TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

CISA 4483 & CETE 4481, **Advanced Penetration Testing with Python**
Fall 2025
Department of Computing and Cyber Security, College of Arts & Sciences
Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: Wednesdays, 4:00 PM - 6:45 PM, Online Synchronous
Class Duration: 08/27/2025 - 12/12/2025
Instructor: Dr. Kim Withers, Ph.D.
Office: Not Applicable
E-Mail: kwithers@tamusa.edu
Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.
Course Website: https://tamusa.blackboard.com/
Online Office Hours: Available via Zoom by appointment only. Mondays or Tuesdays after 6pm CST.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the concepts, principles, and applications of computer security in the business environment including privacy, information security, and critical infrastructure and explores the knowledge and skills needed to ensure security of information and information systems within organizations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- General security subjects, concepts, and goals.
- Security planning and management
- Security risks' identification, assessment, and mitigation
- Vulnerability assessment and penetration testing.
- Network security testing and evaluation.
- Encryption and information integrity methods and applications.
- Security standards, procedures, and training.
- Malware identification and analysis
- Software security and assessment
- Wireless and mobile security and assessment

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Implement security configuration parameters on network devices and other technologies.
2. Given a scenario, use secure network administration principles.
3. Explain network design elements and components.
4. Given a scenario, implement common protocols and services.
5. Given a scenario, troubleshoot security issues related to wireless networking.
6. Explain the importance of risk related concepts.
7. Summarize the security implications of integrating systems and data with third parties.
8. Given a scenario, implement appropriate risk mitigation strategies.
9. Summarize common incident response procedures.
10. Explain the importance of security related awareness and training.
11. Compare and contrast physical security and environmental controls.
12. Summarize risk management best practices.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Supporting materials and books are provided in Blackboard.

OTHER RECOMMENDED / READING MATERIALS: Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor. I recommend you become familiar with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications (SP) as they relate to information security and risk assessment. The Labs will require additional reading and extra study time. There is also additional hardware required to complete the labs. Please read ahead for every assignment and lab.

Websites	
Site Name	**Link**
The DoD Cybersecurity Policy Chart	http://iac.dtic.mil/csiac/download/ia_policychart.pdf
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications	https://www.nist.gov/publications
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Whois Database	https://whois.icann.org/en
American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)	https://www.arin.net/
E-Commerce Guide	https://ecommerceguide.com/guides/what-is-ecommerce/
Kali Linux Downloads – Virtual Images	https://www.kali.org/get-kali/#kali-platforms

Metasploitable 2 Download	https://information.rapid7.com/download-metasploitable-2017.html
Windows Virtual Machine Download	https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-edge/tools/vms/
Google Hacking Database – Offensive Security	https://www.exploit-db.com/google-hacking-database
Exploit Database – Offensive Security	https://www.exploit-db.com/
Crackstation	https://crackstation.net/
Cybrary	https://www.cybrary.it/
Videos	
Site Name	**Link**
Security 101: Security Risk Analysis	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNUBMLVr9z4#action=share
Conducting a Cybersecurity Risk Assessment	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUvMIOdaSBs

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This class includes lecture and class discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. Student participation is encouraged and mandatory in required assignments and practical demonstrations, including both individual and group tasks.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Read all course materials, including the syllabus and description of the grading and testing systems to be used in the course.
- Attend every class session and complete all assignments on time.
- Participate in all classroom learning activities.
- Interact respectfully with faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- Refrain from all academic misconduct
- Avoid situations that give the appearance of misconduct.
- Report any observed academic misconduct.

