

Cognitive Psychology  
PSY/CGS 3361-001, Fall 2022  
The University of Texas at Dallas



**Tuesdays &  
Thursdays  
11:30 am-12:45 pm,  
Green Hall, 4.428**

**Instructor: Dana Roark, Ph.D.**  
[danar@utdallas.edu](mailto:danar@utdallas.edu)  
GR 4.304

**Drop-In Office Hours:**  
10:30-11am on Thursdays  
**OR** please email for an appointment.

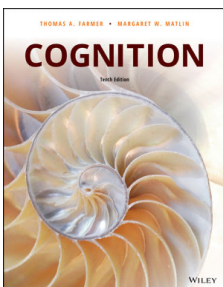
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**Required Textbook**



**Cognition**, Farmer & Matlin  
2019 (10<sup>th</sup> ed.)  
ISBN: 978-1119491712

**\*\*Students may choose either a hardcopy, an e-book, or a text rental—all widely available (e.g., bkstr.com, Amazon.com, AbeBooks.com, Chegg.com, Vitalsource.com, & many others)**

- There are also 3 required articles, which will be provided as PDFs on the course eLearning page. (See more about eLearning on next page.)

**"The test of learning psychology is whether your understanding of situations you encounter has changed, not whether you have learned a new fact."**

— Daniel Kahneman, 2011

**Course Goals:**

Welcome to Cognitive Psychology! These course goals are in place to ensure that this class will be a significant learning experience for you.

The course is designed so that not only will students learn about the wide-ranging field of cognitive psychology, but also so that students will continue to develop the kinds of tools and habits of mind that will help them be successful throughout their academic journey in psychology.

This course will emphasize the role that cognitive processes play in our everyday lives. This includes an introduction to the scientific study of the mind and mental processes, including perception, attention, working memory, long-term memory, semantic memory, imagery, problem-solving, and decision making.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

- Critically evaluate experimental psychology methods and results.
- Describe theories of memory, thinking, attention, learning, language and/or perception.

**Attendance will be taken during class**

My teaching philosophy includes the idea that in-class demonstrations and experiments are the best way for students to learn *experientially* about important concepts relevant to cognitive psychology. (Also, it's fun).

**When students miss class, they miss these opportunities.**

**I realize that students occasionally have conflicts that prevent them from attending class.**

**So, students may have 4 unexcused absences, without penalty. Five or more unexcused absences will result in a 15-point deduction from a student's final point total for the semester.**

Should students have an excused absence due to illness, religious holidays, school-sanctioned events, or other emergencies, please email Professor Roark.

Students should regularly visit the course eLearning page

All relevant information for this course is provided on eLearning. **At least twice a week, students should check the course eLearning page for upcoming due dates, new postings & other course materials.**

**eLearning postings will include:**

- weekly “to-do lists”      —practice questions for the exams      —course announcements/updates
- lecture notes\*\*      —chapter review sheets for the exams
- take-home quizzes      —assigned articles

**\*\*A “student version” of the weekly lecture notes will be posted each week (on Mondays) in both PowerPoint and PDF formats.**

Students may download the notes ahead of time to make notetaking easier. **Note: The student notes will contain some blanks for students to fill in during the lecture.**

**Grading Policy**

**Final course grades will be based on 3 exams, 3 take-home quizzes, & 1 written assignment.**

- **EXAMS:** The exams include multiple-choice, true/false & matching questions (no essays). The time limit is 1 hour, 15 min.

**\*\*Students will take the exams at the UTD Testing Center, located in SPN2, 3020 Waterview Pkwy, Richardson, TX 75080. Students are required to register online for a specific test time for each exam. Students must register online at least 48 hours in advance, or they will be unable to take the exam. \*\*Students may begin signing-up for exam times as early the first week of the semester.**

Go to: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center>

- **TAKE-HOME QUIZZES:** These are **UNTIMED, open-note/open-book quizzes** that include ~15 multiple-choice questions. The quizzes will be posted on eLearning. Students will have a 4-day time window to submit and revise their answers online. More details about these quizzes will be discussed during the lectures.
- **“ENCOUNTERS” written assignment:** For this 1-page assignment, students will choose one term/topic from one of the class lectures and then describe an event or “encounter” in their own lives that applies to this term/topic. A handout with more details about this assignment will be posted on eLearning.

