



SOC 595.01W Research, Literature, Techniques

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Willie Edwards, Professor
Office Location:	Ferguson Hall SS Rm 217
Office Hours:	MWF 10am -11am; 3:30pm – 4:30pm T TH 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Office Phone:	(903) 886.5331
University Email Address:	willie.edwards@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	(email)
Communication Response Time:	(within 24 hours during the weekday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: None

Supplementary Material(s):

American Psychological Association.2020. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.7th edition. ISBN 978-1-4338-3216-1.

Course Description

This online graduate course focuses on the student going through the process of developing a research proposal which results in a professionally constructed paper. The course allows the student to place into practice the information and knowledge gained from courses taken through the Sociology program, especially research methods (qualitative and quantitative) and applied data analysis. Students will write a formal research paper which will integrate the program coursework the student has accomplished. Developing this paper will permit each student to demonstrate her/his understanding of research methods and data analysis to culminate in the writing of a professional paper.

Students will write an independent research paper based upon primary or secondary data.
Prerequisites: Sociology 574, 575, 576 or permission of the Department Head.

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

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to write a professional research paper proposal using information obtained from the course work within the master's program.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of the American Sociological Association style of writing (particularly the citation format).
3. Students will demonstrate critical thinking while writing a professional research paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course will be conducted entirely via the web. All components of this class are online. This course is primarily administered through D2L. If you need help using D2L, please contact the technological services staff for help (Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students should plan to regularly log onto the course website. Students should be very aware of their study habits and how much time they should commit to each class, the amount of weekly study time and participation time will impact your degree of success.

In addition, here are some other points to consider:

Tips on How to be successful in this class:

1. Students must commit serious time to reading any and all material that will assist in the development of ideas for their research topic and the organization of the research paper.
2. Students should ask the professor questions if there is any information, he/she does not understand.
3. Students should use a large amount of time reviewing resources and other material in developing ideas and pulling information to be placed or used in the research paper.
4. Students should develop an outline of their desired or expected topic.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points
 B = 401- 450 Points
 C = 351- 400 Points
 D = 301- 350 Points
 F = 300 & > Points

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

Example:

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

All class assessments are connected to the development and production of the final research paper.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Contact of Professor:

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or since this is a traditional online class, then the student should be prepared to communicate mainly by emails, or it is suggested by phone. It is best to follow the suggested method of contact as stated in the class syllabus on the front page.

Research Assistance:

For research assistance, students should contact: Reference Librarian at Velma Waters' Library Room 218; 903.886.5719 ; www.etamu.edu/library.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

This department has a strong policy and low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. East Texas A&M University does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled ‘Drop a class’ from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or “X.” You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

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).
<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>

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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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring 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](#)

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<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 ETA&MU 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.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at ETA&MU, 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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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Activity
Aug 24 – 30, 2026	
Aug 31, - Sept 6	
Sept 7 – 13,	
Sept 14 – 20,	
Sept 21 -27,	
Sept 28, - Oct 4,	
Oct 5 – 11,	
Oct 12 – 18,	
Oct 19 – 25,	
Oct 26 – Nov 1,	
Nov 2 – 8,	
Nov 9 – 15,	
Nov 16 – 22,	
Nov 23 – 29,	
Nov 30 – Dec 6,	
Dec 7 – 11,	

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