

Department of Social Sciences
Fall 2017
Advanced Research Methods – CRIJ 5304
Tuesday 6:00-9:00p
WH 215

Professor: Liana R. Taylor, Ph.D.

Office: Founder's Hall 217F

Email: liana.taylor@tamuct.edu (email is preferred)

Students can also send messages to me through Canvas.

Office Phone Number: 254-519-5436

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday 1:30-4:30p

“Behind every uncomfortable syllabus clause lies an even more uncomfortable teaching experience.” – @AcademicSay (April 22, 2016)

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

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 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, please visit the website <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on the Disruption of University Activities (Policy # 4.08), which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/index.php>

*** **Disclaimer: Syllabus may be revised later if needed** ***

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course pertains to the study of scientific research methods used in criminal justice. It will provide the background that will help you to read, understand, critique and plan social science research in criminal justice and related areas. The readings will be of two general kinds: the textbook explaining concepts in research methods and articles reporting actual research exemplifying some of the concepts involved. The idea underlying the approach this course will take is that concepts are best understood by looking at actual examples of published research. Students will then be able to critically evaluate research and develop their own research project.

Objectives

To successfully demonstrate your understanding of research methods, students must be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the literature on a specific topic and identify suitable research questions.
2. Select and justify methodologies appropriate to particular research questions, the nature of the topic, and the resources available.
3. Become familiar with the basic procedures, strengths, and limitations of various research designs.
4. Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate research.
5. Achieve a good standard of academic writing.
6. Deliver successful oral presentations.

REQUIRED READING

Withrow, B. L. (2016). *Research Methods in Crime and Justice*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1138124233

Additional required readings will be provided on Blackboard (BB).

RECOMMENDED READING

Ridley, D. (2012). *The Literature Review: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1446201435.

Osmond A. (2016) *Academic Writing and Grammar for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473919365.

Shon, P. C. H. (2016). *How to Read Journal Articles in the Social Sciences: A Very Practical Guide for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473918795.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

COURSE POLICIES

Distractions

Use of electronics is prohibited in the classroom* (cell phones, laptops, tablets, palm pilots, Gameboys, TI-86 calculators, discmans, etc.). All cell phones must be turned off or silenced when entering the class. Do not put your cell phone on vibrate, as this can also be distracting. Headphones must be removed prior to entry into the classroom. If you can't make it through class without using your phone then you might want to check out this article:

<http://www.webmd.com/balance/guide/addicted-your-smartphone-what-to-do>

* Students who provide documentation from The Office of Access & Inclusion may use a recorder.

Respect

Research methods can be a difficult subject to learn and everyone learns at a different pace. Students are encouraged to ask questions in class, and are expected to listen to the instructor and to one another respectfully.

Academic Honesty

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. For more information, please see

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/academicintegrity.php>

Violations in academic honesty will result in score of zero on the assignment for which it is suspected. Any suspected violations of academic honesty will be reported to TAMUCT's Office of Student Conduct (<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/student-affairs/bat.php>).

ACCESSING CANVAS

This is a lecture/lab course with online components, and will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to TAMUCT Canvas <https://tamuct.instructure.com>

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

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.

To help you learn Canvas, I recommend you complete the Canvas Orientation Course. All students should have been automatically enrolled. If you are not or cannot access it, please contact IT.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Course announcements will be posted to the course Announcements page on Canvas.

Correspondence to individual students will be sent to your TAMUCT email account. Make you sure you have access to and regularly check it, as it is not my responsibility to tell you I sent an email to you, nor is it my responsibility to locate your non-TAMUCT email address.

STUDENT-PROFESSOR INTERACTION

Students may speak with the Professor after class ends (provided time availability), via email, during office hours, or by appointment. Emails will be answered within 72 hours. Appointments (date/time) must be confirmed by the student and the professor via email.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES

It is in your best interest to attend every class in order to better understand the material and be prepared to complete your assignments. Therefore, if you do not attend regularly your grade is likely to suffer. Participation is beneficial, as it will aid in understanding in the material, which can ultimately improve your grade. If you have a question, I strongly suggest that you speak up in class or see me during my office hours (or make an appointment). To help encourage participation, students may earn up to three points per class for participation. Participation will be graded as follows:

- Fully prepared and contributing to the class discussion (3 points)
- Appears partially prepared and sort of contributing to the class discussion (2 point)

- Minimal contribution to class discussion (1 point)
- Not contributing to the class discussion (0 points)

If you need to miss class I recommend you let me know in advance as this is the polite and responsible thing to do.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note for all papers: You are only allowed one submission. Make sure you are satisfied with the version that will be submitted. I will not allow resubmissions. Early submissions will not be graded sooner. If you resubmit your assignment, I will grade your first submission.

Reading Assignments

The reading assignments will include research articles, which are available on Canvas under Modules/Week # (i.e. Modules/Week 2), and chapters in the required textbook. It is important to have the textbook when class begins. I recommend you purchase the book as soon as possible so you are adequately prepared for class. Additionally is important to make sure you read *all* of the assigned readings (articles and chapters) for class each week, as they will be discussed in-depth during class.