GRADING SYSTEM:

The grading system is as follows:
* Note: Instructor may choose to add hands-on labs or exercises to the course

Grade Scale (Percentage)	
A	90-100
B	80-89

C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

***GRADING POLICY*:** The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Attendance/Class Participation	15%
Assignments/Labs/Quizzes/Exams	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam (as per University Schedule)	25%
Total	100%

This course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimal grade for satisfactory completion of this course.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Cell phone ringers must be off, and phones may NOT be used during class, no matter how briefly. If your phone is out during class, you will be asked to leave, and it will count as an unexcused absence.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.
- No reading of magazines, newspapers, or other unrelated texts during class.
- No racist, sexist, or homophobic language is allowed in the classroom.
- Laptops and tablets may be used for notetaking during lectures, but not for activities unrelated to the course. Students observed using devices for unrelated activities will lose the privilege of using devices in class.

ABSENCES

To succeed in the course, students must attend and participate in each class session. If you miss a session, it is your responsibility to learn any material missed.

Students who are absent more than 3 times will receive an automatic zero for participation in the course (12% of the final grade). Excused absences are excluded from this policy; excused absences must be arranged in advance and are at the instructor's discretion.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / CHEATING

Any form of cheating on an assignment, homework, lab, or test will result in both a zero score for the assignment and a one-letter grade penalty in the course.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, or data without giving credit to the original author. Plagiarism is a form of cheating.

If you are confused as to the difference between helping each other (which is encouraged) and cheating (which will not be tolerated), ask your instructor.

Acceptable	Cheating
Including a brief quote from a web page with the source cited.	Copying entire pages or paragraphs and republishing it as you own.
Using graphics from a free clip art or graphic site.	Using someone else's graphics without permission.
Discussing an assignment with another student.	Copying another student's work or file.
Looking at online sources or asking for a classmate's help to figure out what to do.	Duplicating a classmate's lab answers as your own, without performing the lab activity yourself.

If you assist someone else in cheating, you can also be charged with cheating yourself. This can include giving another student access to your computer account, negligently permitting another student to access your account, or posting answer keys where others can access them. Protect your account as if your academic career depends on it!

TIME PER TASK FOR ONLINE COURSES

For online courses, estimate the following:

- 30 to 60 minutes per chapter (reading)
- 15 to 20 minutes per end-of-chapter review questions set.
- 15 minutes per Fill in the Blanks quiz
- 30 to 60 minutes per project
- 1 to 2 hours per exam

FALL 2025 CLASS SCHEDULE

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topics	Chapter Readings	Assignments	In-Class Activities
1	**Goal-Based Penetration Testing** • The different types of threat actors • An overview of security testing • Misconceptions of vulnerability scanning, penetration testing, and red team exercises • The history and purpose of Kali Linux • Updating and organizing Kali • Goal-Based Penetration Testing • Installing Kali on various services (Amazon Web Services/Google Cloud Platform/Android) • Setting up defined targets • Building a verification lab	Chapter 1	Building a verification lab Chapter Lab 1	Syllabus, Introductions
2	**Open-Source Intelligence and Passive Reconnaissance** • Basic principles of reconnaissance • OSINT • Online resources and dark web search • Obtaining user information • Profiling users for password lists • Using social media to extract password wordlist	Chapter 2	Chapter Lab 2	Classroom Discussions Lecture

3	**Active Reconnaissance of External and Internal Networks** • Stealth scanning techniques • External and internal infrastructure, host discovery, and enumeration • Comprehensive reconnaissance of applications, especially recon-ng • Enumeration of internal hosts using DHCP • Enumerating services within the SaaS applications • Useful Microsoft Windows commands during penetration testing • Taking advantage of default configurations • Enumeration of users using SNMP, SMB, and rpcclient	Chapter 3	Chapter Lab 3	Classroom Discussions Lecture
4	**Vulnerability Assessment** • Using online and local vulnerability resources • Vulnerability scanning with Nmap • Lua scripting • Writing your own Nmap script using the Nmap Scripting Engine (NSE) • Selecting and customizing multiple vulnerability scanners • Installing Nessus in Kali and exploring Qualys' online community scanner	Chapter 4	Chapter Lab 4	Classroom Discussions Lecture

