 (11:30 pm). All assignments are due on Friday at 23:30, unless otherwise indicated in the course. All times are CST. If you are in a different time zone, you will need to make adjustments.

Follow the order of the assignments. While all lectures and assignments are available from day 1, do not try to start writing the paper before doing the annotated bibliography, for example.

Students *must* pass the comprehensive exam in order to successfully complete the class.

Students should always keep a backup of all materials submitted online.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Please check updated addresses in view of the ongoing tamuc-to-etamu renaming as East Texas A&M University transition.

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with **Dr. Gavin P. Johnson, the Director of Writing** (gavin.johnson@tamuc.edu). In the case when the Director of Writing is the instructor, the student should contact **Dr. Hunter Hayes, Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages** (hunter.hayes@tamuc.edu). Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

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: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

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.

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

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

AI Use in Courses

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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.

Specific guidelines on the use of AI in this course:

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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. *In this course you are not allowed to use any such software* unless specifically approved by the instructor for a given assignment or for a specific task. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). 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

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce 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](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf

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

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

To measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I will collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

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 Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Campus Concealed 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.

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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

RESOURCES

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

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

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. The Writing Center offers one-on-one sessions with writers—both face-to-face and online—begin on the hour and last up to 45 minutes. You cannot sign up for back-to-back appointments, but you may sign up for as many appointments as you'd like each day and week. For more information, visit https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center

Library

The Velma Waters Library supports the research, learning and teaching interests of students, faculty and staff. Connect with a librarian, explore our research and course guides, and attend workshops.

- **Chat with a Librarian!** Get immediate assistance with our [chat service](#) on the main Library page: https://www.tamuc.edu/library/
- **Email** ask@tamuc.libanswers.com. We will respond to your email within 24 hours, often much sooner.
- **Text** your question to 903.225.2862.
- **Call** the Waters Library at 903.886.5718 or contact the librarian for your college/department to discuss your research needs.
- **Meet With Us**! Don't stay up all night searching Google. Schedule a one-on-one consultation held in-person or via Zoom with the librarian for your college/academic department.
- **Visit Us**! We'd love to meet you in-person!

- ○ Waters Library Research Office: Second Floor, Room 213
- ○ Waters Library University Archives: 4th Floor, Room 406A
- ○ A&M – Commerce at Mesquite Metroplex Center: Second Floor, Study Room

Student Career Preparedness Office

Meet with career advisors who can help you with the resources and tools needed to prepare you for your next phase after graduation and beyond. To schedule an appointment, you can either call 903.468.3223, emailing hirealion@tamuc.edu or go online by clicking schedule an appointment.

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

Week	Events	Assignment due
1		Introductions and topics discussion
2		Topics discussion
3		**Contract/Proposal**
4		First bibliography
5		Conferences (as required by instructor)
6		Annotated bibliography
7		Conferences (as required by instructor)
8		**Outline of paper**
9		Write paper & Conferences (if required by instructor)
10		Write paper & Conferences (if required by instructor)
11		**First draft of paper**
12		Write paper & Conferences (if required by instructor)
13		Write paper & Conferences (if required by instructor)
14		Write paper & Conferences (if required by instructor)
15		**Presentations due**
16	Finals week	**Final artifact due, Monday @ 11:30 pm CST**

	Conf = conference I will be attending/ presenting, etc.	**All assignments are due on Friday at 11:30 pm CST** of the relevant week, except the final.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.