

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Social Sciences
CRIM5322_600_202620: Cyber Crime, Cybersecurity, & Law
Spring 2026

General Information

Course & Section #	CRIM5322
Term & Year-	Spring 2026
Course schedule (day and time of class)-	online asynchronous
Course location-	Remote

Instructor Information

Name and Title:	Dr. Claire Nolasco Braaten, Professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice
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Phone Number	210-784-2210
Office hours for students	By appointment
Office location	CAB 349C

Course Overview

This course provides an examination of cybercrime in the digital age, cybersecurity techniques, and challenges faced in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime. The considerable challenges posed by technological change outpacing the development of laws adequately addressing the problem of cybercrime are discussed. National and international laws governing cybercrime are examined.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of cybercrime terminology, concepts, issues, and components.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of cybersecurity terminology, concepts, issues, and components.
3. Critically analyze laws relating to cybercrime and legal challenges to prosecution of cybercrime.
4. Incorporate multiple perspectives in theorizing and researching cybercrime, including its various forms and effects through analyzing case briefs and peer reviewed articles on cybercrime.
5. Prepare a case study on an organization that has experienced cybercrime, detailing its occurrence, investigation, prosecution, and outcome.

Required Course Materials

Yor, M., & Steinmetz, K. (2019). *Cybercrime and society*. Sage Publications. (3rd edition)
ISBN-13: 9781526440655
DIGITAL ISBN-13: 9781526481658
ISBN-10: 1526440652

OR

Yor, M., & Steinmetz, K. (2024). *Cybercrime and society*. Sage Publications. (4th edition)
Print ISBN 9781529772067, 1529772060
eText ISBN 9781529615517, 1529615518

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING COMPONENTS:

Discussion Posts:

The blackboard discussions involve responding to questions related to the week's readings. There are **three** discussion assignments worth 50 points each for a total of 150 points. Online discussion forums are used to inspire thought and interaction between classmates. It is a critical part of the online course experience. It is the place where you will not only respond to questions posed by the instructor, but where you may post questions concerning the material presented. It is also the place where you are to ask for and provide help and encouragement to your classmates. **You are required to respond to one of your classmate's posts.** Your online participation will be evaluated on a quantity and quality basis. Your comments should advance the discussion, add value, and be relevant. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-added participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a comment, please state and support your agreement or disagreement.

Reflection Essays

You will be asked to view videos, play online games, or read peer reviewed articles in this course. After completing these, you will write a reflection essay responding to the prompts/questions posted. There are **five** reflection papers worth 50 points each for a total of 250 points. The reflection paper should be a **minimum of 500 words (1 page single spaced or 2 pages double spaced) and a maximum of 1,000 words (2 pages, single spaced or 4 pages, double spaced)**. These reflection essays should be analytical and insightful and responsive to the questions asked in Blackboard.

Click on this link for guidelines on [how to write a reflection paper](#).

Case Study

You will be required to write one case study for this course. You will read four sample case scenarios, choose one case scenario to analyze and respond to several questions related to the case study. See more information below. The length of your policy memo assignment is a minimum of 750 words. Your case studies should be supported by at least five externally researched peer reviewed articles, including other academic sources.

Extra Credit

Individual student requests for extra credit will not be entertained. The instructor may or may not, in her discretion, offer and announce an extra credit opportunity for the entire class if there is something the instructor feels strongly about encouraging participation in.

All of the following components are **REQUIRED** for the course completion. The breakdown of the final grade is as follows:

	Points
Three Discussion Assignments (50 points)	150
Five Reflection Essays (50 points each)	250
One Case Study (100 points)	100
Total Points	500

The final grade will be based on the following grading scale:

GRADE	EQUIVALENT POINTS
A	450-500 points
B	400-449 points
C	350-399 points
D	300-349 points
F	299 points or less

Note on the written assessments and deadline for discussions: Unless otherwise indicated, the written assignments may be submitted before the end of the day (midnight) of the deadline indicated in the class schedule. **The time used for written assessments and deadlines for discussions refer to Texas time (central time zone).** If you are in another time zone, please make sure to check your calendars and watches to be aware of Texas times.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Every student is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with the specific academic regulations contained in the university catalog including degree requirements. For a detailed explanation of policies on class attendance, absence due to religious holidays, field trips, degree planning and withdrawal from the university, please refer to the catalog or the [online version](#).

