

**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Phone: 210-784-2205 (Chair)

Web: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/criminology-political-science/index.html>

**CRIM 2330 – Theories of Crime Causation**  
**Spring Semester 2026**

**Section 001, CRN: 24885**

**Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., Madla 237**

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**Syllabus**

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**Instructor:** Dr. James O'Berry, Ph.D.

**Office:** 349-D Central Academic

**Email:** [jberry@tamusa.edu](mailto:jberry@tamusa.edu)

**Office Phone:** 210-784-2673

**Office Hours:** 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and by appointment

**Note Regarding Office Hours:** Office hours are for **YOU**, the student. These are times when I am guaranteed (unless I state otherwise, like if I have to cancel them for the day) to be physically in my office and available to you. These are times when you can drop in (no appointment necessary) to ask or discuss anything with me face-to-face. You can use this time to ask me anything about class or to talk about other things you want to discuss in general. When I am not meeting with students during this time, I do work on other things, but this does not mean you will be interrupting anything if you stop by. These are not the only times I am available, as I check and respond to my email all day, every day, and I can also meet over video call (by appointment) during times when I am not normally in the office. If you have any questions about any of this, please talk to me!

TEXT:

Piquero, A. (2016). *The handbook of criminological theory*. West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

**This textbook is available for free digitally via the University Library's website.**

Link: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/tamsa/detail.action?docID=4035968>

eBook Page (in case the link does not work):

<https://tamusa.on.worldcat.org/oclc/908287065>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Study of criminal behavior and methodology; causation; typologies of criminal acts and offenders; punishment, corrections, and incapacitation; prevention of crime.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES:

TSI Reading and Writing.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Knowledge – Students should be able to define the role of theory in the field of criminal justice and criminology, properly apply theories, accurately cite sources they use in their work in APA style, and recall the basic definitions and understandings of course concepts.

Comprehension – Students should be able to describe complex criminological theories and discuss their strengths and weaknesses, as well as how they can be applied to the broader criminal justice field.

Application – Students should be able to apply course concepts to various elements of crime and criminal justice. Students should also be able to collaborate effectively with others in their field on various projects.

Analysis – Students should be able to analyze various materials to draw conclusions regarding the theoretical causes and explanations of crime while critically assessing what various theories do and do not effectively explain.

Evaluation – Students should be able to evaluate the veracity and logical rigor of various criminological theories. They should be able to craft and defend arguments for why certain theories may be better or worse at explaining criminological phenomena than other competing explanations.

Synthesis – Students should be able to create a well-structured and logically argued case for how a criminological theory or theories can be used to explain a given example of criminality. They should also be able to work within a group to present their case in the form of a class presentation.

**Note:** The instructor is not solely responsible for assuring students meet these outcomes. It requires effort and input from the students as well. Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course and must withdraw on their own. Therefore, not showing up for class does not automatically constitute a withdrawal.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students can earn up to a total of 100 possible points for the semester. In this case, the students' final percentage grades are equivalent to the number of points they earn throughout the course.

**Attendance (10% or 10 points):**

Consistent class attendance is required, and students are expected to stay for the entire class time. Attendance will be taken every class, with each day of attendance counting for 0.4% (or .4 points) of the student's final grade (for a total of 10%). Attendance will only be counted for 25 (9.6 points total) of the 28 scheduled class days. What this means is that students can miss up to 3 classes (not including canceled class days) with no penalty to their **attendance grade.**

Students must generally be present for the whole class time. For an absence to be considered excused, it **must** be due to a serious circumstance like illness, death in the family, or a university-approved excuse. If there is a reason for missing class, such as being involved in a car accident or a sudden hospitalization, these will also be considered valid excuses, and the student can inform the instructor when it is feasible for them to do so.

As students will have a safeguard to miss up to 3 classes with no attendance grade penalty, students should generally not expect to have to provide an excuse for missing a regular class.

**Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course and must withdraw on their own. Therefore, not showing up for class does not automatically constitute a withdrawal.**

**Participation (20% or 20 Points):**

This 20% of the grade will be based on the completion of 8 different in-class assignments scheduled to occur throughout the semester (for 2.5 points each). These in-class assignments will be graded based on completion. As long as the student has genuinely attempted the assignment, they will receive credit. The rules for acceptable excused absences **always** apply to making up a missed in-class assignment should the student be absent the day of one.