**Final grades are calculated using a point system.**

**Students may earn up to 400 points during the semester:**

Exam 1: 100 pts.	Take-home Quiz 1: 25 pts.	“Encounters” Written Assignment: 25 pts.
Exam 2: 100 pts.	Take-home Quiz 2: 25 pts.	
Exam 3: 100 pts.	Take-home Quiz 3: 25 pts.	

Final course grades are calculated using a set of a priori criteria:

A range: 400—358pts.    B range: 357—318 pts.    C range: 317—278 pts.    D range: 277—238 pts.

### Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC)



One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of 2 research exposure credits. This requirement provides students practical and direct experiences with research and is an important means to understanding behavioral research.

To sign up to participate in experiments and receive your credit, go to SONA:

<https://utdallas.sona-systems.com>

Should a student not complete the research exposure requirement, their course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade. For more info:

<https://bbs.utdallas.edu/research-exposure-credits-faq/>

THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF RESEARCH EXPOSURE CREDITS IS \_\_\_TBA\_\_\_

### Some Notes Regarding Technology



This course relies extensively on students' ability to access eLearning for course materials, take-home quiz submissions, grades, etc. Also, occasionally I post short videos, which require a high-speed internet connection.

Students who may want to obtain a laptop at no cost should contact the Office of Information Technology:

<https://oit.utdallas.edu/news/student-computer-checkout-availability/>

If you have any concerns about being able to access the online materials for this course, please come and see me and we will work out a solution.

~d.r.

### Resolving Technical Issues



The best way that I have found for students to solve issues that may arise with eLearning, UTD email, etc. is to use the **online chat** provided by UTD's Office of Internet Technology (OIT). Try it!

<https://oitapps.utdallas.edu/helpdesk/chat>

### COVID-19

UTD continues to monitor the effects of COVID-19.

For the latest information, go to the Comets United website, <https://www.utdallas.edu/covid/>

**A note to students:** This is a fluid situation, and it is possible that I may make adjustments to the course as the semester progresses.

UTD encourages all members of the University community to get vaccinated if they are able to do so, and highly encourages wearing masks when indoors, although masks not required.

## Class Calendar for PSY/CGS 3361.001–Fall 2022

*The descriptions and timelines below are subject to change at the discretion of the professor*

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS/ DUE DATES	READING
<b><u>WEEK 1</u></b> Aug. 23 & 25	<u>Introduction to Cognitive Psychology</u> <i>Getting to know the course</i> Lecture: <i>Studying What We Cannot See</i>	Chapter 1
<b><u>WEEK 2</u></b> Aug. 30 & Sept. 1	<u>Visual Recognition</u> Lecture: <i>How Do We Recognize All the Objects We Know?</i> <i>object recognition; change blindness; face perception</i>	Chapter 2  <b>Article:</b> Grueter, 2007 <i>"Forgetting Faces"</i>
<b><u>WEEK 3</u></b> Sept. 6 & 8	face recognition; speech perception (Ch. 2) <u>Attention</u> Lecture: <i>Attention as the Driver of Cognition</i> <i>types of attention; visual search; attentional networks</i> (Ch. 3)	(Ch. 2, cont.) Chapter 3
<b><u>WEEK 4</u></b> Sept. 13 & 15	<u>Short Term &amp; Working Memory</u> Lecture: <i>Memory for the Right Now</i> <i>STM vs. WM, experimental paradigms for STM;</i> <i>Baddeley's WM model</i>	Chapter 4
	<b>Due date for online Take-Home Quiz 1:</b> <b><u>Tues. Sept. 13, 10PM</u></b>	
	<b>(Quiz 1 will be posted on eLearning on Friday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b><u>WEEK 5</u></b> <b>Exam Week</b>	<b>Exam 1 at The UTD Testing Center:</b> <b>Thurs. Sept. 22 &amp; Fri. Sept. 23</b>  (Students <b>must</b> register at least 48 hrs. in advance to reserve a specific date/time for the test @ The UTD Testing Center— see eLearning & syllabus for details)	<b>**No lectures this week</b>