The [University Attendance Policy](#) provides that any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work in a course, and frequent or persistent absences may preclude a passing grade or cause a student to be dropped from one or more courses upon the request of a faculty member to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students will be excused in this class for no more than two missed classes without proper documentation or prior approval. Thereafter, each absence must be properly documented or approved by the professor. Absences that exceed the number described herein or incurred without proper documentation will result in a grade of F. Complete class attendance without any absence during the semester, on the other hand, will result in a letter increase in grade in borderline cases, at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed material from other class members. Participation and engagement on the part of the student will be an integral part of this course.

Cellular Phone Policy: All cellular phones, pagers, and other forms of electronic communication must be silenced during the class period. If you need to have your device on for emergency purposes, inform the teacher as well as take steps to minimize the disturbance in class.

Make-Up Assignments: Make-up assignments will not be given unless a student can provide appropriate cause for missing the deadlines. Examples of this would be: (a) illness that is certified with a licensed physician's note stating that the student should avoid participating in class functions; or (b) certifiable death or cataclysmic life course event that has an adverse effect on the student and that can be documented and/or verified. Make-up assignments will be given at a time and place convenient for the professor and the student concerned, upon mutual agreement of the parties.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

E-mail communications are an integral part of this course. It is recommended you make sure you:

1. Check your e-mail at least twice per week (more often is better).
2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply.
3. Include "Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.
4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.

6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).
7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
8. Sign your e-mail messages.

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION

Many of the "rules of the road" or protocols that apply to e-mail also apply to the use of discussions. Use the following conventions when composing a discussion posting:

1. During a Discussion assignment, deadlines for posting to and replying will be specified with each assignment. It is a good practice to always check the Discussions multiple times during the week.
2. If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use e-mail rather than the discussions (see above E-mail Protocols).
3. Use the appropriate Discussion Topic; don't post everything on the "Main" Discussion Topic.
4. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message.
5. A helpful hint for use with both discussions and e-mail --- Compose your message in your word-processing application in order to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar --- then copy and paste your composition into e-mail or the discussion. This also saves online time.
6. Everyone should feel free to participate in class and online discussions. Regular and meaningful discussion postings constitute a substantial portion of your grade.
7. Respect each other's ideas, feelings and experience.
8. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online, as it is in the classroom.
9. Explore disagreements and support assertions with data and evidence.
10. "Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or discussion topic when applicable. Some assignments will specify the subject heading.
11. Use the "reply" button rather than the "compose" button if you are replying to someone else's posting.
12. Do not use postings such as "I agree," "I don't know either," "Who cares," or "ditto." They do not add to the discussion, take up space on the Discussions, and will not be counted for assignment credit.
13. Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
14. Use the Technical Discussion topic for assistance with technical issues. Use the Help Discussion topic for questions about course material or assignments. There will be specific discussion topics for particular discussions - pay close attention to the assignment, and post appropriately.

PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The faculty of the Department of Arts and Sciences expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion- the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the College. Students are expected to do their own course work. Cheating or plagiarism by an individual student will result in a grade of F on the particular paper or in the course.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in university's Student Handbook.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