**Exams (40% or 40 points):**

There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam, with each counting for 20% of the student's overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative. Instead, the Midterm will cover any course material up to the exam date, and the Final will cover any course material covered after the Midterm. Both exams will cover material from in-class lectures and discussions as well as (potentially) the textbook and any other materials (i.e., videos, handouts, assignments, etc.) presented in the course.

Students are expected to be on time for exams and will not be given extra time should they begin late.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams will only be given when arrangements have been made with the instructor, and the student misses the exam due to one of the reasons listed for an acceptable absence. The exam must be made up at a time convenient for the instructor, and the student must contact the instructor to determine a time to make up the exam within three days of the missed exam.

**Project 1: *Operation: Mindcrime* (1988) (10% or 10 Points):**

The first project will see students work in groups to apply criminological theory to a character from the concept album *Operation: Mindcrime* (1988) which we will listen to in class together (see dates on the schedule below). After listening through the album, students will be divided into groups to complete Project 1. The project will involve the completion of a paper as well as a group presentation in class. Students will be expected to apply course concepts and various theories that have been covered up to this point to complete the project. More details will be given later in the semester.

**Project 2: *Hell or High Water* (2016) (20% or 20 Points):**

The second and final project will see students work in groups to apply criminological theory to characters from the film *Hell or High Water* (2016), which we will watch together in class (see dates below). This project will involve students writing a paper and then creating and delivering a presentation on the project. This project will be similar to the first project but with more requirements and will require greater detail and mastery of course concepts.

The instructor will decide how to assign the groups for the semester. **Late project submissions will not be accepted.**

All assignments must be turned in to the instructor during class time or via Blackboard as instructed. Projects will be evaluated based on a grading rubric that focuses mainly on content, APA7 formatting, and grammar.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be computed in the following manner:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Attendance	10%
Participation	20%
Project 1	10%
Project 2	20%
Total	100%

**Grade Distribution:**

90-100% = A  
80 - 89% = B  
70 - 79% = C  
60 - 69% = D  
60% or below = F

**Important Dates:**

January 20: Classes begin  
February 4: Census Day  
March 9-14: Spring Break  
April 3: University Study Day – No Classes  
April 17: Last day to drop with an automatic grade of “W”  
May 4: Last day of scheduled classes  
May 5: University Study Day – No Classes  
May 6-12: Final Exam Week

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

**ADDITIONAL CLASS POLICIES**

Check Blackboard every day for any cancellations, updates, assignment links, etc.

If a student misses class for any reason, it is up to the student to work with a classmate to obtain any notes, instructions, etc., that are missed. The instructor will **not** go over all the material again simply because you missed class and will not provide lecture materials beyond the PowerPoint slides shown in class.

No cell phones, iPads, MP3 players, etc., are allowed in class. In general, laptops are permitted for note-taking (and even recommended for in-class workdays), but I ask that you sit in the back of the room during lecture if you plan to use a laptop to minimize distractions for other students. Additionally, taking hand-written notes is strongly encouraged as research suggests that this is a much more effective means of note-taking than using a computer. All other devices should be put on silent or vibrate and left stored away. If you have an important call or text you need to answer, quietly step out of class and do so. If you know that you will be anticipating an important call for whatever reason, please let me know at the start of class. If your device is repeatedly a distraction for your classmates, you will be asked to leave the class for the day.

All students are expected to follow Texas A&M University-San Antonio's Student Code of Conduct at all times. Frequent or disruptive side conversations will not be tolerated and will result in you being asked to leave the class for the day.

All students must treat other students and the instructor with respect at all times. This requirement means no name-calling, threats, insults, general bigotry, or rudeness. Any

of this can result in removal from the classroom. The instructor reserves the right to bring issues to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities if they deem it necessary.

There should be no expectation of extra credit of any kind in this class. If the instructor decides to grant extra credit, this opportunity will be available to the entire class, not particular students. If extra credit is offered at a time when a student is not available (such as a surprise bonus question on a test the student does not show up for), the student will have missed the opportunity for said extra credit.

