

Department of Social Sciences

Fall 2020

Advanced Research Methods

CRIJ 5304-110, 80285

Tuesday 6:00-8:45p

Online

Professor: Liana R. Taylor, Ph.D.

Office: Heritage Hall 204E

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

Office Phone Number: 254-519-5436

“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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

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 # 10.4.13), which can be accessed in the Student Code of Conduct through the following link:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and

between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

***** 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.

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 Canvas.

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. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

COURSE POLICIES

Respect

This course will be fully online and you are encouraged to participate. All students learn in a variety of ways and at varying paces. I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and help cultivate an environment in which everyone feels free to ask and answer questions respectfully.

Netiquette

All students must abide by the following core rules of netiquette (excerpted from Shea, 1994¹) for the duration of the course on discussion boards and email.

Rule 1: Remember the human - Do unto others as you'd have others do unto you. Imagine how you'd feel if you were in the other person's shoes. Stand up for yourself, but try not to hurt people's feelings.

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online - Standards of behavior may be different in some areas of cyberspace, but they are not lower than in real life.

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace - When you enter a domain of cyberspace that's new to you, take a look around. Spend a while listening to the chat or reading the archives. Get a sense of how the people who are already there act. Then go ahead and participate.

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth - ...don't expect instant responses to all your questions, and don't assume that all readers will agree with -- or care about -- your passionate arguments.

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online - As in the world at large, most people who communicate online just want to be liked. Networks -- particularly discussion groups -- let you reach out to people you'd otherwise never meet. And none of them can see you. You won't be judged by the color of your skin, eyes, or hair, your weight, your age, or your clothing.

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge - Don't be afraid to share what you know.

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control - ...Netiquette does forbid the perpetuation of flame wars -- series of angry letters, most of them from two or three people directed toward each other, that can dominate the tone and destroy the camaraderie of a discussion group. It's unfair to the other members of the group.

¹ Shea, V. (1994). Core Rules of Netiquette. In *Netiquette*, (pp. 32-46). Vancouver: Albion Books.

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power - Some people in cyberspace have more power than others...Knowing more than others, or having more power than they do, does not give you the right to take advantage of them.

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes - ... when someone makes a mistake -- whether it's a spelling error or a spelling flame, a stupid question or an unnecessarily long answer -- be kind about it. If it's a minor error, you may not need to say anything. Even if you feel strongly about it, think twice before reacting. Having good manners yourself doesn't give you license to correct everyone else. If you do decide to inform someone of a mistake, point it out politely, and preferably by private email rather than in public. Give people the benefit of the doubt; assume they just don't know any better. And never be arrogant or self-righteous about it. Just as it's a law of nature that spelling flames always contain spelling errors, notes pointing out Netiquette violations are often examples of poor Netiquette.

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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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 regarding the Student Conduct process,
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report,
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Violations in academic integrity will result in score of zero on the assignment for which it is suspected. Any suspected violations of academic integrity will also be reported to TAMUCT's Office of Student Conduct:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>

Note: If you submit papers or sections from a paper from another class or previous semester, that counts as a violation of academic integrity.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT AND SUPPORT

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Log on to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address.

Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

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

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, 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>]

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

COURSE COMMUNICATION

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

I will send correspondence to your Canvas Inbox. Make sure you have access to and regularly check it. I recommend you adjust your Canvas Settings so you receive a notification when I post an announcement, you receive a course message, etc.

OMG, emails should be professional LMBO. When u send a msg, dont write n text talk!! Proofread ur email b4 u send it n dont use emojis :) Include a subject line, a formal salutation, your name and the course you're in, the reason for your email, a formal sign-off with your name, and address me as Professor or Dr. For more information, please go to Modules/Additional Resources/General Resources/How to Email Your Professor.

Do not send Canvas messages/emails about things stated in the syllabus/guidelines or where things are located on Canvas *unless* you are requesting clarification or additional information.

STUDENT-PROFESSOR INTERACTION

Students may speak with me via Canvas Inbox or by appointment. I will answer (most) messages within 72 hours. Students who would like to speak to me via WebEx must make an appointment. For appointments the student and I must confirm the date and time via Canvas Inbox. There is a link for WebEx available on Canvas.

PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Participation will not count towards your grade. However, it is in your best interest to regularly check Canvas and complete all the assignments. If you do not your grade is likely to suffer. Participation will aid in understanding in the material, which can ultimately improve your grade. If you have a question, I strongly suggest you email me or make an appointment to speak with me.