All forms of prohibited conduct are outlined in the TAMU-SA student handbook. In addition, guidelines and procedures for handling instances of student misconduct are contained therein, which can be viewed online at [Click here for student handbook](#)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Day	Area of Discussion	Assigned Readings
(WEEK 1)- 20 January 2026	Orientation- Review of Class Syllabus	
(WEEK 1) JANUARY 20-24, 2026	MODULE 1: CYBERCRIME AND THE INTERNET: AN INTRODUCTION	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 1, pp. 1-20 (3 rd Edition) OR Chapter 1, pp. 1-16 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 1) JANUARY 20-24, 2026	Chandra, A., & Snowe, M.J. (2020). A taxonomy of cybercrime: Theory and design. <i>Int. J. Account. Inf. Syst.</i> , 38, 100467.	Article Assignment
(WEEK 1) JANUARY 20-24, 2026	MODULE 2: RESEARCHING AND THEORIZING CYBERCRIME	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 2, pp. 21-49 (3 rd Edition) OR Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 17-49 (4 rd Edition)
(WEEK 1) JANUARY 24, 2026	Assignment No. 1- Blackboard Discussion Case Study No.1: What type of cybercrime is this? Your answer should be supported by your readings and at least 5 academic sources such as peer reviewed articles.	Deadline to answer question
(WEEK 1) JANUARY 24, 2026	Deadline for responding to your classmate's discussion post	Deadline
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 26-31, 2026	MODULE 3: HACKERS, CRACKERS, AND VIRAL CODERS	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 3, pp. 51-78 (3 rd edition) OR Chapters 4 and 5, pp. 51-92 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 26-31, 2026	<i>United States v. Phillips</i> , 477 F.3d 215 (2007)	Case
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 26-31, 2026	Hackers Are Targeting Nuclear Facilities, Homeland Security Dept. and F.B.I. Say https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/technology/nuclear-plant-hack-report.html	News Article
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 26-31, 2026	Nuclear weapons agency breached amid massive cyber onslaught – POLITICO https://www.politico.com/news/2020/12/17/nuclear-agency-hacked-officials-inform-congress-447855	News Article
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 26-31, 2026	A Byte Out of History \$10 Million Hack, 1994-Style https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/a-byte-out-of-history-10-million-hack	News Article
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 31, 2026	Assignment No. 2- Blackboard Discussion Case Study No. 2: Is it a Cybercrime? Deadline to answer questions. Your answer should be supported by your readings and at least 5 academic sources such as peer reviewed articles.	Deadline
(WEEK 2) JANUARY 31, 2026	Deadline for responding to your classmate's discussion post	Deadline

(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	MODULE 4: POLITICAL HACKING: FROM HACKTIVISM TO CYBERTERRORISM	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 4, pp. 81-102 (3 rd edition) OR Chapters 6 and 7, pp. 95-125 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	Barney, W. and Fekete, E. 2016. Relational geographies of cyberterrorism and cyberwar. <i>Space and Polity</i> , 20(2), 143-157, DOI: 10.1080/13562576.2015.1112113	Article Assignment
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	Hackers Are Targeting Nuclear Facilities, Homeland Security Dept. and F.B.I. Say https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/technology/nuclear-plant-hack-report.html	News Article
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	Nuclear weapons agency breached amid massive cyber onslaught – POLITICO https://www.politico.com/news/2020/12/17/nuclear-agency-hacked-officials-inform-congress-447855	News Article
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	Video- A Case of Cyberterrorism? Watch this video on this link: What is cyberterrorism? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPTPpb8Ldz8	
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 7, 2026	Assignment No. 3- Reflection Essay No. 1 on Video: Since the publication of the posted video in 2013, has cyberterrorism occurred? Why do you think so? Please support your points with evidence-based arguments.	Deadline
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026	Choose Your Own Fake News is an interactive "choose your own adventure" game. Play the game as Flora, Jo or Aida from East Africa, and navigate the world of disinformation and misinformation through the choices you make. Scrutinize news and information about job opportunities, vaccines and upcoming elections to make the right choices! Play this game through this link below: https://chooseyourownfakenews.com/	Article Assignment
(WEEK 3) FEBRUARY 7, 2026	Assignment No. 4- Reflection Essay No. 2 on Fake News (Simulation and Reflection) Your assignment is to create a fake news piece. The news piece they create should involve an issue that was recently presented in the news (i.e. two to three weeks prior to the completion of this assignment). Please submit your fake news piece and answers to the questions below. Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can fake news be easily identified? Please explain your response. • What actions can individuals take to identify fake news? 	Deadline
(WEEK 4) FEBRUARY 9-14, 2026	MODULE 5: VIRTUAL 'PIRATES': INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT ONLINE	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 5, pp. 105-123 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 8, pp. 127-144 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 4) FEBRUARY 9-14, 2026	<i>Dish Network L.L.C. v. Whitehead</i> , Not Reported in F.Supp.2d (2011) <i>Universal City Studios Inc v Corley</i> , 273 F.3d 429 (2d Cir. 2001)	Cases
(WEEK 4) FEBRUARY 14, 2026	Assignment No. 5: Reflection Essay No. 3 on Video: The case of Megaupload	Deadline

