



HHPK 518 – Thesis

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Michael Oldham, Assistant Professor

Office Location: NHS 115

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Phone: 902-886-5549

University Email Address: michael.oldham@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during the week. Emails received during the weekend may not be returned until the following Monday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required (Inclusive Access): None

Software Required: Basic computer

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Textbook Suggested

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA
other assigned readings posted on D2L

Course Description

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

1. Understand terminology related to research.
2. Understand various types and designs of research in health, kinesiology, and sport studies

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3. Critique research in their respective fields.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write an intro, lit review, and methodology sections of a research proposal.
5. Demonstrate the ability to write in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Student should be proficient in Microsoft Word, web browsing, and navigating an online learning platform.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist of construction of your Chapter 1, 2, and 3 of the thesis according to ETAMU TDS and APA 7th edition standards. More detail into these aspects of the course is provided in the grading section below.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

I believe in being fair to all students and I simply cannot justify a student who misses the opportunity to complete activities earning the same grade as a student who finishes every class assignment on time.

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

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Assessments

Homework Assignments

The purpose of the weekly assignments is to develop your research skills as it relates to your culminating requirement for the graduate program. Assignments include CITI training certification, research sampling plan, data interpretation, and article reviews. Professionalism is imperative and students will be graded accordingly. More importantly, each assignment prepares you for your critical assignment: Research Proposal for a thesis or project. *Accurate and professional submissions are important. Give yourself plenty of time each week to complete this assignment. It is strongly recommended to read, view resources, and complete the quiz prior to completing the assignments.* Assignments are due each week before or by Day 7 (Sunday) by midnight, unless otherwise stated.

Critical Assignment – Thesis Proposal

The critical assignment in this course is to successfully defend a Thesis Proposal. Your submission should completely integrate all required components into a coherent, well-organized whole, and relevant connections between individual components (when applicable). The proposal should be clear, insightful, and follow the appropriate order per TDS.

Introduction & Literature Review

Think of the introduction as a big funnel: You should identify a broad topical area, specify a particular focus area within that topic, and then present your purpose statement and research question in a specific form. Your introduction should draw the reader into the importance of your topic and research question. You should use the literature review as a way to familiarize the reader with the research questions, findings, and a discussion that informs and impacts your study.

Research Methods Plan

The research plan explains how you propose to find an answer to your research question. Think about the design of a research project that you particularly liked from the literature. What kinds of questions did they ask? What *type* and *quality* of data would you need in order to address your research question? (For example, “We know that repetitive traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) cause damage to short term memory in HS football players, but we don’t have an enough data on the effectiveness of grading systems and rest on preventing future TBIs. This study proposes to examine...”)

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See your text, as well as the research examples on D2L and the appendices to this syllabus, for additional information on content and formatting of the research proposal.

All work submitted for this course must be your own work, must have been developed specifically for this course, and may not have been submitted for evaluation or assessment in any other course. The Critical Assignment must be passed at an acceptable rate in order to pass the course and move on to data collection.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A & M University 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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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

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home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU 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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is my goal to respond to any questions you have within a 24-hour period Monday through Friday (weekends are an exception). If the matter is urgent, please include the word "urgent" in the email subject line.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- 1) Because this is a blended course, where you may meet me face-to-face or via Zoom as needed.
- 2) Use the following e-mail address for me: michael.oldham@etamu.edu
- 3) You MUST check your e-mail regularly in case I need to communicate with you.

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

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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>

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](#)

[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>

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

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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

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/>

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 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.

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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.



Use of AI for Assignments

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Learning Activities	Assignments Due
Week 1 June 1 – 5	Chapter 1	
Week 2 June 8 - 12	Chapter 2	
Week 3 June 15 – 19	Chapter 3	
Week 4 June 22 – 26	Presentation	
Week 5 June 29 – July 2	Thesis Proposal Defense	

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