WebEx Meetings

We are scheduled meet for class on Thursdays from 6:00-8:45p. This will be an opportunity for students to ask questions and discuss the content. I highly recommend you complete the reading an assignments before class time. The meetings will be recorded and posted to Canvas. If you are unable to join, you will be able to watch the recordings.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Grading Policies

The assignments in this course have flexible due dates (see the course schedule). As such, there are no late penalties. You are not required to meet these flexible due dates, though it is in your best interest to do so. However, all assignments must be submitted by the end of the semester: December 11 at 11:59p.

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.

Concept Application

Concept Application assignments are designed to help you apply the concepts you learn in the course and think through your research proposal. The Concept Application assignments will have flexible due dates. The assignment(s) are all available under Canvas/Modules. I recommend you complete them by Sunday at 11:59p for the week they are posted. I placed a link to each assignment under the appropriate week, i.e., Modules/Week 5/Measurement. However, if you need more time, you may submit it later without a late penalty. It is in your best interest to submit it by the recommended Sunday due date, as this will allow more time for me to grade it and provide you feedback you can use to study. **The latest I will accept the Concept Application assignments is December 11 at 11:59p.** I will not start grading the submissions until after their recommended due date.

Research Summaries (20 points each)

Students will have nine research summaries (RS) in which, they will summarize the important points of each section of an assigned research article using the format of an annotated bibliography (APA style). Make sure you read the article carefully. You will also provide a critique of the research. *Do not include your opinion or any quotes.* The guidelines are available on Canvas under Modules/Course Documents/Research Summary Guidelines. I recommend you submit the RS by the end of the assigned week (Sunday at 11:59p). The submission link is on Canvas (Modules/Week #).

Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard copy. However, if you need more time, you may submit it later without a late penalty. It is in your best interest to submit it by the recommended Sunday due date, as this will allow more time for me to grade it and provide you feedback you can use to study and incorporate in subsequent assignments. **The latest I will accept the research summaries is December 11 at 11:59p.** I will not start grading the submissions until after their recommended due date. Research summaries will be discussed during class, so I recommend you have a copy on hand when we meet.

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

Annotated Bibliography (100 points)

An annotated bibliography provides a summary of research articles used in a research project/literature review. Each student shall locate and read five peer-reviewed, original research, scholarly journal articles related to the research question they have chosen for their research proposal. Once the student has read the articles, they will summarize and critique them, succinctly, in one page each. Thus, the annotated bibliography should not exceed five 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, original research and/or scholarly. Similarly, the student will not receive credit for sources that are not articles. The annotated bibliography must be written in APA style, and submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/AB Submission). The recommended submission date is October 4 at 11:59p. The guidelines are also available at Modules/Research Proposal/AB Submission/AB Guidelines.

Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard copy. However, if you need more time, you may submit it later without a late penalty. It is in your best interest to submit it by the recommended due date, as this will allow more time for me to grade it and provide you feedback you can use to study and incorporate in subsequent assignments. **The latest I will accept the annotated bibliography is December 11 at 11:59p.** I will not start grading the submissions until after their recommended due date.

The annotated bibliography will be graded as follows:

Annotated Bibliography Elements	Approximate point distribution
Content (summary)	50 points
Writing mechanics and quality	25 points
Formatting (APA Format)	25 points

Peer Critique (25 points)

Each student will upload their full proposal to Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Proposal Draft). I will assign each student a research proposal to review, and then each student will submit a one- to two-page critique for the proposal they receive. The critique will be an assessment of at least the literature review, methodology, and implications of the proposal.

Each student will submit their critique as a Word document (doc or docx) via the link on Canvas under Modules/Research Proposal/Peer Critique. The guidelines are also available at Modules/Research Proposal/Peer Critique/Peer Critique Guidelines. The recommended due date for submitting your critique is November 22rd at 11:59p. However, if you need more time, you may submit it later without a late penalty. It is in your best interest to submit it by the recommended due date, as this will allow more time for me to grade it and provide you feedback you can use to study and incorporate in subsequent assignments. **The latest I will accept the peer critiques is December 11 at 11:59p.** I will not start grading the submissions until after their recommended due date.

Submissions will not be accepted via hardcopy, course message, or email. Any submissions via the proscribed methods will have to be resubmitted via the submission link no later than December 11 at 11:59p.

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

Final Proposal (200 points)

Each student will write a research proposal as if it is being submitted to a funding agency for review. The Final Research Proposal provides students with an opportunity to learn how to design a research study in social sciences. You will develop a research question and hypothesis, conduct a literature search and write a literature review, develop a research plan, and write the implications for your proposed research. The research proposal will be no more than 15 pages. The

guidelines for the Research Proposal and associated assignments are posted under Modules/Research Proposal/Assignment #. The final deadline for submission is December 11 at 11:59p.

