Texas A & M University Central Texas

PLSK 490-110: Political Science Capstone Course
Spring 2016
Thursday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dan Karppi, Ph.D.
Office: As an adjunct I do not have a TAMU office.
Phone: 254-702-4890 (cell)
Email: dan.karppi@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

As an adjunct I do not hold office hours. However, I will make every effort to be available to students before and after class as needed.

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1.0 Course Description and Overview

1.1 Course Description

“(WI). This course requires students to integrate and use fundamental concepts learned in previous political science courses to research and analyze real-world political phenomena and problems. Students will present oral and written reports on their research, supplemented by appropriate internet and multimedia materials, as well as portfolios documenting their research.” (TAMU-CT Catalog 2015-2016)

1.2 Writing Intensive Course

As indicated in the course description, TAMU-CT has given this course a writing intensive (WI) designation. This course will follow the intent of “WI” courses as outlined in TAMU-CT’s policy titled “Designation of Writing Intensive Courses.” The policy reads in part:

“‘Writing Intensive’ courses teach the conventions of writing within a specific discipline or for a specific purpose, focus attention on writing as a process, and encourage students to use writing as a tool for discovery and learning.” (Dated 9/3/14)

In this class, students will be provided feedback on writing assignments. The amount of feedback will be dependent on the nature of the assignment. That is to say, each writing assignment requires students to rely on different types of writing and research skills.

The writing assignments are meant to be done sequentially (see due dates). This sequential design means that each writing assignment becomes increasingly more demanding.
1.3 Course Overview

The primary focus of this course is on political geography. This subject is particularly well suited for a capstone course that requires students to demonstrate an ability to integrate ideas, concepts, and methodologies related to the study of political science. Political geography is a field that welcomes contributions from a variety of different areas of scholarship, thus giving students a wide range of subject matter around which they can construct their research and writing project.

2.0 Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to allow students to demonstrate their ability to engage in scholarship. They will be required to present their research in both oral and written form. Another important goal is to introduce students to the field of political geography—a field which is often overlooked. The intent is for students to gain an appreciation for the impact world geography has on both international and domestic politics and political institutions.

2.1 Student Learning Outcomes

The following suggest the essence of the course, and upon completion the student should be able to:

- Explain the nature of political geography as a field of study.
- Discuss the practical and theoretical nature of states and territories, both in the general use of those terms and as used to describe American state governments and U.S. territories.
- Explain the impact of a state’s internal civil divisions on its politics and political institutions to include U.S. civil divisions (states, counties, municipalities, special districts) and electoral geography.
- Discuss the realities of contested space within a state and between states.
- Describe the impact of historic empires and their colonies on present-day world politics.
- Discuss the impact of geography on international relations to include international law, international trade, and intergovernmental organizations.
- Explain the role of American courts in resolving problems associated with contested space, both domestically and internationally.
- Explain the impact of geography on specific public policies such as environmental politics.
- Discuss the realities of globalization and the impact of this process on the politics in and among nation states.
- Prove an ability to engage in scholarly work through the completion of oral and written projects.

3.0 Required Texts


4.0 Course Requirements

4.1 Exams (2 @ 225 points each)

- These exams will cover the material in the required readings per the reading and exam schedule below (see section 6.0). They will also cover material presented in class lecture and discussion.
- Exams may consist of any combination of essay questions, short answer questions, true & false questions, matching, or multiple choice questions.
- See the Reading and Exam Schedule below for exam dates.
- **Make-up Exam Policy**: Students not present on exam days must make arrangements with the instructor to take a make-up exam. PLEASE NOTE: Make-up exams may consist of additional essay questions. In addition, twenty-five (25) points will be deducted from all make-up exams. Therefore, the highest score a student can receive on a make-up exam is 200. However, students may arrange with the instructor to take each exam early. Early exams will be authorized on a case-by-case basis. If the instructor does not have the exam prepared early, this option will not be available. Early exams will not be subject to a point penalty.
- Each exam will cover the assigned reading material, class discussion, and class lecture. The student is responsible for all assigned reading – even if some reading material is not directly covered in class lecture.
- Students should bring a scantron and blue book to each exam.

4.2 Journal Response [Blackboard] (60 points)

In order to facilitate class participation, students will be required to submit a journal response on Blackboard. The response is due **February 11, 2016**. The **late penalty** for responses posted after the due date is **fifteen (15) points**.