	• Web- and application-specific scanners • Threat modeling in general			
5	**Advanced Social Engineering and Physical Security** • The different social engineering attack methods that can be engaged by attackers • How to perform physical attacks at the console • Creating rogue physical devices using microcontrollers and USBs • Harvesting or collecting usernames and passwords using the credential harvester attack • Launching the Tabnabbing and Web Jacking attack • Employing the Multi-Attack web method • Using PowerShell's alphanumeric shellcode injection attack • How to set up Gophish on Kali Linux • Launching an email phishing campaign	Chapter 5	Chapter Lab 5	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
6	**Wireless and Bluetooth Attacks** • Configuring Kali for wireless and Bluetooth attacks • Wireless and Bluetooth reconnaissance	Chapter 6	Chapter Lab 6	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions

	• Bypassing a hidden Service Set Identifier (SSID) • Bypassing MAC address authentication and open authentication • Compromising WPA/WPA2 encryption and performing Man-in-The-Middle (MiTM) • attacks • Attacking wireless routers with Reaver • Denial-of-Service (DoS) attacks against wireless and Bluetooth communication			
MIDTERM EXAMS – OCTOBER 6 - 17				
7	**Exploiting Web-Based Applications** • Web application hacking methodology • The hacker's mind map • Vulnerability scanning of web applications/services • 242 Exploiting Web-Based Applications • Application-specific attacks • Exploiting vulnerabilities in crypto and web services • Maintaining access to compromised systems with web backdoors • Client-side web application attacks	Chapter 7	Chapter Lab 7	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions

	• Cross-site scripting framework and the BeEF Framework			
8	**Cloud Security Exploitation** • Basic principles of cloud services • Vulnerability scanning and application exploitation in EC2 instances • Reaching AWS IAM keys • Testing for S3 bucket misconfiguration • Exploiting security permission flaws • Obfuscating CloudTrail logs	Chapter 8	Chapter Lab 8	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
9	**Bypassing Security Controls** • Bypassing Network Access Control (NAC) • Bypassing traditional Antivirus (AV)/Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) tools • using different tactics and techniques • Bypassing application-level controls • Understanding Windows-specific operating system security controls	Chapter 9	Chapter Lab 9	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
10	**Exploitation** • The Metasploit Framework • The exploitation of targets using Metasploit • Using public exploits	Chapter 10	Chapter Lab 10	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions

	• Developing sample Windows-specific exploits • Empire PowerShell Framework			
11	**Action on the Objective and Lateral Movement** • Local privilege escalation • Post-exploitation tools • Lateral movement within the target networks • Compromising domain trusts • Pivoting and port forwarding	Chapter 11	Chapter Lab 11	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
12	**Privilege Escalations** • Common escalation methodology • Local system escalation • DLL injection • Credential harvesting through sniffing and escalation • Golden ticket attack on Kerberos • Active Directory access rights	Chapter 12	Chapter Lab 12	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
13	**Command and Control** • The importance of persistence • Maintaining persistence with the PowerShell Empire, Covenant, PoshC2, and online file • sharing • Performing domain fronting techniques to maintain command and control	Chapter 13	Chapter Lab 13	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions

	• The art of exfiltrating data using different protocols • Hiding the evidence of an attack			
14	**Embedded Devices and RFID Hacking** • Embedded systems and hardware architecture • UART serial buses • 502 Embedded Devices and RFID Hacking • USB JTAG • Unpacking firmware and common bootloaders • RFID hacking using ChameleonMini	Chapter 14	Chapter Lab 14	Classroom Discussions Lecture/In-class Lab exercises/team competitions
FINAL EXAMS – DECEMBER 6 - 12				

Note: This course outline is subject to change

AACSB ASSESSMENT:
The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

- **Blackboard: Connect to http://tamusa.blackboard.com. All class communications will be through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times a day.**
- **Software:** You will be required to obtain VMWare or Virtual Box. You can get the VMWare free from the University. The website is http://www.tamusa.edu/citcs/student-resources.html. You will also be able to download the installation software from the Microsoft software center. You will also be required to download Kali-Linux, Metaspoitable 2, Autopsy, CAINE, and Windows virtual images to your virtual machines You will be

required to use Microsoft Visio and Draw.io. Microsoft Visio is available in the computer labs on campus. You will also be able to download the installation software from the Microsoft software center. You will receive your login name and password at your Jaguar email address. Additional software tools will be required, for example, the JAVA SE Runtime Environment, Acrobat Reader, Flash Player and Windows Media Player. Instructions and website links or additional software will be available online.