Final grades are indeed final, and the instructor will **not** negotiate final grades for assignments or the course. The grading scale is quite clear and allows the student to easily track their progress towards their desired grade as the semester goes along. The end of the semester is **not** the time to start worrying about one's grades, especially if a student is involved in athletics or scholarships. All students should work from the start of the semester to ensure that they achieve the grades they want. If you believe there is a genuine error with your grade, please raise the issue professionally and respectfully, and the instructor will be glad to look into it to make sure that everything is correct. Coming to office hours or discussing grades via a virtual meeting is the most efficient way to handle this kind of issue.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course and is for planning purposes only. It

is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. However, every effort will be made to keep changes to a minimum. In short;

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

### Spring Semester Class Schedule

Table: Spring Semester Class Schedule

Date	Topic
January 21 Wednesday	Introductions. Go over Syllabus. <b>In-class assignment.</b>
January 26 Monday	<b>Classes Canceled by University for Inclement Weather</b>
January 28 Wednesday	What is Criminological Theory and Why Do We Study It? <b>In-class assignment</b> Reading: Chapter 1
February 2 Monday	Correlates of Crime and Crime Data. <b>In-class assignment</b> Reading: Chapter 2
February 4 Wednesday	Classical, Neoclassical, and Deterrence Theories: Past and Present. <b>In-class assignment</b>
February 9 Monday	Guest Lecture (Online): Ms. Montana Nowak on Biosocial Theory and Biological

Date	Topic
	Theories Reading: Chapter 5, pages 96-102
February 11 Wednesday	Social Learning and Differential Association Theories Reading: Chapter 12
February 16 Monday	Psychological Theories. <b>In-class assignment</b> Reading: Essential Criminology Chapter 5 (on Blackboard)
February 18 Wednesday	Life Course and Developmental Theories. <b>In-class assignment</b> Reading: Chapter 6, pages 121-128, and Chapter 18, pages 363-373
February 23 Monday	Review for Midterm
February 25 Wednesday	Midterm Exam (Online)
March 2 Monday	Watch/Listen to Operation: Mindcrime for Project 1
March 4 Wednesday	Project 1 In-Class Group Workday
March 9 Monday	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
March 11 Wednesday	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
March 16 Monday	Social Disorganization and Environmental Theories. <b>In-class assignment.</b> Reading: Chapter 7, Chapter 9, pages 179-188
March 18 Wednesday	Social Disorganization and Environmental Theories continued.
March 23 Monday	Project 1 Presentations Project 1 Submissions and Peer Evaluations Due Before Class
March 25 Wednesday	Routine Activities and Situational Theories. <b>In-class assignment</b> Reading: Chapter 22
March 30 Monday	Anomie, Strain, and Subcultural Theories Reading: Chapters 11 and 13
April 1 Wednesday	Anomie, Strain, and Subcultural Theories continued
April 6 Monday	Control Theories and Neutralization Theory Reading: Chapter 10
April 8 Wednesday	Labeling Theories Reading: Chapter 14, pages 297-305
April 13 Monday	Watch Hell or High Water (2016) for Project 2
April 15 Wednesday	Watch Hell or High Water (2016) for Project 2
April 20 Monday	Critical and Feminist Theories Reading: Chapters 15 and 16
April 22 Wednesday	Project 2 In-Class Group Workday
April 27 Monday	Project 2 In-Class Group Workday

Date	Topic
April 29 Wednesday	Project 2 Presentations Project 2 Submissions and Peer Evaluations Due before class
May 4 Monday	Review for Final Exam Additional virtual office hours available by appointment until Final Exam Day
May 6-12 Finals Week	Final Exam (Online) Wednesday, May 6th, start time 10:00 AM

## University Policies & 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](mailto: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](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodations 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](mailto: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:

Date	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm

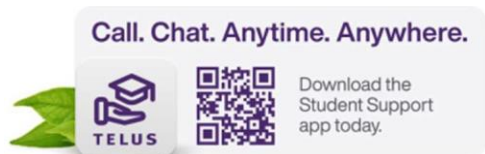


Date	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

**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 about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#). 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 Jaguar Writing Center provides writing 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 Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center 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 Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 coursework 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 Spring 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20	First day of class
February 4	Census date
March 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
May 4	Last day of classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-May 12	Final exams
May 19	Commencement

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

### AI Policy

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.