This project will take place throughout the semester and will be broken down into a series of assignments that build to the final proposal. **Note:** The assignment submissions *are not* drafts. I will only grade final versions. If you submit a draft or incomplete version of an assignment, I will not grade it and you will have to resubmit it. Students who submit a draft or incomplete assignment must resubmit no later than December 11 at 11:59p.

The assignment deadlines are flexible submission deadlines, which are the due dates by which I recommend you submit your assignment. But I will accept submissions after those deadlines and grade them on a rolling basis (after the recommended deadlines). I will not administer late penalties for those who submit after those deadlines. Please keep in mind, if you meet the recommended deadlines, you'll have more time for revisions (after I post the grades).

You are only allowed one submission for each assignment. Make sure the version you submit is your final version. I will not allow you to resubmit your paper. If you submit this assignment multiple times, I will grade your first submission.

The proposal must be submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Final Research Proposal) by December 11 at 11:59p. The guidelines are available at Modules/Research Proposal/Final Research Proposal/Research Proposal Guidelines. **Proposals will not be accepted in hardcopy, email, or course message. Late proposals will not be accepted (starting December 12 at 12:00a).**

While your final submission is due at the end of the semester, your first proposal submission will be Sunday, November 15 at 11:59p. This is a flexible due date, so if you miss this deadline you will not receive a penalty. However, if you submit your proposal by this deadline I will be able to get feedback to you sooner so you can incorporate it into your final proposal submission. Also, it will help other students have more time to work on their peer critiques. **Note:** This is not a proposal draft. If you submit a draft or incomplete version, I will not grade it and you will have to resubmit it. Students who submit a draft or incomplete proposal must resubmit no later than December 11 at 11:59p.

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

Research Proposal Elements	Percentage of grade
Introduction	5%
Literature Review	10%
Variables	10%
Proposed Sample and Sampling Plan	20%
Methodology	20%
Data Collection	10%
Implications	15%
Writing mechanics	5%
Formatting (APA format)	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
Concept Application Assignments	~245 points	15%
Research Summaries	180 points	25%
Course Introduction	10 points	
Peer Critique	25 points	15%
Annotated Bibliography	100 points	15%
Final Research Proposal	200 points	30%
Total	760 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.

Copyright. (2020) by Liana R. Taylor at Texas A&M University-Central Texas,
Department of Social Sciences; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-519-
5436; Fax 254-519-5781; liana.taylor@tamuct.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Dates	Topic	Reading Due
Week 1	08/24-08/30	Introduction to the Course The Research Proposal	
Week 2	08/31-09/06	The Research Process Literature Review	Withrow Ch. 2 Blasko & Hiller (2013) Course Introduction – Discussion Board due 09/06 at 11:59p
Week 3	09/07-09/13	Ethics in Research	Withrow Ch. 3 Haney, Banks, & Zimbardo (1973)
Week 4	09/14-09/20	Classifying Research Variable Relationships	Withrow Ch. 4-5 Submit your preliminary RQ by 09/20 at 11:59p
Week 5	09/21-09/27	Measurement	Withrow Ch. 6 Severson (2019)
Week 6	09/28-10/04	Variables and Research	Withrow Ch. 7 Hartley & Tillyer (2018) Annotated Bibliography due at 10/04 at 11:59p
Week 7	10/05-10/11	Sampling	Withrow Ch. 8
Week 8	10/12-10/18	Literature Review due 10/18	

Week 9	10/19-10/25	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs	Withrow Ch. 9 Jung & LaLonde (2019)
Week 10	10/26-11/01	Survey/Interview Methods	Withrow Ch. 10 Lambert et al. (2020)
Week 11	11/02-11/08	Non-Reactive Research	Withrow Ch. 11 Felson, Messner, & Hoskin (1999)
Week 12	11/09-11/15	Qualitative Research	Withrow Ch. 12 Schoen (2018) Final Paper Draft due 11/15 at 11:59p
Week 13	11/16-11/22	Peer Critiques due 11/22	
Week 14	11/23-11/29	Evaluation Research	Withrow Ch. 13
Week 15	11/30-12/06	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	12/07-12/11	Final Paper due at 12/11 at 11:59p	

WARRIOR SHIELD

EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, 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 the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Fall 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

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 85,000 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 24 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 [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our Library website [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PREGNANT AND/OR PARENTING STUDENTS

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. 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>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

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/compliance/titleix.html>].

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>