I also suggest you purchase and read the Recommended Resources, as they will help you complete your assignments.

Research Summaries (20 points each)

Each week you will write one Research Summary (RS) for a research article that will be provided to you.* For these assignments, you are to summarize the important points of each section of the research study using the format of an annotated bibliography (APA style). Make sure you read the article carefully. You will then provide a critique of the research, as well. *Do not include your opinion or any quotes.* The guidelines are available on Canvas under Modules/Course Documents/Research Summary Guidelines. The RS must be submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Week #) by 6p on the appropriate class date. Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard copy. Submissions will be considered late starting at 6:01p on the appropriate class date and will receive a 5-point penalty per day. Submissions will not be accepted once the assignment grades are posted. Make sure your last name is in the file name. Research summaries will be discussed during class, so I recommend you bring a copy with you to class.

* The articles for which you will write the summary will be denoted by 'RS'.

Research summaries will be graded as follows:

Research Summary Component	Point Distribution
Content	15 points
Writing Mechanics and Quality	3 points
Formatting (APA style)	2 points
Late penalty	-5 points/day

Late research summaries will only be accepted without penalty **if** I receive documented, written notice that you will be unable to complete the assignment due to employment conflicts or military obligations. This documentation must be provided *before the deadline and include dates of the conflict/obligations*. You will have one week from the due date to submit the completed assignment.

Advanced notice is not required for medical emergencies; however, you must provide written documentation (on official paper with the date(s)) within one week from the deadline. You will also have one week from the deadline to submit the completed assignment.

Annotated Bibliography (150 points)

An annotated bibliography provides a summary of research articles used in a research project/literature review. Each student shall locate and read 10 peer-reviewed journal articles related to the research question he or she has chosen for their research proposal. Once the student has read the articles, he or she will summarize and critique them, succinctly, in one page each. Thus, the annotated bibliography should not exceed 10 pages (excluding title page). *Do not include a reference page or quotes*. The student will not receive credit for articles that are not peer-reviewed. The annotated bibliography must be written in APA style, and submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Annotated Bibliography) by October 3 at 6:00p. The guidelines are also available at this link.

Late submissions will be accepted beginning October 3 at 6:01p. A late penalty of 15 points per day will be imposed for all late submissions. Submissions will not be accepted once the assignment grades are posted. Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard-copy. Make sure your last name is included in the file name.

The annotated bibliography will be graded as follows:

Annotated Bibliography Elements	Approximate point distribution
Content (summary)	100 points
Writing mechanics and quality	25 points
Formatting (APA Format)	25 points
Late penalty	-15 points/day

Peer Critique (25 points/each)

Each student will upload a full draft of their proposal to Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Proposal Draft). I will assign each student a set of drafts to review, and then each student will submit a one- to two-page critique for each proposal they receive. Each critique will be an assessment of at least the literature review, methodology, and implications of the proposal. Students will then take the critiques and class discussion into consideration when revising the proposal for the final submission. Late proposal draft submissions will not be accepted once the proposals have been sent out for peer critique. Students who do not submit their draft before I disseminate them for critique will receive a 0 on the peer critique.

Each student will compile their peer critiques into one Word document (doc or docx) and submit it via the link on Canvas under Modules/Research Proposal/Peer Critiques. The guidelines are also available at this link. Your critiques are due by November 22rd at 6p. Late submissions will receive a 10-point deduction for each day it is late, starting on November 22rd at 6:01p.

The peer critiques will be graded as follows:

Peer Critique Element	Point Distribution
Content	20 points
Writing mechanics and quality	3 points
Formatting (APA Format)	2 points
Late penalty	-10 points/day

Final Proposal (200 points)

Each student will write a research proposal as if it is being submitted to a funding agency for review. The research proposal will be no more than 15 pages. Your proposal will include the following sections:

1. Cover page
2. Introduction – No more than 1/2 page. Provide an overview of the importance of the study and research proposal.
3. Brief literature review - Define the research problem, It provides the context for your study, and builds the case for the importance of your study. --5 page limit
4. Research plan
 - a. Sampling plan
 - i. How will you select your sample(s)? Describe your sampling plan. Would you use probability or non-probability sampling? What specific technique would you use (simple random sampling, snowball sampling, etc.)? Explain your answer. Why do you think your selection would be the most appropriate for your research question and hypothesis?
 - ii. Discuss (if applicable) the strategies you will use to protect human

subjects

- b. Design
 - i. What research methodology would you select (Experimental, Quasi-experimental, or Non-reactive)? What specific type of design would you select within your methodology (field study, two-group/pre/post study, secondary analysis, etc.)? Explain your answer. Why do you think your selection would be the most appropriate for your research question and hypothesis?
 - c. Materials
 - i. Describe the key concepts involved and how they will be measured in the proposed research approach.
 - Clearly define and operationalize the concepts in your research question.
 - Identify your unit of analysis.
 - Develop a list of the variables and their attributes that you intend to use (independent, dependent, and intervening variables)
 - Make sure you describe the instrument you'll use and provide an example of the instrument - survey, questionnaire, coding instrument. Discuss (if applicable) how you will ensure the validity and reliability of your measures.
 - d. Procedure
 - i. Describe your proposed data collection strategy
 - ii. Rationale for the proposed approach over other approaches
 - iii. Discuss data collection concerns (type and quality, strengths and limitations)
5. Discuss the implications of possible findings – Approximately 1 ½ to 2 pages.
 6. References

