



# Honors College

EAST TEXAS A&M

## HC 400.1HE Honors Colloquium Fall 2026

**Instructor:** Dr. Erin L. Webster Garrett  
**Modality:** Asynchronous online with occasional in-person assignments  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Office & Phone:** Honors College main office, Library 156 | 903-468-3005  
**Office Hours:** Fridays 12:00-1:30 PM am and by appointment.  
**E-mail Address:** [Erin.WebsterGarrett@etamu.edu](mailto:Erin.WebsterGarrett@etamu.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

HC 400 is the culminating Honors course for students completing the Honors thesis. The course asks you to do three things: learn from the paths of others, make meaning of your own Honors experience, and communicate the work you have done.

Throughout the semester, you will engage with recorded conversations featuring researchers, faculty, university leaders, alumni, and professionals from a range of fields. These conversations will introduce you to people who have followed different intellectual and professional paths and invite you to consider your own: What motivates the work you choose to do? How do relationships, opportunities, setbacks, and unexpected experiences shape a life and career? What have you learned about yourself through your thesis and Honors experience? What might you carry forward?

At the same time, you will prepare to communicate your thesis research to an audience beyond your discipline. The course culminates in presentation of your work at the Fall Honors Showcase as part of the Transformative Learning Demo Day, currently scheduled for **November 19, 2026**, and a final reflection on your Honors experience and what comes next. Attendance at Demo Day is required. Please make arrangements to have that day free so you can participate.

No books or other course materials are required.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

#### A. Attendance and Participation

- Honors students are expected to follow the tenets of a scholarly community and to demonstrate their commitment to the pursuit of truth and expanded understanding through evidence-based research, intellectually honest and open exchanges of ideas, and respect for diverse perspectives. Students are expected to participate actively in their own learning—come to prepared to engage with our guest speakers and with each other.
- All students enrolled at the university are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and to *“conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and is consistent with the educational goals and mission of the*

*university. This Code of Student Conduct (“Code”) focuses on personal responsibility and accountability for students’ actions and the impact those actions may have on the greater community.”*

## **B. Graded Items**

To gain credit for HC 400, students are required to:

- Participate actively and complete all aspects of the course.
- Prepare and publicly present either a research poster or career ePortfolio at the fall Demo Day as part of the Honors College showcase scheduled for November 19.
- Submit a minimum of 5 substantive mini-reflections and a minimum number of discussion boards.
- Complete a final Honors Reflection

## **C. Learning Outcomes**

Completion of this course provides the student with the opportunity to:

1. Apply disciplinary knowledge and lived experience to real-world contexts
2. Develop a strong and sustained sense of connection to their professional/intellectual community, including the people, ideas or sense of purpose that guides their actions
3. Explore how the thesis experience is personally meaningful or significant
4. Reflect on their performance within the thesis experience across contexts in order to strengthen future connections and growth

## **D. Grading**

Your grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| • Conversations and Reflections | 40%  |
| • Research Poster or ePortfolio | 40%  |
| • Final Honors Reflection       | 20%  |
| <hr/>                           |      |
|                                 | 100% |

Final grades are calculated on a **500-Point Scale** (A = 450–500 pts | B = 400–449 pts | C = 350–399 pts | D = 300–349 pts | F = 299pts & below).

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

### **LMS (Learning Management System)**

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.

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](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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** In the event of personal computer and internet connection problems, please visit the Honors College office in Waters Library. Loaner computers are available through the library, and the Honors College suite offers a conference room space and perhaps even an office if you need a quiet space to work.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options are available here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

|                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT: COURSE CONTENT</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me:

Dr. Erin Webster Garrett

Email: [erin.webstergarrett@etamu.edu](mailto:erin.webstergarrett@etamu.edu)

Office Tel: 903-468-3005

Text: 540-230-3579 (please identify yourself when you text)

I also will be holding regular office hours on **Fridays from 12:00 - 1:30 pm and by appointment**. As a dean, my availability is often not in my control but I will do my level best to accommodate you.

Please know that I have an open-door policy—please feel free to stop into my office. If the door is open, I am available.

|                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ADDITIONAL COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|

### Classroom Decorum

This class is designed to be an open forum for student comments, questions, and discussions. The speakers and your classmates may help you broaden your knowledge and perceptions, so please give them the respect they deserve.

### COVID-19 Information

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

### 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 for their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services  
East Texas A&M University  
Waters Library- Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

### **Statement on Nondiscrimination:**

Students at A&M-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.

### **Statement on Student Conduct**

"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).

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

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **AI Usage**

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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

For this course: As a simple rule, if you wouldn't ask your professor to do it, don't ask AI (would you ask your professor to provide feedback or brainstorm ideas? Of course! Would you ask your professor to write your paper? Um. No.)

### **Required Statement on Campus Concealed Carry**

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 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and or consult your event organizer). 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.

### **Statement on Attendance:**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

### **Statement on the Counseling Center:**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **Course Calendar**

### **Module 01**

#### **Introduction to Course**

- Syllabus & Course Expectations
- Begin Guest Speaker planning
- Student Orientation Badge
- Discussion Post: Introduction
- Submit your nomination for a Guest Speaker

### **Module 1**

#### **Weeks 1-3**

## Goal Setting & Self-Management

- Time Management
- SMARTer Goals
- The Power of Reflection
- Discussion Post
- Time Management Style
- SMART Plan
- Mentor Appointment
- Guest Speaker 1 and mini reflection

## Module 2

Weeks 4-6

### Structured Frameworks for Critical Reflection

- DEAL Model
- ORID Model
- DIGA Model
- Discussion Post
- Mid Term Reflection on Thesis progress and Project Plan
- Guest Speaker 2 and mini reflection

## Module 3

Weeks 7-9

### Self-Awareness & Personal Foundation

- The Value of Transferable Skills
- True Colors
- Metacognition
- Discussion Post
- Find Your True Colors
- Guest Speaker 3 and mini reflection

## Module 4

Weeks 10-12

### Design Thinking, Strategy & Feedback

- SWOT Analysis
- Design Thinking
- Giving and Receiving Feedback
- Discussion Post
- e-Portfolio
- SWOT Analysis
- Practice Giving Feedback
- Guest Speaker 4 and mini reflection

## Module 5

Weeks 12-15

### Final Reflection

- Capstone Reflection
- Post-Experience Reflection Outline
  - Post-experience Reflection
- Honors Showcase