



HIED 595, 01W, Research Methodologies

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2026

Professor's Information

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

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (6th ed.). Sage.

Required Supplemental Articles (Supplied by the Instructor in D2L)

Larsen, D. L., Attkisson, C. C., Hargreaves, W. A., & Nguyen, T. D. (1979). Assessment of client/patient satisfaction: Development of a general scale. *Evaluation and*

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Program Planning, 2, 197–207. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0149-7189\(79\)90094-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0149-7189(79)90094-6)

Liew, C. H., & Servaty-Seib, H. L. (2020). College students' feedback on a student bereavement leave policy. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 57(1), 55–68. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19496591.2019.1614940>

Treadwell, K. L., Lane, F. C., & Paterson, B. G. (2020). Reflections from crisis: A phenomenological study of the Texas A&M bonfire collapse. *Journal of Student*

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Course Objective and Description

Provides a study of research methodologies with appropriate practical application in relevant problem solving. Specific research types, including action research, will be emphasized. The student is required to demonstrate his or her competence in the investigation and formal reporting of a problem.

Anonymous comments from previous students:

“Dr. Ponton is an excellent instructor. He takes the time not only to provide all the information for this course but also to encourage us through keeping us informed with announcements. The material presented in this course is very helpful in learning about research methodologies. I would definitely take another course that he teaches.” (Summer 2023 student)

“Would take another course with him. I was surprise to get the amount of feedback that I received being a Graduate student and was very thankful to get the assistance I got.” (Summer 2023 student)

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand basic concepts (e.g., purpose, literature review, and descriptive analysis) associated with common qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs.
2. Understand how to use basic concepts in analyzing a given research scenario and associated data, preparing a report of findings, and recommending additional research.
3. Understand how to use the APA style guidelines.
4. Develop autonomy in learning.
5. Develop group work skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must familiarize themselves with D2L and Microsoft Word. Utilization of ETAMU's online library resources, including search and retrieval of peer-reviewed journal articles will be necessary.

Instructional Methods

This is a fully online course. Assignments will be delivered via the D2L learning media platform. Knowledge of the substantive material covered in the course is of central importance. Grading will include consideration of content and APA format guidelines as well as grammar, spelling, organization, and explicit use of readings. A serious commitment to mastery of the content and contribution to everyone's learning is expected. An online course inherently requires students to be active, reflective, and contributive learners.

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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Quiz 1	15%
Quiz 2	15%
Quiz 3	15%
Group PPT	40%
<u>Evaluation by Group Members</u>	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

1. Students should work approximately 15 hours per week in completing course assignments.
2. Discussion forums will be provided to post any comments or questions, and I encourage you to post questions regarding any difficulties in understanding concepts

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from the assigned readings. Although these forums are not graded, students are encouraged to participate in these forums with the instructor (i.e., post, read postings, and reply to postings) in order to facilitate learning via discussion while building a sense of community.

3. The course calendar (which includes due dates for assignments) is at the end of this syllabus.
4. The quizzes are open book, open web exercise using a multiple choice format that will be available at or near the beginning of the assigned period in a course announcement. You must not work with anyone while completing the quizzes (i.e., doing so will be a violation of academic integrity). You may email the instructor requesting further clarification for specific quiz items who may post a response to the entire class in order to help everyone. **Each completed quiz must be emailed to the instructor by the due date/time (see Course Calendar at the end of the syllabus for all due dates)**. The graded quiz will indicate incorrect items and will be emailed to the students after which students should engage in further study to reconcile any conceptual difficulties and **resubmit the quiz within one week of the original due date for a (hopefully) higher grade (note: only one resubmission per quiz will be allowed); however, if the quiz is not resubmitted, the original grade will stand**. The graded second quiz will indicate incorrect items (and the correct answers) and will be emailed to the students; if after further study correct answers are still not understood, students should email or post a question to the instructor. Do not distribute the quizzes to anyone outside of this course as it or its parts may be reused in future courses; such a distribution will be a violation of academic integrity.
5. The journal articles assigned for Period 4 will be posted to D2L in this period's content section.
6. Before or near the beginning of Period 5, the instructor will email as well as post to D2L in an announcement the names of students assigned to each group. In the Period 5 content section, an overview of the research assignment and associated tasks will be posted in the document titled *Research Study Assignment.docx* and its associated data in the file titled *Research Scenario – Student Data.xlsx*. Students should follow the tasks as outlined in the Word document. Each group will have a discussion board forum to conduct its work; discussions should be in this forum (i.e., avoid synchronous methods as these are difficult to schedule) so that the instructor can monitor activity, and email between members should be used for document exchanges. **The PPT report must be emailed to the instructor by the due date/time in Period 9**. The grading rubric for this PPT will be 60% content and 40% writing (includes grammar and APA usage). Note that "APA usage" refers to proper in-text citations as well as the format for the References slide; no other APA requirements are necessary.

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- Each individual will evaluate his or her group members (use a scale from 0 to 100) with respect to their individual contribution to the discussion, analyses, and preparation of the PPT. These evaluations will be averaged in determining the 15-point evaluation grade. I will not provide a rubric as I do not know the agreed upon tasks for each group member. **The evaluation must be emailed to the instructor by the due date/time. A student who does not submit the evaluation will receive a zero that will be averaged with his or her group members' evaluation of his or her contribution to the PPT.**

If I have a clear indication from the group member evaluations that a group member did not contribute in any significant way to the group's project, I will not give the non/poor performing group member the same grade as the other members for the group project as this would not be fair. Any group member who receives an aggregate evaluation of 69% or less (i.e., a D or worse) from his or her colleagues will receive a group project grade that is weighted (i.e., multiplied by) by the aggregate evaluation; for example, if the group project grade is 38 points and a group member's aggregate evaluation is 50%, this group member will receive 19 points.

- Alignment of student learning outcomes with assessments:

Assignments	Student Learning Outcomes				
	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4	SLO5
Readings	X	X		X	
Quizzes	X	X		X	
Research Assignment	X	X	X	X	X

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email me at 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.

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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.
- [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.

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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>

<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

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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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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

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.

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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 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.



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COURSE CALENDAR

Modules	Assignments
1	Read Creswell & Creswell (C&C) Chapters 1–3; Complete Quiz 1
	Read C&C Chapters 4–7; Complete Quiz 2
2	Read C&C Chapters 8–10; Complete Quiz 3
	Read Assigned Journal Articles
3	Read and Think About the Research Scenario
	Scenario
4	Scenario
	Research Report (PPT)
5	PPT and Evaluation

¹Dates are Monday to Sunday.

²End of the day, TAMUC time.

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