- **Computer Hardware:** In order to participate in the tutoring sessions, you will need a computer with an internet connection, a microphone and speakers/headphones.
- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week for the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.

***OTHER RECOMMENDED / READING MATERIALS*:** Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor. I recommend you become familiar with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications (SP) as they relate to information security and risk assessment. The Labs will require additional reading and extra study time. There is also additional hardware required to complete the labs. Please read ahead for every assignment and lab.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS EVERY STUDENT MUST FULFILL IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN COURSE:

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.
2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will not be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that hybrid and online courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For online-asynchronous courses, students should keep current on class recordings. For online-synchronous courses, students are expected to attend virtually during the class meeting time.
8. For OLC-A courses, students are not required to come to class, even for proctored examinations.
    a. The instructor can require students to take examinations using proctoring software as indicated in the Proctored Exams section.
    b. The instructor decides which type of examination works best for the class and the student must comply with their instructions – as long as they are not required to take an in-class examination or are required to take the examination at one specific time that applies to all students. In other words, the instructor will offer the student

some flexibility on test location and the time to sit for the examination. Instructors should allow 72 hours for students to complete any examination.

***MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS*:**
To complete this course, the student must have access to the following technologies:
A computing device - desktop, laptop (**500GB to 1TB free space and 16G to 32G of memory**) capable of:

- accessing Internet-based content
- displaying recorded video
- playing recorded audio - with speakers or headphones
- recording audio - with microphone or headset
- capturing your image and actions during exams - with a web camera (see RLDB & Respondus Monitor)
- Internet access of sufficient speed to download/display recorded lectures.
- Free or trial software capable of creating slide + audio presentations.
- Standard office productivity applications like MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint, and Adobe Reader
- A printer (for printing course calendar, etc.)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ONLINE STUDENT
The following items apply to the student in an online degree or an online course. The student is responsible for:

- Having consistent and easy access to a personal computer (Windows or Mac) with a reliable high-speed Internet connection.
- Gaining access to online courses in the Blackboard learning management system (LMS).
- Acquiring all course materials (textbooks, software, etc.) in a timely manner.
- Knowing and abiding by all applicable policies and procedures as prescribed in the Online Student Handbook and individual course syllabi.
- Acquiring and maintaining the knowledge base needed to operate successfully in an online course/program.
- Communicating to and from the instructor via Blackboard and the Texas A&M student e-mail address.
- Accessing the online course regularly and completing course activities on time regardless of equipment/technology problems. Students are recommended to log into their course once a day.

***SUBMITTED WORK NAMING CONVENTION*:**
Save and submit all your work as Microsoft Word (only in PDF when specified). Make sure to save your files using the convention **FIRSTNAME_LASTNAME_COURSE ABBREVIATION_SEMESTER AND YEAR_ACTIVITY NAME OR NUMBER** Or as specified in the assignment instructions.

Example: **Luther_Elba_CISA4xxx_FALL25_Lab1.docx or .pdf**

***COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR*:**
I will be instructing a large student population and I filter my emails based on the class number. When you need to reach out to me via email: you must include the complete Class Number (e.g., CISA4xxx), followed by your complete name, subject of email (e.g., Assignment 1), (e.g., Bridget Jones), and followed by your student number (**e.g., N01234567**) in the SUBJECT line of the email.
For example**: (Subject: CISAxxxx Assignment 1 Bridget Jones N01234567).** Doing so will allow a more rapid response to your questions.