## UNIT 2

<p><b><u>WEEK 6</u></b></p> <p>Sept. 27 &amp; 29</p>	<p><u>Long-Term Memory, Part 1</u></p> <p>Lecture: <i>All That We Remember</i></p> <p><i>encoding vs. retrieval; expertise; explicit vs. implicit memory</i></p> <p><b>For Students with last names A-K, "Encounters Assignment" is due on eLearning no later than <u>Monday, Oct. 3, 10PM</u></b> see eLearning for details</p>	<p>Chapter 5</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 7</u></b></p> <p>Oct. 4 &amp; 6</p>	<p><u>Long-Term Memory, Part 2</u></p> <p>Tues. Lecture: <i>Remembering What Never Happened</i></p> <p><i>flashbulb memories; false memories</i></p> <p>Thurs. Lecture: <i>Strategies for Memory Improvement (Ch. 6)</i></p> <p><i>mnemonics</i></p>	<p>Chapter 5 (cont.)</p> <p>Chapter 6</p> <p><u>Article:</u> Loftus, 1997 <i>Creating False Memories</i></p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 8</u></b></p> <p>Oct. 11 &amp; 13</p>	<p><u>Metacognition; Mental Imagery</u></p> <p>Tues. Lecture: <i>How Accurate is Your Metamemory?</i></p> <p>Thurs. Lecture: <i>Picture This...</i></p> <p><i>metamemory; mental rotation, "imagery debate"</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Due date for online Take-Home Quiz 2: <u>Tues. Oct. 11, 10PM</u></b></p> <p>(Quiz 2 will be posted on eLearning on <u>Friday, Oct. 7</u>)</p>	<p>Chapter 6 &amp; Chapter 7</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 9</u></b></p> <p>Oct. 18 &amp; 20</p>	<p><u>Cognitive Maps</u></p> <p>Lecture: <i>Our Mental Maps of Places &amp; Locations</i></p> <p><i>spatial cognition; mental maps</i></p>	<p>Chapter 7</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 10</u></b></p> <p><b>Exam Week</b></p>	<p><b>Exam 2 at The UTD Testing Center:</b></p> <p>Thurs. Oct. 27 &amp; Fri. Oct. 28</p> <p>(Students <b>must</b> register at least 48 hrs. in advance to reserve a specific date/time for the test @ The UTD Testing Center—see eLearning &amp; syllabus for details)</p>	<p><b>**No lectures this week</b></p>

# UNIT 3

<b>WEEK 11</b> Nov. 1 & 3	<u>General Knowledge</u> Lecture: <i>The Underlying Structure of What We Know</i> <i>prototypes vs. exemplars; schemas &amp; scripts</i> <hr/> <b>For Students with last names L-Z, "Encounters Assignment" is due on eLearning no later than <u>Mon, Nov. 7 10PM</u></b>	Chapter 8
<b>WEEK 12</b> Nov. 8 & 10	<u>Decision-Making, Part 1</u> Tues. Lecture: <i>The Challenge of Deductive Reasoning</i> Thurs. Lecture: <i>How Rational Are Our Decisions?</i>	Chapter 12
<b>WEEK 13</b> Nov. 15 & 17	<u>Decision-Making, Part 2</u> Lecture: <i>Mental Shortcuts</i> <i>decision-making heuristics</i>	Chapter 12
<b>FALL BREAK</b>	<b>No class on Tuesday Nov. 22 &amp; Thurs. Nov. 24</b>	
<b>WEEK 14</b> Nov. 29 & Dec. 1	<u>Problem-Solving, Part 1</u> Lecture: <i>The Role of Insight in Problem-Solving</i>	Chapter 11
<b>WEEK 15</b> Dec. 6 & 8	<u>Problem-Solving, Part 2</u> Lecture: <i>Problem Solving Strategies &amp; the Role of Creativity</i> <b>Due date for online Take-Home Quiz 3: <u>Tues. Dec. 6, 10PM</u></b> <i>(Quiz 3 will be posted on eLearning on Friday, Dec. 2)</i>	Chapter 11 Article TBA
Exam Week	<b>Exam 3 at The UTD Testing Center:</b> Wed. Dec 14 & Thurs. Dec. 15  (Students must register at least 48 hrs. in advance to reserve a specific date/time for the test @ The UTD Testing Center—see eLearning & syllabus for details)	No class

