

**CIS 5382-110, CRN 80030, RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ferdi Eruysal

**Office:** FH 323O

**Phone:** 254-519-5440

**Preferred Classroom Communication Method:** Canvas inbox

**Email:** ferdi.eruysal@tamuct.edu

**Office Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday 15.00-17.30.

Other days and times by appointment. I am available to see drop by students', but this semester, I would prefer that students take appointment before they come to see me.

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course meets regularly face-to-face on Mondays, 18.00-19.00 pm at Founder's Hall 407. It also uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>] which will be our primary resource for the class information. You will use the canvas username and password communicated to you separately to logon to this system. The course syllabus, schedule, supplemental readings, class announcements, power point slides, learning modules and other course related documents will be posted on canvas. Each student is responsible for the posted material, and should check canvas at least daily for updates. The course outline in this syllabus shows the basic schedule for the semester.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

Please send all course related correspondence through canvas. Please use TAMUCT email only when canvas is not available (or for non-course related correspondence). I check email several times a day during the week and at least once during the weekends. I will attempt to respond within 24 hours and within 48 hours on Saturday through Sunday. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office during the scheduled office hours or contact me via phone / canvas messages or TAMUCT email, if there are any personal problems or challenges that are hindering your regular progress in the course.

**911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their

myCT email account.

Connect at 911Cellular [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Overview and description** This course examines timely topics related to computer-based systems. The course develops research skills, problem-solving skills, applies the scientific method refines presentation skills, and promotes team involvement. The course operates in a distributed team environment using the Internet as its communication vehicle.

**Course Objective:** To develop an understanding of research and what is used to conduct research.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand research methodologies, philosophy and science
2. Understand and know how to review a scientific paper
3. Understand methods for designing research
4. Think abstractly to apply scientific research to a real world problem
5. Learn in depth about a research method
6. Practice presentation skills to an audience about a scientific tool

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

**Required Text:** Research Methods: The Essential Knowledge Base. William Trochim , James P Donnelly , Kanika Arora, Cengage Learning; 2nd edition, ISBN 9781133954774

**Supplementary Material:** The course textbook will be supplemented with other materials including research papers readings, handouts, oral presentations, industry articles, videos, research paper readings, case studies, power point presentations etc.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Reading Assignments:** All assigned chapters will be used as basis for class and/or canvas discussions. Students are expected to study the assigned readings before each class session.

**Attendance/Participation Policy:** Success in this course is dependent on participation as well as peer feedback during presentation sessions. Therefore, class attendance is required. The policy as officially stated by the University will be enforced. Students are expected to make arrangements with the instructor before missing a series of classes. Students are responsible

for any material missed during an absence. In all cases, the responsibility remains with the students to meet/obtain all course requirements/changes. Regular course progress is expected. It is each student's responsibility to review the canvas and syllabus for the latest information. Attendance will be taken each class session. Participation will count as 100 Points. This will be scored based on the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions. Note that quality is the most important factor here.

**Paper Presentations:** We will discuss research papers in a debate format. For each article, 2 students will team up and be assigned to be an "advocate" of the paper. The rest of the students will be assigned to be a "critic." In class, advocate group will make a 15-20 minute presentation outlining the view of the paper, followed by a brief period in which critics group can ask questions bringing up other issues. You will make a presentation in each class session and papers will be randomly assigned to advocate groups. You are expected to form advocate group by the end of first week. If you can't find a team partner, you will be randomly assigned to an advocate group. Class presentations will count as 150 Points. You are not graded as a team. Depending on the way advocate group members make presentation and handle critics' questions, they might get different score. If one advocate group member can't make it to class session, the other group member is expected to make the presentation alone.

**Assignments/Homework:** There will be 4 assignments. Your lowest score will be dropped. Each assignment will be worth 50 points; 3 assignments total a worth 150 points. All assignments are due the Sunday 11.59pm of the week they are posted. Assignments are based on research paper readings.

Assignment 1-4: Pick one research paper assigned for a particular week when class meets. This paper cannot be the one you made a presentation. Summarize the main points of each assigned reading and discuss the following questions:

- What is the research question of this article? What is the main contribution?
- What were the most important insights you obtained from the reading?
- What do you know now that you didn't know before?
- What do you now think about differently?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each article?
- What didn't you understand?
- What type of data and research method was used?

**Research Paper:** The major task for the course is comprehensive research paper. Each student is required to develop a research paper which will consist of a complete manuscript with introduction (a research question/motivation), literature review (a discussion of the importance of the issue and a review of the relevant literature), method section, results or analysis strategy section, discussion section, and a complete list of references. If you do an excellent job on the paper, you will have a viable research project that may be suitable for conference submission. Your paper for this class must be unique and differ substantial from

any papers you have completed or are working on for other classes. Research paper will count as 400 Points.