***EXAMINATIONS AND QUIZZES*:** There will be a mandatory mid-term exam and a mandatory final exam (as per university schedule). Missing an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and may result in a fail grade in the course. The exams/quizzes will consist of conceptual multiple-choice questions, problem solving questions, and short essay questions. The exam/quiz materials will come from lecture notes, the text, and class discussions. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class. Please take notes and pay attention to lectures. You will see the material on the quizzes or exams.

***PROCTORED EXAMS*:** In order to ensure course integrity, students enrolled in this course may use Remote Test-Proctoring software for the administration of exams, if allowed and is set up by the instructor.

***ASSIGNMENTS/ RESEARCH PAPERS*:** There will be several assignments, labs and projects during the course. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Blackboard. For all assignment and quiz problems, ALL intermediate work of the problem solution and lab steps MUST be shown. Considerable points will be taken off for not following these requirements.

***ONLINE INDIVIDUAL / GROUP ACTIVITIES*:** This class will have group/team activities. Students are expected to work with their respective teams and attend class weekly. Not abiding by these guidelines will be detrimental to the success of your team.

***MAKE UP AND LATE ASSIGNMENT/EXAM/QUIZ POLICY*:**
As a general rule, make-up or late submissions will **NOT** be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams/quizzes. Late submissions or make-up may be accepted/administered only in extraordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within one to two days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam. For late submissions, a 20-point penalty from the maximum possible points will be assessed. For example, if a paper is submitted late, the highest possible grade is 80%. Once the assignment is no longer available in Blackboard, no submission will be allowed. DO NOT attempt to send late assignments to the instructor via email. If extenuating circumstances exist that justify a late submission, full credit may be given on a case-by-case basis.

All assignments will be graded for **correctness and completeness**. The instructor retains the right to subjectively adjust an individual student's grade in appropriate cases, based upon observed performance. All assignment submissions **must be spell- and grammar-checked**. Students failing to present the information completely, professionally written and in the prescribed format will receive minimal credit for their work. **Students should double check their work before submitting assignments.**

***CLASS CONDUCT AND CIVILITY CODE*:** Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Students **are required** to have their camera turned on for online synchronous classes. **WEBCAM REQUIREMENTS:** This class requires the use of a webcam. This may be a webcam on your personal computer, a webcam available in a TAMUSA computer lab, or a camera on your mobile device. If you need to purchase a webcam using financial aid, contact the TAMUSA Bookstore or visit their website at https://www.bkstr.com/texasamsanantoniostore/home.
2. Attendance will be taken at the beginning or the end of the class. Late or missed attendance will render no points.
3. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
4. Students must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep own copies of all computer files and e-mails till final grade is received.
5. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
6. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF and headphones removed.
7. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
8. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to student e-mail messages and voice messages within 2 business days (Monday-Friday).
9. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and on time. The submission window may close or be marked late, even if late by one second.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

***CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION*:** A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material, and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it

makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions, participate in class discussions and problem solving, and visit/contact the instructor during office hours in case of questions or concerns. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Points will be added for attendance. There will be no opportunity to make up those points if you miss class.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important and may vary considerably based on student background. However, a **minimum** of two hours of work outside the class is expected for every one hour of class period per week. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL
If you have COVID-19 symptoms, had exposure to COVID-19, and/or are confirmed to have COVID-19, refrain from coming to campus and self-report in the online COVID-19 Reporting Portal found at: https://redcap.link/TAMUS_COVID_PORTAL for further guidance.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: https://www.tamusa.edu/uploadfile/folders/sdbowen23/pdf/pdf-635073426137928167-10.100.20.116.pdf

FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has

not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

· Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.

· Be open to the views of others.

· Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.

· Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.

· Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.

· Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

THE SIX-DROP RULE: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

STATEMENT OF HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in

navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victims' advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.

4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.

2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.

3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct.

NO USE OF GENERATIVE AI PERMITTED

This class assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

WRITING, LANGUAGE, AND DIGITAL COMPOSING CENTER: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter

KEY DATES FOR FALL 2025 SEMESTER

The complete academic calendar is available online:
https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html