



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

CSCI 3304:001, **Database Systems**, Fall 2026, CRN: 11193
Department of Computing and Cyber Security, College of Arts and Sciences
Course Syllabus

Class Modality:	On-Campus
Class Meeting Time and Place:	M/W 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM, STEM 242
Class Duration:	08/24 - 12/11
Instructor:	Dr. Gongbo “Tony” Liang, Office: STEM 211G Tel: 210-784-2373 E-Mail: gliang@tamusa.edu Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.
Course Website:	https://tamusa.blackboard.com/
Office Hours:	M/W 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM, T 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM, and by appointment. Please email your instructor to set up an appointment if you wish to meet outside of the scheduled hours.

Catalog Course Description: This course examines file and database organization techniques, including network, hierarchical, relational, object, and SQL data models, commercially available and open source database systems, database design and implementation, query language, transaction processing, database administration, and database security. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing

Course Objectives: This course provides a basic understanding of the concepts, principles, and techniques of file and database organization and how to apply them to the design and implementation of database applications.

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in each of MATH 1314, CSCI 1436 (or CSCI 1136 and 1336), CSCI 1437 (or CSCI 1137 and 1337), and CSCI 2436 or (CSCI 2336 and 2136). ***Students who do not meet the prerequisites must contact the instructor immediately.***

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of the concepts, principles, and techniques of file and database organization
2. Design and implementation of basic database application
3. Understand transaction processing, database administration, and database security. Be able to design effective database schemas for real-world applications

ABET Assessment:

The Department of Computing and Cyber Security is planning to apply for ABET accreditation for its BS in Computer Science program, for which this course is a core course. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program-level outcomes based on course outcomes from this course, and hence, students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery of the above course outcomes. For this course, the following Program outcomes will be assessed:

Student Outcomes: Graduates of the program will have the ability to:

Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.

Required Materials:

▪ **e-Textbook:**

- *Introduction to Database Systems* by vLab.Academy.
- Please use the URL below and your **university email** to sign up for your textbook
<https://www.vlab.academy/learn/activate/registration.html?loc=3304LIANGFALL26>
 - Note: the book is free for two weeks. An activation code (available at the bookstore) is needed to continue using the book after two weeks.

- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will find lecture notes, problem solutions, multimedia materials, and other supplementary materials in Blackboard. All class communications will be through University email and Blackboard. Please monitor your University email and Blackboard closely.
- **Computer Hardware:** A computer with an internet connection and the capacity to install MySQL may be needed for this class.
- **Time Expectation for Coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week on the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignments/exams are due.

Other Recommended / Reading Materials: Additional reading materials may be available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

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

Components	Points
Homework (3)	240
Tests (10)	300
Mid-Term Exam (1)	150
Final Exam (1)	150
Group Project (1)	160
TOTAL	1000

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A: > 900, B: 800 to 899, C: 700 to 799, D: 600 to 699, F: < 600

This course requires a grade of **C as a minimal grade** for satisfactory completion of this course.

(Tentative) Fall 2026 CSCI 3304:001 Class Schedule

The provisions and information 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.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>		<i>Chapter and Topic</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Week 1	Aug 24	Aug 29	Chapter 1. Database System Introduction	Quiz I
Week 2	Aug 30	Sep 05	Chapter 2. Data Models	Quiz II
Weeks 3-6	Sep 06	Oct 03	Chapter 3. The Relational Database Model	Labor Day –No Class (Mon, Sep 7) Census Date (Wed, Sep 9) Assignment I, Assignment II
Week 7	Oct 04	Oct 10	Review & Mid-Term	Mid-Term Exam (Oct 07)
Weeks 8-9	Oct 11	Oct 24	Chapter 9. Functional Dependency & Normalization	Term Project Release Project Milestone I, Assignment III
Weeks 10-11	Oct 25	Nov 07	Chapter 4-7. SQL	Project Milestone II, Assignment IV
Week 12	Nov 08	Nov 14	Chapter 11. Transaction Management and Concurrency Control	
Week 13	Nov 15	Nov 21	Chapter 12. Database Security	Project Milestone III
Week 14	Nov 22	Nov 28	Chapter 13 Modern databases and NoSQL	Study Day –No Class (Wed, Nov 25)
Week 15	Nov 29	Dec 05	Project Presentation & Review	
Final Exam: 12:00-1:50PM, Dec 7 (Mon), 2026				

Examinations and Quizzes: There will be mandatory mid-term and final exams (as per the university schedule). Absent / non-submission of an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and may result in a failing grade in the course. The exams/quizzes will consist of conceptual multiple-choice, problem-solving, 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.

Assignments/ Research papers: During the course, several assignments and projects will be assigned. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Blackboard. The research papers will provide an opportunity for an in-depth investigation of specific topics. Additional instructions and requirements for the research papers and projects will be provided as separate handouts on the course website.

Make-up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy:

- As a general rule, make-ups or late submissions will **NOT** be offered or accepted for any missed exams. Late submissions or make-ups for exams 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 a few days of the missed exam.
- All assignments, labs, and projects have a clearly indicated due date. Students will receive full credit only if they are turned in by that date. All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on that **date**.
- Late assignments (including labs, assignments, and projects) are penalized by 10% per school day. No assignment that is more than 3 days late may be accepted.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as a common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

- Attendance may be taken using an appropriate method by the instructor.
- It is the student's responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
- Students must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide them to the instructor if necessary. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails until the final grade is received.
- Talking while the instructor is lecturing is highly disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
- If a student can complete this course, dropping from this class is the student's responsibility.
- Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose unrelated to the class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF.
- 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.
- 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 a student's e-mail messages and voice messages within two business days (Monday-Friday).
- All assignment submissions must be uploaded as instructed by the due date and time. The submission window may close or be marked late, even if late by one second.
- If the instructor is not in the classroom at the scheduled time, please wait for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, you can leave with no penalty. I will make every effort to notify you if a personal emergency will prevent me from attending a session or if a session has been canceled.

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 (for face-to-face/hybrid classes/online synchronous classes) or regular review of class materials posted by the instructor for asynchronous classes. 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. Virtual office hours are available to students, but please email your instructor to set up an appointment before attending the virtual office. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

Key Dates for the Semester

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

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

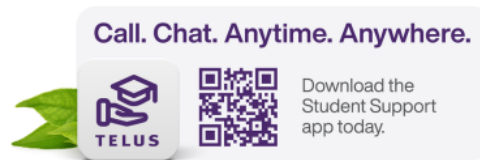
Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and 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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. 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 on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#). The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

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 submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are

comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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 course 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.

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, equal 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 and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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 victim 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, sexual violence, or other related sex-based 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 requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program;

(4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

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, and pregnancy/parenting 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

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, or disability. Conduct that infringes 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.