The proposal must be submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Final Research Proposal) by December 12 at 6:00p. The guidelines are also available at this link. **Proposals will not be accepted in hardcopy, email, or course message. Late proposals will not be accepted (starting December 12 at 6:01p).**

The approximate grade distribution of your research proposal will be as follows:

Research Proposal Elements	Percentage of grade
Introduction	5%
Literature Review	10%
Key Concepts	10%
Proposed Sample and Sampling Plan	20%
Methodology	20%
Data Collection	10%
Implications	15%
Writing mechanics	5%
Formatting (APA format)	5%

Final Presentation (100 points)

In lieu of a final exam, each student will present their final proposal using PowerPoint on December 12. Students will be graded on the empirical basis and design of their proposal, as well as the quality and professionalism of their presentation and PowerPoint. Students must submit their PowerPoint to Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Final Proposal Presentation) by December 12 at 6:00p. Late submissions will not be accepted (starting on December 12 at 6:01p) and the student will receive a 10-point penalty.

Final presentations will be graded as follows:

Presentation Elements	Approximate Point Distribution
Content	60 points
Powerpoint	20 points
Presentation Quality	20 points
Did not submit PowerPoint on Canvas	-10 points

If a student will not be able to attend the last day of class due to work or military obligations, documentation must be provide in advance and the student will have to present their proposal during class on December 5.

GRADES

Assignment and final grades will not be curved. Grades will be posted on Canvas within approximately one week. Students will be notified if it will take longer to post the grades.

Your final grade will be weighted. Guidance on how to calculate your weighted grade may be found on Canvas/Modules/Additional Resources/General Resources.

	Number of Points	Percentage of Grade
Participation	3 points/day (~42 points)	5%
Article Summaries	20 points/each (~240 points)	20%
Peer Critique	25 points/each (100 points)	15%
Annotated Bibliography	150 points	10%
Final Research Proposal	200 points	35%
Final Presentation	100 points	15%
Total	832 points	

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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COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Date	Topic	Reading Due
Week 1	08/29	Introduction to the Course	
Week 2	09/05	The Research Process	Withrow Ch. 2 Hinkle & Weisburd (2008) – RS Auerhahn 1999
Week 3	09/12	Ethics in Research	Withrow Ch. 3 Milgram (1965) – RS Esbensen (1991)
Week 4	09/19	Classifying Research Relationships	Withrow Ch. 4-5 Andrews et al. (1990) – RS Paternoster (1987) Submit your preliminary RQ by 6p
Week 5	09/26	Measurement	Withrow Ch. 6 Wright, Salisbury, Van Voorhis (2007) – RS Hiller et al. (2002)
Week 6	10/03	Variables and Research	Withrow Ch. 7 Ball 2006 - RS Annotated Bibliography due at 6p
Week 7	10/10	Sampling	Withrow Ch. 8 Henggeler et al. (2006)– RS Leiber, Nall, & Farnworth (1998)
Week 8	10/17	Work from Home	Draft of Literature Review due at 9p

Week 9	10/24	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs	Withrow Ch. 9 White, Goldkamp, & Robinson (2006) - RS Listwan et al. (2003) - RS
Week 10	10/31	Survey/Interview Methods	Withrow Ch. 10 Roberts (2004) – RS
Week 11	11/07	Non-Reactive Research	Withrow Ch. 11 Felson, Messner, & Hoskin (1999) - RS Haberman (2017)
Week 12	11/14	Qualitative Research Guest Speaker: Dr. Roslyn Schoen Meet in FH 413	Withrow Ch. 12 Schoen (2015) Final Paper Draft due at 6p
Week 13	11/21	Turkey Day	Peer Critiques due 11/22 at 6p
Week 14	11/28	Evaluation Research	Withrow Ch. 13 Braga et al. (2001) - RS
Week 15	12/05	Reporting research results	Bachman & Schutt (2015) – Ch. 12 Blasko (2016) Academics Anonymous (2015) – <i>Read this one before reading Burnett</i> Burnett (2015)
Week 16	12/12	Final Presentations	Final Paper due at 6:00p

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.

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.

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.

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 lmdavis@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 WOnline <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at 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.

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/>.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

August 28, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins

August 30, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 16-week and 1st 8-week classes

September 1, Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application

September 4, Labor Day, CAMPUS CLOSED
September 5, Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record
September 13, Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record
September 22, Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W
October 6, Deadline to submit graduation
October 20, Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes WF)
October 23, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes
October 26, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes
October 30, Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record
November 10, Veteran's Day
November 10, Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)
November 17, Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W
November 23-24, Thanksgiving, CAMPUS CLOSED
December 15, Last day to withdraw from the University (16-week and 2nd 8-week classes)
December 15, Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)
December 15, Commencement (End of Fall Term)
December 25-January 1, WINTER BREAK

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 TAMUCT, 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 Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

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>.