(WEEK 5) FEBRUARY 16-21, 2026	MODULE 6: CYBER-FRAUDS, SCAMS AND CONS	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 6, pp. 127-147 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 9, pp. 147-165 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 5) FEBRUARY 16-21, 2026	Loza, E. (2001). Internet fraud: Federal Trade Commission prosecutions of online conduct. <i>Communications and the Law</i> , 23(2), 55.	Article Assignment
(WEEK 5) FEBRUARY 16-21, 2026	Nolasco Braaten, C. & Vaughn, M. 2019. Convenience theory of cryptocurrency crime: A content analysis of U.S. Federal court decisions. <i>Deviant Behavior</i> , 42(8), 958-978. DOI: 10.1080/01639625.2019.1706706. https://digitalcommons.tamusa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1014&context=crim_faculty	Article Assignment
(WEEK 5) FEBRUARY 21, 2026	Assignment No. 6: Reflection Essay No. 4 on Article on Cryptocurrency Crime (Convenience theory of cryptocurrency crime: A content analysis of U.S. Federal court decisions)	Deadline
(WEEK 6) FEBRUARY 23-28, 2026	MODULE 7: ILLEGAL, HARMFUL, AND OFFENSIVE CONTENT ONLINE: FROM HATE SPEECH TO THE DANGERS OF PORNOGRAPHY	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 7, pp. 151-171 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 10, pp. 167-182 and Chapter 12, pp. 199-213 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 6) FEBRUARY 23-28, 2026	MODULE 8: THE VICTIMIZATION OF INDIVIDUALS ONLINE: CYBERSTALKING AND PAEDOPHILIA	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 9, pp. 191-213 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 14, pp. 241-254 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 6) FEBRUARY 28, 2026	Assignment No. 7: Blackboard Discussion Case Study No. 3: What Cybercrime or Cybercrimes were Committed? Your answer should be supported by your readings and at least 5 academic sources such as peer reviewed articles.	Deadline
(WEEK 6) FEBRUARY 28, 2026	Deadline for responding to your classmate's discussion post	Deadline
(WEEK 7) MARCH 2-7, 2026	MODULE 9: CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND CHILD SEX ABUSE IMAGERY	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 8, pp. 173-189 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 13, pp. 215-238 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 7) MARCH 2-7, 2026	Braaten, C. N. (2025). From Control to Complicity: Judicial Constraints, Control Balance Theory, and Internet Services' Role in Online Child Sexual Exploitation. <i>Deviant Behavior</i> , 1-27. https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2025.2486547	
(WEEK 7) MARCH 2-7, 2026	Eight Men Sentenced for Their Roles in an International Child Pornography Production Ring _ USAO-EDMI _ Department of Justice	
(WEEK 7) MARCH 2-7, 2026	<i>United States of America v. Caleb Young</i> , No. 2:18-CR-20128-SJM-DRG (E.D. Mich. May 11, 2018)	
(WEEK 7) MARCH 7, 2026	Assignment No. 8: Reflection Essay No. 5 on Article on Online Child Sexual Exploitation (From Control to Complicity: Judicial Constraints, Control Balance Theory, and Internet Services' Role in Online Child Sexual Exploitation)	Deadline
(WEEK 8) MARCH 9-14, 2026	Spring break	No classes

(WEEK 8) MARCH 9-14, 2026	MODULE 10: CYBERCRIMES AND CYBERLIBERTIES: PRIVACY AND CRIME CONTROL	Cybercrime and Society, Chapter 11, pp. 233-250 (3 rd edition) OR Chapter 17, pp. 289-305 (4 th edition)
(WEEK 8) MARCH 9-14, 2026	https://narratively.com/that-time-the-internet-sent-a-swat-team-to-my-moms-house/	Online article
(WEEK 8) MARCH 15, 2026	<p>Assignment No. 9: Case Study Paper- Read and choose only one of the five posted case studies and write a paper responding to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the cybersecurity incident that occurred in your chosen case study. 2. How and why did the cybersecurity breach/ cybercrime occurred? 3. Knowing how the firm responded, what would you have done differently? 4. What are some steps you think the firm could have taken to prevent this incident? 5. Describe real world data breaches experienced by any major organization that are similar to the case that you chose to analyze. 6. Explain the outcomes of any detection, investigation, and prosecution of the cybersecurity incident of the real world data breach. 	Deadline

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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 dss@tamusa.edu.

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 is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through JagWire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling 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 or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

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 and/or phone call 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: [university page for emergency response](#).

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.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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 at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@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 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 helping create 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 has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers 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. 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 purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the [A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct](#).

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 procedure 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, genetic information 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 the 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 students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
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.
6. 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.