



COUN 483: Domestic Violence

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2026

(6/1/2026-7/2/2026)

Online/Asynchronous

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jenny Gagnon, M.Ed., LPC-S

Office Location: by appointment

Office Hours: by appointment

University Email Address: jenny.gagnon@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: 903.886.5637

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours; M-F

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text:

Wexler, D.B. (2020). Stop Domestic Violence, 4th Edition

ISBN: 978-0-393-71447-0

Software Required – N/A

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

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

Student Learning Outcomes: (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Demonstration of understanding of key theory and concepts.
2. Evidence of ability to apply newly acquired skills.
3. Skillful and appropriate use of discipline-specific vocabulary.
4. Demonstration of professionalism and understanding of ethics and legal components of this academic field.
5. Practice of college-level academic writing, and ability to integrate content learned of this professional field of study with general content knowledge of Human Services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

In this class, you will utilize the Learning Management System (LMS) entitled D2L for portions of instructional and learning methods, submitting assignments, participating in online discussions, and completing quizzes. You will need to utilize other technologies such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc. If you have issues with this system, it is your responsibility to contact the help desk immediately.

Instructional Methods

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

This course requires active participation. Daily online discussion, interesting case studies, practical projects, real- life applications, and earnest exploration of content and informed opinions, are all part of the format for learning here. Outlining and reading the chapters before class discussions, as well as regular online participation will be necessary and required in order to pass this course. Content and assignments missed due to **unexcused absences cannot be made up**. Please be certain to read the University’s policy regarding documentation required for excused absences. Again, please note that attendance and participation are essential to success in this course.

Missed assignments, discussions, presentations and projects cannot be accepted late, unless they are a consequence of a University approved absence, reviewed by your instructor.

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:

Current Events Application Assignments	30%
Discussions/Participation	40%
<u>Three Chapter Exams</u>	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

The following criteria will be used to determine your points/grades

Weekly Discussion Expectations (0-100 points per weekly discussion posts):

Please note, you must respond in writing to these prompts with both opinion and NEW content, learned from the class and your reading. These are university-level written activities, and should reflect appropriate levels of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. When in doubt, check-it-out, and utilize tutoring services where necessary. You will be given two discussion topics each week.

You are to introduce an initial discussion post for each discussion topic (2 per week), preferably by Friday of each week to allow time for your peers to review and respond. You are then required to respond in writing to one or more of your classmates' posts for each of the discussion topics before 11:59pm each Sunday.

Typically, your discussion posts will be 75-100 words in length, or enough to fully answer the prompts and clearly convey your message. Responses to classmates should reflect clear understanding of their response and a detailed reflection.

Discussion/Participation Rubric	
3 - Exceeds Expectations (90 points and above)	Proactive participation: leading, originating, informing, challenging contributions that reflect in-depth study, thought, and analysis of the topic under consideration. Clear application of learning. This does not mean dominating discussion or self-disclosure inappropriate to the circumstances. Full attendance in the discussion

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	experience. No absence/no evident pattern of lateness.
2 – Meets Expectations (80-89 points)	Reactive participation: supportive, follow-up contributions that are relevant and of value, but rely on the leadership and study of others, or reflect opinion/personal self-disclosure rather than study, contemplation, synthesis, and evaluation. One absence/no evident pattern of lateness.
1 – Minimally or Does Not Meet Expectations (79 points or less)	Passive participation: present, awake, alert, attentive, but not actively involved or invested; Or Uninvolved: content is accurate, but simply repeated from text and does not show connection to learning or application/ examples, absent, present but not attentive, sleeping, texting/surfing, irrelevant contributions. More than two absences/pattern of lateness evident. <i>*Reminder: D2L reports the hours you are logged in and working on assignments. You must meet the 3 posted due dates in order to earn a passing grade in this course. Posting everything during the last week, will not suffice.</i>

Current Events Application Assignments (0-100 points per assignment): Find a current event discussed in the news (seek reputable news sources), that illustrates one of the major issues presented in the chapters from the week. Write a 75-100 word commentary on how it demonstrates an application of the content learned from the week. Use APA style and grammar when typing your paper and citing your sources. You are expected to have a cover page and reference page per APA.

Current Events Application Rubric			
	1 – Minimally or Does Not Meet Expectations (79 points or less)	2 – Meets Expectation (80-89 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectation (90 points and above)
Current Event Application to Course Content	Was unable to provide adequate examples and lacking a full demonstration of how it is an application of the course content.	Was able to provide adequate examples and demonstration of how it is an application of the course content.	Was able to provide clear examples and full demonstration from start to finish of how it is an application of course content. Showed insight and clear understanding of the overall purpose of the assignment.
APA Style & Grammar	Substantial APA errors (> 6 errors). Does not adhere to APA style; Poor grammar and sentence structure. Paper is disorganized; omission (less than 9) of in- text citations and references (if appropriate). Poor quality, Not	Some APA errors (3-4 errors). Mostly adhere to APA style; sufficient grammar and sentence structure; paper is fairly organized; Use of 10 in- text citations and references (if appropriate).	Little to no errors (1-2 errors). Completely adhere to APA style; sufficient grammar and sentence structure; paper is well-organized; Use of 11-15 in-text citations and references (if appropriate).

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	indicative of university level work.	Representative of university level work.	Representative of university level work.
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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

As a student in this course, you are responsible for the active learning process. Expectations for Summer 2026:

1. You are expected to always display professionalism. Be respectful of your professor and peers.
2. Be open to feedback, as you will receive this throughout the program.
3. Prepare for classes. Complete any and all readings prior to discussions and deadlines.
4. Complete all assignments by the deadline.
5. Adhere to the university student code of conduct.
6. Participate. In the online format, you are expected to participate in all online discussions/activities. This is crucial to your learning.
7. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 7th edition standards.
8. Regularly check your University email. My suggestion is to check this at least once a day as your instructors and others from the department and University may contact you.
9. Begin your readings ASAP. Sometimes it may take more than one attempt to digest the material.
10. Deadlines are the last possible moment something is due—not the first moment to start.
11. Work ahead. I realize this may not always be possible; however, when you can, do so.
12. Be open to the process. This degree takes time, work, effort, and growth.

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

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Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
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, D2L supports 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
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *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:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>

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- [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.

COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are expected to attend scheduled classes and log in to D2L for some assignments. No late assignments will be accepted.

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>

East Texas A&M 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>

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

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>

AI use in course [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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

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Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

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 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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

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.



DEPARTMENT OR ACCREDITING AGENCY REQUIRED COURSE CONTENT

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This outline is subject to change. Notification will be posted if a significant change occurs or should due dates need to be adjusted. Check your email and announcements in D2L daily.

Week 1 – June 1st through June 7th

Foundations, Orientation Info, New Members, Core Curriculum - and Anger and Aggression (sessions 1 & 2) – **Current Event Assignment 1 due before 11:59pm June 7th**

Week 2 – June 8th through June 14th

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Revising Personal Stories (sessions 3-8) - **QUIZ 1 due before 11:59pm June 14th**

Week 3 –June 15th through June 21st

Personal History (sessions 9-12) – **Current Event Assignment 2 due before 11:59pm June 21st**

Week 4 – June 22nd through June 28th

Relationship Skills (sessions 13-21) – **QUIZ 2 due before 11:59pm June 28th**

Week 5 –June 29th through July 2nd (short week, semester ends on Thursday)

Personal Responsibility (sessions 22-26) and Exit and Relapse Prevention - **QUIZ 3 due before 5pm, July 2nd**

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