

Syllabus

AI 595.1W Research Literature and Techniques

East Texas A&M University
Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Omar El Ariss

Office Location: JOUR 238

Email: Omar.El.Ariss@etamu.edu

Phone: 903-886-5403

Communication Response Time: 24 hours

(Please send a second email if you did not receive a response after 2 days)

Office Hours: Online through Zoom / On-campus meeting

Day	Time
Tuesday, Thursday	11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Tuesday (Zoom)	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Zoom Link

<https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/96332228989>

There are many ways to reach me. There is no substitute for face-to-face communication which often leads to more refined and focused questions resulting in your improved understanding. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of my office hours. Email is an easy way to ask questions outside of class but is not productive as face-to-face communication. We can also use Zoom or Skype for an online face to face communication.

Meeting Time and Place

Web Based Class

Textbooks

None. All materials are included in the LMS shell.

Prerequisites

- CSCI 513

Recommended Textbooks

- No textbook is required
- All reading materials will be provided by the instructors.

Course Objectives

This is the capstone course for the MS in Artificial Intelligence. It also fulfills the comprehensive exam requirement. Students must pass the comprehensive exam in order to successfully complete the class. You

should only take this course as your final course for your degree. Check with your advisor to make sure you should be enrolled.

The main goal of this course is to design and implement a substantial project based on the core courses that have taken in the MS in AI program, then present the project both as a written paper and orally. In particular, students will discuss online or meet (in person or using other technology: zoom, etc.) with the instructor and will work on a research paper from deciding the topic, design and implementation, to turning in the paper for its evaluation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should possess the following skills:

- conduct a presentation-ready research paper
- design and implement a substantial project in Artificial Intelligence
- communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- identify appropriate methods of research in Artificial Intelligence
- find and appraise the quality of published research
- match relevant research questions with the methods in the specific field
- select an appropriate outlet for publication

Project Information:

The course consists of selecting a semester long capstone project, designing then implementing it. Each student is expected to work individually and should submit **a project proposal to be discussed and approved by the instructor within the first 2 weeks of class.** The instructor can provide a list of possible ideas for a project, but it is preferable for students to come up with a research topic of their own. All projects must be approved by the instructor.

Students must submit the following:

- Project proposal: where the project and its scope are precisely described
- An Introduction and a Background including literature surveys
- Oral presentation of the project proposal and the research papers used as references
- Project implementation
- Project demonstration
- Final paper describing the entire work and the results obtained
- Final presentation (Comprehensive Exam)

Grading

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| - Participation: | 5% of grade |
| - Project Proposal: | 5% of grade |
| - Project Introduction & Background: | 15% of grade |
| - Introduction & Background Presentation: | 10% of grade |
| - Implementation & Demonstration: | 15% of grade |
| - Final Written Paper: | 15% of grade |
| - Final Presentation: | 35% of grade |

Letter grades will be determined using a standard percentage of points scale:

Letter Grade	Cut-off Score
A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%
F	Below 60%

Please check your grades often. Any score may be disputed up to seven (7) days after the score is posted. After 7 days the score remains as-is.

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@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.

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>

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students enrolling in this course should have knowledge of computer essentials including how to interact with a graphical user interface, text editor, web browser and the use of D2L. If the use of a personal computer is preferred over university laboratory computers, it is expected that the student can download, install and configure software. Students should also have a good understanding of programming, preferably in Python.

Methods of Instruction

The course is delivered entirely online. The course follows the writing of a research project step by step: from the selection of a research topic, the gathering of sources, their evaluation, the creation of an annotated bibliography, the writing of a proposal/outline, a first draft and a final project artifact. Each step is assessed independently. Class participation (primarily in the form of completion of the content and conferences with the instructor) is also part of the assessment (see below). Meetings/conferences are required by the instructor, who notifies the students when a conference is necessary, but of course students may request conferences at other times as well.

This syllabus contains an overview of what will be covered in class; for specific information, students are referred to the class web page maintained on D2L course management system. The course web page will contain lectures, assignment information and supporting material. Information on D2L will be updated frequently so it is a good idea to check it regularly. Assignments are posted on D2L and should be submitted through D2L.

Tips for Success in the Course

1. Watch the recorded lecture videos.
2. Attend all the required meetings on Zoom.
3. Make sure to ask questions if the capstone project instructions or deadlines are not clear.
4. Check D2L at least once a day.
5. Start working on the project deliverables as early as possible.
6. AI (LLMs) can only be used for brainstorming ideas. Any use of such software must be documented including prompts used and their output.
7. Do your own work. Please do not copy other's work or rely use AI generated code.
8. AI (LLMs) cannot be used for generating literature review and code. Any use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).
9. If you have any questions, or are having difficulties with the course material then please contact your instructors as soon as possible.

Late Submissions Policy

All work submitted electronically must be submitted by midnight of the due date. Late work will be deducted 10% for each day past the due date. Assignment will not be accepted after three days from the due date.

Make-up Policy

No individual make-up test will be permitted except in the case of a formal institutional excuse. There will be no makeup for project deliverables.

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 in the Student Guidebook: [Student Guidebook | East Texas A&M University, ETAMU](#)

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>

Academic Honesty

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). It is the policy of the University, that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text or code, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Proper citation of sources must always be utilized thoroughly and accurately. If you are caught sharing or using other people's work in this class, you will receive a 0 grade and a warning on the first instance. A subsequent instance will result in receiving an F grade for the course, and possible disciplinary proceedings. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.

For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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

Special Needs

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 Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library 162

Phone (903) 886-5150

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services | East Texas A&M University, ETAMU](#)

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Student Services, 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 [Counseling Center | East Texas A&M University, ETAMU](#)

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 East Texas A&M 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:

<https://www.etamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/882e4456-34.06.02.r1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Content
0	Syllabus
1	Topics discussion
2	Topics discussion, Project Proposal due
3	Literature & Peer-review Meetings
4	Literature & Peer-review Meetings
5	Introduction - Background Document & Presentation
6	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
7	Project Update and Feedback Meetings (Thursday, Friday - Fall Break)
8	Outline of Methodology Section
9	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
10	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
11	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
12	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
13	Project Update and Feedback Meetings
14	Project Update and Feedback Meetings (Thursday, Friday - Thanksgiving Break)
15	Project/Implementation Demonstration & Final Paper due
16	Final Presentation (Comprehensive Exam)

The course outline will adapt to the actual progress of the classes and may not be accurately the same as the table above.