**Response Guidelines**

- The response must be **at least two pages (double spaced)**.
- Attach the response as a document in Blackboard’s journal response system. Use Microsoft Word to type your response. Wordpad, Pages, Notepad, and other word processors are often incompatible with Blackboard and/or Turnitin.
- Grades will be based on the extent to which responses demonstrate critical thinking skills and the extent to which they are useful in class discussion.
- Proper spelling and grammar must be observed (no text-speak).
- Your grade does not depend upon responding to your classmate’s postings.
- Responses should observe proper decorum (keep your responses clean and civilized).
- Be sure to cite sources.
4.3 Article Review (80 points)

In order to successfully complete this assignment, the student must:

1. Select a journal article from the choices below.
2. Read the article carefully and write an article review.
3. The following format guidelines must be observed:
   - One page (SINGLE Spaced)
   - Use Microsoft Word to type your response. Wordpad, Pages, Notepad, and other word processors are often incompatible with Blackboard and/or Turnitin.
   - One inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right)
4. The following content guidelines must be observed:
   - An explanation of the author’s primary argument/thesis
   - An analysis of the evidence used by the author to defend his argument or prove his thesis.
   - An analysis of the strengths of the article.
   - An analysis of the weaknesses of the article.
5. Due date and submission: The review is due February 25, 2016. Late reviews will lose 10 points.
6. Grades on the review will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of argument</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of supporting evidence</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of strengths</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of weaknesses</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing components: Style, spelling, grammar, etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Articles


4.4 Case Brief (100 points)

In order to successfully complete this assignment, the student must write a case brief of one of the Supreme Court decisions listed below. Cases will be assigned by the instructor in such a way that no two students will write a brief on the same case. Case assignments will be made in week two. The brief is due on March 31, 2016. Late briefs will lose 11 points. Case Briefs should include the following elements.

- Title and citation
- Facts
- Procedural history
- Primary legal issue or question
- Decision or holding
- Reasoning
- Dissents/concurrences
- Analysis

Format Guidelines

- One page (SINGLE Spaced)
- Use Microsoft Word to type your response. Wordpad, Pages, Notepad, and other word processors are often incompatible with Blackboard and/or Turnitin.
- One inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right)

Please note: Writing a case brief is a unique style of analytical writing that most students do not encounter unless they take a constitutional law class or attend law school. With this in mind, the instructor will provide an extensive overview on writing case briefs. The presentation will take place in class during the second or third week. General details will also be given on the first class day.

Cases

- Chamber of Commerce v. Whiting 563 U.S. ___ (2011)
- Colegrove v. Green 328 U.S. 549 (1946)
- De Lima v. Bidwell 182 US 1 (1901)
- Gray v. Sanders 372 U.S. 368 (1963)
- Reynolds v. Sims 377 U.S. 533 (1964)
- Wesberry v. Sanders 376 U.S. 1 (1964)
4.5 Research Paper (200 points)

In order to successfully complete this assignment, the student must:
- Select a topic related to political geography. Research it in detail.
- It is strongly recommended that the student discuss his/her paper topic and argument BEFORE engaging in research and writing.
- The paper must include the following elements:
  - A specific argument. This means that I want the student to argue a specific point.
  - Supporting evidence for the argument
- The paper must comply with the following format guidelines:
  - Use Microsoft Word to type your paper. Wordpad, Pages, Notepad, and other word processors are often incompatible with Blackboard and/or Turnitin.
  - Eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length
  - Double spaced
  - One inch margins (top, bottom, left, right)
  - Font style/size: Times New Roman/12 point
5. The paper must be properly documented as follows:
- **Style Form:** Author-Date Style.
6. The paper is due on **April 21, 2016**.
7. Late papers will lose twenty-two (22) points. Therefore, the highest score a late paper can receive is 178.
8. Students who fail to meet the above format guidelines will lose points.
9. The instructor will also evaluate papers based on the student’s competency related to spelling, grammar, and writing.
10. **Submitting the paper:**
    - **Draft Submission:** Students will be allowed one chance to submit their papers in draft form to Turnitin. The instructor will not review these submissions; however, students will be able to review their Originality Report and make any necessary corrections. Turnitin is a program that informs the instructor of potential plagiarism. It also informs the instructor when two students (from the same class or from different classes) turn in the same paper. To avoid accusations of misconduct, do your own work and document all sources properly. Students found to have engaged in plagiarism will be subject to sanctions. See section 8.0 below for details.
    - **Final Submission:** All students must upload their papers to “Turnitin” in Blackboard. The instructor has provided a separate “Final Submission” link. This is the version I will grade.
    - **Please note:** it is the date indicated in Turnitin under the “Final Submission” link that will determine if a paper was submitted on time. See Blackboard for more details on submitting papers.
11. Students are NOT allowed to recycle old research papers from previous courses (mine or any other instructor’s).
12. Grades on the paper will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argument clearly stated</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of supporting evidence</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent to which format guidelines are followed</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent to which Turabian documentation is followed</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing components: Style, spelling, grammar, etc.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.6 Oral Presentation (80 points possible)

