



HIED 629, 01W, Agentic Learning
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Michael K. Ponton
Office Hours: Please email to schedule an e-appointment
University Email Address: Michael.Ponton@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24–36 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Readings: See course calendar included in this syllabus.

Required Style Guide:

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

Course Description

This course will examine current notions of agentic learning and extend covered ideas to teaching and learning in higher education.

Anonymous comments from previous students:

“This was a well-developed and structured class. Dr. Ponton provided valuable feedback that helped me understand the simple errors in writing and citing. He is so engaging and encouraging. I will seek out more of his classes to take. Great class.” (Winter Mini 2023 student)

“Dr. Ponton has a way of presenting material that challenges critical thinking skills and promotes self-directed learning. I appreciate that he is attentive to his course and always kind in his feedback.” (Winter Mini 2023 student)

“Dr. Ponton is an excellent professor! This is my second class with him and even in a mini semester, he has created thought-provoking and challenging assignments. He responds quickly to questions and with feedback. He has a genuine desire to see students succeed and pushes us to do our best. I've only had a few professors who are good at teaching online courses and he is certainly one of the best.” (Winter Mini 2022 student)

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“Dr. Ponton is a wonderful professor. I am much more skilled and self-aware of my citations abilities. I have even taken his model of self-regulated and self-directed learning and applied to my undergraduates at Dallas College. The model has been well received by my both my traditional students and high school dual credit students.” (Winter Mini 2022 student)

“Great course. I went into this course a little worried as the course's name was very vague, but attractive so I decided to challenge myself. I am enjoying this class. The instructor is very quick at responding and assisting with my questions. I love reading his feedbacks to the discussion forums as he makes it as if we are in an in-person course. The way this course is designed is my favorite now, and I wish all my other courses were like it. I learned a lot and started thinking differently after I learned these descriptions and explanations of the importance of autonomous learning and how to strengthen one's self-efficacy perception. I now understand what agentic learning is and plan to advocate for this type of teaching. I am glad I did not let fear of the unknown stop me from trying this course. Thank you, Dr. Ponton. I hope one day I get to meet you in person when I come for graduation.” (Winter Mini 2022 student)

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of agentic learning.
2. Explain how agentic learning informs the purpose of higher education.
3. Explain how agentic learning informs teaching and learning in higher education.
4. Develop autonomy in learning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Proficiency using the D2L learning management system, Microsoft Word, and ETAMU email.

Instructional Methods

This is an entirely online course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students should access the course minimally every 2–3 days in order to check announcements and read the postings of colleagues. Students should check their ETAMU email daily to ensure timely receipt of messages from the instructor and University.

Submitted assignments should not have been submitted for any previous courses. The use of AI in completing assignments is prohibited; however, it is permissible to use a search engine (e.g., [google.com/scholar](https://scholar.google.com/)) that uses AI.

Students are expected to submit all assignments no later than their due dates/times. Any assignment submitted past the due date/time (i.e., by the end of the day, ETAMU time, of the respective due date) will receive a zero without exception unless an extension is approved by the instructor in advance of the due date/time (note: a request for an extension in advance of the due date/time does not mean an

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extension is approved; *explicit approval before the due date/time is required to avoid a zero*). Exigencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Forum 1 Initial Post	(due 7/16)	25%
Forum 1 Reply Post	(due 7/18)	15%
Forum 2 Initial Post	(due 7/27)	25%
Forum 2 Reply Post	(due 7/29)	15%
Forum 3 Initial Post	(due 8/3)	20%
TOTAL		100%

Assessments

- The student should work approximately 45 hours per period in completing course assignments.
- The course calendar (which includes due dates for assignments) is included in the syllabus.
- For the discussion forums, respond to the instructor’s prompt with a 200-word initial posting (Forums 1, 2, and 3) and reply to one of your student colleagues with a 100-word reply posting (Forums 1 and 2). The grading rubric for the initial postings will be 80% content and 20% writing quality (grammar and APA usage); the grading rubric for the reply postings will be 100% content (though you should attempt to write well and learn from my feedback to initial postings). Note that “APA usage” refers to proper in-text citations, the format for end-of-posting citations, and miscellaneous construction (e.g., grammar) areas. No other APA requirements are necessary.
- Alignment of student learning outcomes with assessments:

