

CIS 5382-110, 81089, Research Methods

Fall 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: Aug 23, 2021 – Dec 10, 2021

Modality: Online course. The lecture recordings will be provided via Canvas. The supplemental materials will also be made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Location: Online

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Khaldoon Dhou, PhD

Office: FH 323

Phone: (254) 501-5933

Email: kdhou@tamuct.edu

Office Hours

My office hours will be on Monday and Tuesday from 8 AM to 11 AM. Because of the pandemic, I will hold my office hours virtually. You can email me and we can meet using Zoom, Skype, phone, or any way. If there is a need to meet face-to-face, please arrange with me. Please feel free to email me at anytime if you need any help. In other words, you are not limited to my office hours and you can always seek help.

Student-instructor interaction

I should respond to your emails within 24-48 hours and I do my best to answer very quickly. You can also email me to arrange an appointment with me. Because of the pandemic, I prefer to meet virtually, but I understand that there are times when a student needs to meet in person. So, I am open to either way while using a facial mask and maintaining a social distance in face-to-face meetings.

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://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] 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.

Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan. For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](#)

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

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 or Goal

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

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards)

Graduates should demonstrate ability to:

1. Write effectively on technical and non-technical subjects in computer information systems.
2. Use skills and abilities to research and evaluate current and emerging trends and technologies in order to build effective organizational solutions.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Textbook 1: Bhattacharjee, Anol, Social Science Research: Principles, Methods and Practices, 2012, available for free download at:

http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=oa_textbooks

Textbook 2 (suggested): Field, Andy, Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, fifth edition, ISBN-13: 978-1526436566

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Term paper: Each a group of students (2-3 students per group) will be required to write 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. In the required paper, students will select and explore a current topic/trend in Information Systems for a specific (student selected) industry. It will consist of at least ten (A really good paper will have that or more!) double spaced pages (not including title page, table of contents, bibliography, appendixes, etc.) in length with 1” margins formatted in APA style, using 11 (Arial) or 12 (Times Roman or Calibri) point font. This is a professional paper – do not use informal language. Do not over quote your references, instead summarize what they say in your own words, and provide reference to the article. Every claim you make in the paper should have a peer-reviewed academic reference. Wikipedia is NOT academic and should not be used unless it is unavoidable. The paper must be submitted in MS Word format (.rtf, .doc, .docx). All parts of the paper will have varying points, but the total for all parts will be 500 points (50% of your grade). See calendar/Canvas for deadline details. You will also have a presentation. More details about the presentation will be provided in the class.

NOTE: I HIGHLY recommend you utilize the Writing Center. Please see information on the Writing Center later in this syllabus and on Canvas. They can help you with many of the common issues students have with writing and following APA guidelines

Assignments: You will see multiple assignments during the course that examine your understanding of the material presented.

Final Exam: There will be one final exam worth 20% (200 points) of your total grade each. More details about the exam will be provided in the class.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

The final grade for the course will be based upon the following:

Item	Points	Percentage
Final Exam	200	20%
Assignments	200	20%
Term paper	500	50%
Presentation	100	10%
Total	1000	100%

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade Book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool. Grades will be posted within 7 days after of the due date

Grading Policies

I do not accept late work. However, I firmly believe that there are situations where a student cannot submit the work on time (i.e. sickness). If you believe you have a legitimate reason that did not allow you to finish the work and submit it by the deadline, please come and talk to me and depending on the situation, I can make an exception for you to make up the work. I always advise students to start working on the assignments as soon as they get them.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Below is a **tentative** schedule that is subject to change by instructor

Weeks	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 1 Aug 23 – Aug 29	Introduction to research	Forming teams
Week 2 Aug 30 – Sep 5	Basics of research 1 Introduction to statistics	Submitting a proposal
Week 3 Sep 6 – Sep 12	Basics of research 2 Data exploration 1	Assignment 1
Week 4 Sep 13 – Sep 19	How to write a good research paper?	Paper phase 1
Week 5 Sep 20 – Sep 26	Data collection 1 Data exploration 2	
Week 6	Data collection 2	Assignment 2

Sep 27 – Oct 3	Bias in statistics	
Week 7 Oct 4 – Oct 10	Data collection 3 Correlation	Paper phase 2
Week 8 Oct 11 – Oct 17	Data analysis 1 Regression 1	Assignment 3
Week 9 Oct 18 – Oct 24	Data analysis 2 Regression 2	
Week 10 Oct 25 – Oct 31	Data analysis 3 Comparing two means	Assignment 4
Week 11 Nov 1 – Nov 7	Comparing independent means	Paper phase 3
Week 12 Nov 8 – Nov 14	Factorial design	Assignment 5
Week 13 Nov 15 – Nov 21	Repeated measures design	
Week 14 Nov 22 – Nov 28	Visual analysis	Assignment 6
Week 15 Nov 29 – Dec 5	Visual analysis	Presentation
Week 16 Dec 6 – Dec 12		Final Paper Final Exam

Important University Dates

Date	Description
August 23, 2021	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
August 23, 2021	Classes Begin for Fall Semester
August 25, 2021	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
August 30, 2021	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record
September 6, 2021	Labor Day (University open and classes will be held)
September 7, 2021	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 4, 2021	Deadline for Teacher Education Program Applications
October 1, 2021	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or

	Withdraw (W)
October 15, 2021	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
October 15, 2021	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 15, 2021	Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)
October 18, 2021	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 18, 2021	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 18, 2021	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 19, 2021	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 20, 2021	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 25, 2021	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
October 19, 2021	Deadline for Graduation Application for Fall Ceremony Participation
November 1, 2021	Deadline for GRE/GMAT Scores to Graduate School Office
November 1, 2021	Registration Opens for Spring Semester
November 5, 2021	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2021	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 20, 2021	Deadline for Final Committee-Edited Theses Fall Semester with Committee Approval Signatures to Graduate School Office
November 25-26, 2021	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 29, 2021	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
December 10, 2021	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
December 10, 2021	Fall Semester Ends
December 10, 2021	Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)
December 10, 2021	Deadline for Fall Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office \$20 Late Application Fee
December 10, 2021	Fall Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo 7 pm
December 14, 2021	Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)
December 14, 2021	Deadline for Theses to Clear Graduate School Office for Fall Semester
December 24-31, 2021	Winter Break (University Closed)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

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.**

Logon 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): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

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

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

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.

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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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),
[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),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

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 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](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

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/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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.

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. 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.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (A&M—Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M—Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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 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 at <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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams 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) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

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 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 Wellness and 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/bit>]. 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.

OTHER POLICIES

N/A

Copyright Notice

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