Students will be expected to present their research paper to the class in the form of an oral presentation. In order to complete this assignment, the student must do the following:

- Present the FINAL version of his/her paper. This means that the paper must be submitted in final form to Turnitin BEFORE the presentation. Students who present their papers before submitting it to Turnitin will lose 10 points.
- Deliver a Ten (10) minute oral presentation to the class. PowerPoint and/or other technologies may be used but are not required. Students using PowerPoint should bring hardcopies of their slides to use as overheads. Thus, in the event of technical problems, the student can still give his/her presentation. After the presentation, five (5) minutes will be allotted for question and answer.
- In the second week of class, all students will be assigned to present on one of three class periods (see the reading and exam schedule for dates). Since the amount of time needed to complete all presentations depends on class enrollment, it might be necessary to finish the remaining presentations on the day of the final exam. In this case, the remaining presentations will be given in the first half of the class, and the exam will be taken in the second half of the class.
- If the student fails to deliver an oral presentation, he/she will have two choices:
  o Accept a zero on the oral presentation.
  o Complete an additional writing assignment to take the place of the oral presentation grade. The instructor will determine this assignment.
  o NOTE: This option will be granted at the instructor’s discretion and only in cases involving unforeseen emergency situations or when an incomplete grade is issued.

4.7 Class Participation & Attendance (30 points)

The success of any class depends in large measure on student participation in class discussion. In order to get the most out of this class, students must attend regularly. With this in mind, the instructor will evaluate each student’s level of class participation and attendance. Except for the first day of class and the two exam days, students who miss lecture classes may lose points. Students who attend class but fail to participate and/or are inattentive may also lose points.

5.0 Grading Criteria

5.1 Graded assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Response (Blackboard)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Brief</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation/attendance</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 Final grade calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>0-599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Incomplete grades

- Any missing assignments in your record will be assigned a score of zero.
- Incomplete grades will be issued at the instructor’s discretion and under the conditions set by University policy. The policy reads:

“The I grade shall be recorded for a student only in cases of extraordinary circumstances. This entry is used only in such cases after the instructor and his/her department chair, or college dean, have concurred that the incomplete entry is justified. A grade of I must be made up by the end of the next long semester and in all cases before registering for the next sequential course. If this grade is not made up within the prescribed time limit, it automatically becomes an F.”

- In this class:
  - Earning credit in a class involves more than simply completing course requirements. Competence as a student and scholar also means completing those requirements in the time allowed.
  - The phrase “cases of extraordinary circumstances” is interpreted to mean unexpected, substantial events in one’s life that are clearly beyond the student’s control and that occur after the “Last day to drop” deadline established by the Registrar (see University Calendar for exact date). The instructor reserves the right to request documentation attesting to this fact.
  - Students who experience circumstances that continually interfere with their ability to complete the work in a timely manner are encouraged to consider dropping the course. In other words, students who have neglected to complete any (or little) of the course work throughout the semester should not expect their requests for an incomplete grade to be honored.
  - If an incomplete grade is issued, students will only be allowed to complete the assignments that are due after the “Last day to drop” deadline. Assignments with due dates prior to this deadline must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the day of the final exam.
  - Late penalties will still apply to assignments turned in as part of the completion of an incomplete grade.
  - Students who have been given and incomplete grade are responsible for communicating with the instructor directly via email when a missing assignment has been submitted. In other words, do not simply submit the assignment on Blackboard without informing the instructor.
  - Following the completion of the missing assignments, students are also responsible for reviewing their grade in WarriorWeb to confirm that the instructor has submitted a change of grade. If not, they should notify the instructor via email immediately.
  - The instructor reserves the right to make appropriate exceptions to the above policies; however, this is almost never done.
5.4 Late Work/Make-Up Work

- In this class:
  - All assignments have specific due dates.
  - Students may turn in any assignment after the due date; however, late penalties will apply (see the description of each assignment for exact due dates and late penalties).
  - Except in cases where an incomplete grade has been issued (see 5.3 above), all late assignments must be turned in no later than 11:59 pm on the day of the final exam.