Assignments	Student Learning Outcomes			
	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4
Readings				X
Forum Postings	X	X	X	X

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COURSE CALENDAR

Period	Dates	Assignments
1	Monday 7/6 – Wednesday 7/15	Read Readings 1–3 (see citations below) Initial Post to Forum 1 (due midnight* 7/15)
2	Thursday 7/16 – Sunday 7/26	Reply Post to Forum 1 (due midnight* 7/17) Read Readings 4–7 Initial Post to Forum 2 (due midnight* 7/26)
3	Monday 7/27 – Sunday 8/2	Reply Post to Forum 2 (due midnight* 7/28) Read Readings 8–11 Initial Post to Forum 3 (due midnight* 8/2)

*End of the day, ETAMU time

Readings (read these in the order provided below):

- Ponton, M. K., & Carr, P. B. (1999). *A quasi-linear behavioral model and an application to self-directed learning* (NASA Technical Memorandum 209094). NASA Langley Research Center. <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/api/citations/19990018653/downloads/19990018653.pdf>
- Ponton, M. K., & Carr, P. B. (2000). Understanding and promoting autonomy in self-directed learning. *Current Research in Social Psychology*, 5(19), 271–284. <https://crisp.org.uiowa.edu/sites/crisp.org.uiowa.edu/files/2020-04/5.19.pdf>
- Ponton, M. K., & Rhea, N. E. (2006). Autonomous learning from a social cognitive perspective. *New Horizons in Adult Education & Human Resource Development*, 20(2), 38–49. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nha3.10250>
- Ponton, M. K. (2026). An agentic perspective contrasting autonomous learning with self-directed learning: A theoretical discussion. *International Journal of Learning and Development*, 16(1), 21–31. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijld.v16i1.23689> (Adapted from *Autonomous and self-directed learning: Agentic perspectives*, pp. 49–61, by M. K. Ponton & P. B. Carr, Eds., Watertree Press)
- Ponton, M. K., Schuette, C. S., & Confessore, G. J. (2009). An agentic perspective of self-directed learning as applied to children. *International Journal of Self-Directed Learning*, 6(1), 46–58. <https://www.sdlglobal.com/journals>
- Ponton, M. K. (2021). Weak self-efficacy versus strong self-inefficacy: A comment on the conceptual difference. *International Journal of Social Science Research*, 9(2), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijssr.v9i2.18244>
- Ponton, M. K. (2021). A teaching strategy based upon a model of agentic learning. *Journal of Studies in Education*, 11(1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.5296/jse.v11i1.18125>
- Ponton, M. K., & Carr, P. B. (2012). Autonomous learning and triadic reciprocal causation: A theoretical discussion. *International Journal of Self-Directed Learning*, 9(1), 1–10. <https://www.sdlglobal.com/journals>

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9. Ponton, M. K. (2025). Imposed environments: The important role of fortuitous intersections. *International Journal of Learning and Development*, 15(1), 50–61. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijld.v15i1.22629> (Adapted from *Autonomous and self-directed learning: Agentic perspectives*, pp. 91–105, by M. K. Ponton & P. B. Carr, Eds., Watertree Press)
10. Ponton, M. K., & Dondlinger, M. J. (2022). A sociocognitive discussion of learning resource selection in self-directed learning. *International Journal of Learning and Development*, 12(2), 46–56. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijld.v12i2.19924>
11. Ponton, M. K. (2025). Self-evaluation: A theoretical discussion of a critical self-directed learning subfunction. *International Journal of Social Science Research*, 13(2), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijssr.v13i2.22912>

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

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@etamu.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 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.

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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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Ponton)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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

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:

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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@etamu.edu

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

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 ETAMU 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.

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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

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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.



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