There will be multiple milestones regarding research project. Those will be posted to canvas. Only final paper will be graded. The Final paper is due on Dec 8th.

The research paper is very serious. This is not like other papers you submitted for other courses. If you procrastinate and believe that you can deliver it in the last couple weeks of semester, I can guarantee that you will fail in this course.

**Presentation of Research Paper:** At the end of the semester, you will be asked to make a 10-15 minute presentation of your research paper to the class. The presentation is intended to be similar to paper presentations you might make at a conference. Prepare well and make good use of visual aids. Research paper presentation will count as 100 Points.

**Quizzes:** There will be 3 online quizzes. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Each quiz will be worth 50 points; 2 quizzes total a worth of 100 points. They will be timed and once started, must be completed at that time. The quizzes have expiration date/time. Students will be asked a series of questions covering the material presented in textbook. Makeup quizzes will be given only when extenuating circumstances are present. In particular, foreseeable conflicts with due dates (e.g., interviews, participation in sport activities, religious observances ...) must be brought to Prof. Eruyal's attention before the due date. You can have makeup quiz ONLY when arrangements have been made PRIOR to the expiry date/time of quiz.

#### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

	Points	Percentage	Points	Grade
Participation	100	90.0-100%	900-1000	A
Paper Presentation	150	80.0-89.9%	800-899	B
Assignments	150	70.0-79.9%	700-799	C
Research Paper	400	60.0-69.9%	600-699	D
Research Paper Presentation	100	0-59.9%	0-599	F
Quizzes	100			
Total	1000			

Instructor policies related to absence, grading, etc

Makeup exams will be given only when extenuating circumstances are present. In particular, foreseeable conflicts with due dates (e.g., interviews, participation in sport activities, religious observances ...) must be brought to Prof. Eruysal's attention before the due date. You can have makeup ONLY when arrangements have been made PRIOR to the expiry date/time of exam.

**Grading:** Grades are not given; the student earns them. Rubrics are employed whenever possible to assure that the grading of an individual assignment is consistent. There are always disagreements about the grade given to a work product and a student's expectation; students are encouraged to make sound well-reasoned arguments as to why they should receive more points. Arguments that are not well-reasoned include:

1. I need a better grade because I am on probation.
2. I come from a good family.
3. I will be deported.
4. I will lose my scholarship.
5. I think it is an A paper

**Attendance:** Class attendance is required

- i. Any student missing more than 2 of classes will receive NO credit for Attendance/Participation.
- ii. 3 tardies count as one absence. You are tardy if you come in after I take attendance, no matter how I take attendance (roll-call, attendance quiz, etc.)

### **Instructor's Personal Statement**

1. Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the course of the semester for the benefit of the students.
2. Instructor reserves the right to supplement the material presented in the text with addition material that may benefit the students by either providing additional information or a different point of view.
3. Instructor expects that the students will act in a curious and professional manner in all interactions with other students and the instructor.
4. Instructor reserves the right to modify grading rubrics. Changes to grading rubrics are only made to current and/or future assignments.
5. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted on canvas.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

### **Complete Course Calendar (Subject to Change)**

Week	Date	Reading	Tasks
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1	Aug 28 – Sep 3	Ch 1	
2	Sep 4 – 10	Labor Day – No class	
3	Sep 11 – 17	Ch2 - Supplementary research papers	
4	Sep 18 – 24	Ch 3 - Supplementary research papers	
5	Sep 25 – Oct 1	Ch 4- Supplementary research papers	Quiz 1 is due on 10.1.2017
6	Oct 2 – 8	Ch 5 - Supplementary research papers	
7	Oct 9 – 15	Ch 6 - Supplementary research papers	
8	Oct 16 – 22	Ch 7 - Supplementary research papers	
9	Oct 23 – 29	Ch 8 Supplementary research papers	
10	Oct 30 – Nov 5	Ch 9- Supplementary research papers	Quiz 2 is due on 11.5.2017
11	Nov 6 – 12	Ch 10 - Supplementary research papers	
12	Nov 13 – 19	Ch 11 - Supplementary research papers	
13	Nov 20 – 26	Ch 12, 13 - Supplementary research papers	
14	Nov 27 – Dec 3	Research Paper Presentation	
15	Dec 4 – 8	Research Paper Presentation	Quiz 3 is due on 12.8.2017

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## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

### **Technology Support.**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

For issues with **Canvas**, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**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.

**Academic Accommodations.**

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 a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

**Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are



interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at [Imdavis@tamuct.edu](mailto:Imdavis@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 A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **The University Writing Center.**

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

### **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 A&M-Central Texas 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

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### **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

#### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at A&M-Central Texas, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Counseling Services (254-501-5956) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall.

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

#### **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.**

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#### **Copyright Notice.**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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