6.0 Reading and Exam Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Jones, et al.</th>
<th>Kaplan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Chapters 2</td>
<td>Preface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Chapters 7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>No Class. Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>Chapters 9</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 15 Afterword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Final Exam)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

7.0 Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record’s office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.
8.0 Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

8.1 Academic Integrity

• University Policy on Academic Integrity

“Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.” (TAMU-CT Catalog)

8.2 Plagiarism and Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy

• It is the student’s responsibility to know and understand the University’s academic integrity policy.
• It is also the student’s responsibility to know and understand what plagiarism is.
• Penalties and other sanctions will be determined by the nature of the infraction

Overt or conscious instances of dishonest behavior or plagiarism

• Examples include but are not limited to:
  o Cheating on an exam (or helping someone else cheat)
  o Cheating on other assignments (or helping someone else cheat)
  o Submitting another student’s work in place of your own
  o Providing another student with your work in order that he might submit it in place of his own.
  o Purchasing or in some other way acquiring a research paper written by someone else and passing it off as your own work.
  o Cutting and pasting large quotes from internet or other sources without quoting and citing properly. “Large quotes” means that such quotes make up a large portion of one’s work.
• Penalties:
  o In all cases mentioned above, students will receive a zero on the assignment. Given that most assignments are worth a substantial part of one’s grade, a zero is a stiff penalty.
  o Depending on the nature and severity of the offense, the instructor reserves the right to report the student’s actions to the department chair and other university officials for possible additional sanctions (withdrawal from the course, probation, expulsion, etc.).

Inadvertent or unintentional instances of plagiarism

• Examples include but are not limited to:
  o Quoting and citing a source without using quotation marks
  o Paraphrasing a source too closely
  o Paraphrasing a source and not citing it
  o Failure to follow the required style of documentation as listed for the research paper or project
  o Minor inaccuracies in documentation style
  o Recycling research papers from another class for which one has received credit
• Penalties:
  o Whenever possible the instructor will respond to inadvertent or unintentional instances of plagiarism with a certain amount of forbearance. Such infractions will be treated as teaching moments, and students will be instructed in how to correct their work in the future.
  o However, the instructor will take points off a student’s assignment score. The amount of points deducted will depend on the nature and scope of the infraction.
  o The instructor may also require students to revise or redo the assignment.

9.0 Disability Support Services

Disability Support and Access Services. At Texas A&M University – Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Disability Support and Access is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you feel this is the case, please contact Disability Support and Access at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, please visit their website at www.tamuct/disabilitysupport. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

10.0 Tutoring

Tutoring. Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Visit www.tamuct.edu/AcademicSupport and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact information. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you are interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5836 or by emailing c.garza@tamuct.edu Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/academicsupport/tutoring.php.

11.0 Library Services

University Library. The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders. Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments. Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/index.php
12.0 Technology Requirements and Support

12.1 Technology Requirements

This course will use the TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system.

- Logon to https://tamuct.blackboard.com to access the course.
- Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address).
- Initial password: Your MyCT password Course Abbreviation (e.g. ENGL 999)—Spring 2015.
- Check browser and computer compatibility by using the “Test Your Browser” button, found in the “Check Your Browser” module on your Blackboard dashboard, once you have logged in.

12.2 Technology Support

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
Phone: (254) 519-5466
Web Chat: http://hdc.tamu.edu

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor. Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

13.0 The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students. The UWC is located in 416 Warrior Hall. The center is open 11am-6pm Monday-Thursday during the spring semester. Students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Students may also arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor. Tutorials can be arranged by visiting the UWC. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Sessions typically last between 20-30 minutes. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will help students develop more effective invention and revision strategies.
14.0 Classroom Decorum

14.1 Class Discussion

Students are reminded to observe proper decorum when engaging in classroom discussion. Foul language and hostile debate are not constructive to the learning process and will not be tolerated.

14.2 Cell Phones

All cell phones must be turned OFF (not silent or vibrate mode) during lecture. Refrain from leaving the room to make phone calls or send text messages during lecture.

14.3 Laptop Computers

Students should refrain from using laptop computers to type notes during lecture. Typing distracts other students in the class.

15.0 Graduation

Students should consult the University calendar for application deadlines and all policies related to summer graduation.

16.0 Teaching Philosophy

Collegians distinguish themselves in their chosen academic disciplines largely by proving an ability to engage in compendious study. They use a discipline’s established methodology to reach a deeper understanding of the world around them. A professor’s primary role is to develop courses that show students the richness and complexity of the subject. After completing a course, students should be left with a desire to learn more about the topic. In the end, however, what students receive from a course is proportional to the effort they put into it.