**\*\*\*Students may not take Exam 3 early\*\*\***

**STUDENTS: If you are still reading the syllabus at this point, then you are an excellent student! 😊**

**The following information is required on all UTD syllabi. To make things easier, I've highlighted topics that are especially relevant for our course.**

### Student Resources

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or may have been exposed should not attend class in person and should instead follow required disclosure notifications as posted on the university's website (see [Student Resources](#): a variety of resources are available to help students to obtain counseling, health care, and academic support. <https://www.utdallas.edu/health/>

### Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email or in person should be aware that all University staff, faculty, teaching assistants/associates, and graduate/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy - [UTDBP3102](#), faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-

883-2575 or the 24/7 Crisis Hotline at 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), a clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (e.g., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually

assaulted, harassed, or are victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-5202. Additional information and resources may be found at <https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/resources>.

### Technical Support

If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas account, contact the UT Dallas [Office of Information Technology Help Desk](#) via e-mail at [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or via telephone at 972-883-2911.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The services include a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service at [elarning@utdallas.edu](mailto:elarning@utdallas.edu), and an online chat service. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Helpdesk: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/elarning/helpdesk>.

### Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas System ([Regents' Rule 50101](#)) and UT Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the Student Complaints Resources in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate

Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/resources/student-complaints> and the Graduate

Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/resources/student-complaints>.

UT Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and



described in the Student Code of Conduct, UTDSP5003 (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>). Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of Community Standards and Conduct, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SSB 4.400, 972-883-6330) and online at <https://conduct.utdallas.edu>.

A student at the University neither loses their rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating its standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### Social Media Use

The [Student Code of Conduct](#) includes behaviors conducted via any digital platform. Students may not use any digital platform to seek or provide unauthorized assistance for any assignment done for academic credit. Students may not use any digital platform to impersonate or represent any person other than themselves. Please consult with your instructor regarding authorized assistance.

### Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high-level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

See <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/integrity>. Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a

class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment. Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/dishonesty>.

### Copyright Notice

It is the policy of UT Dallas to adhere to the requirements of the United States Copyright Law of 1976, as amended, (Title 17, United States Code), including ensuring that the restrictions that apply to the reproduction of software are adhered to and that the bounds of copying permissible under the fair use doctrine are not exceeded. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted material may infringe upon the copyright owner's rights. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject students to appropriate disciplinary action as well as civil and criminal penalties. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. For more information about the fair use exemption, see <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/fairuse/home>. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow UT Dallas' copyright policy (UTDPP1043 at <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1043>) and the UT System's policy, UTS107 at <https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/policy-library/policies/uts107-use-copyrighted-materials>.



## Email Use

UT Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. All official student email correspondence will be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and UT Dallas will only consider email requests originating from an official UT Dallas student email account. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of each individual corresponding via email and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Office of Information Technology provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other email accounts. To activate a student UT Dallas computer account and forward email to another account, go to <https://oit.utdallas.edu/netid/self-service>.

## Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to Public Health Measures

UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the Fall 2021 semester to the extent allowed by state governance. Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order [GA-38](#) prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students, and members of the public on campus. However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC. Check the [Comets United: Latest Updates webpage](#) for the latest guidance on the University's public health measures. Comets are expected to carry out [Student Safety](#) protocols in adherence to the Comet Commitment.

Unvaccinated Comets will be expected to complete the [Required Daily Health Screening](#). Those students who do not comply will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct for disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct - UTSP5003](#).

## Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes. Faculty have the discretion to set an attendance policy for their in-person meetings, but the absences due to COVID-19 cannot be counted against a quarantined student.

## Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade in the course is directly tied to class participation. It also includes students' engagement in group or other activities during class that solicit feedback on homework assignments, readings, and/or materials covered in the lectures and/or labs. Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful class participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in the syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct - UTSP5003](#).

## Withdrawal from Class

The administration at UT Dallas has established deadlines for withdrawal from any course. These dates and times are published in the Comet

Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar>) and in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar>). It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or another instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student unless there is an administrative drop such as the following:

- Not meeting the prerequisites for a specific course
- Not satisfying the academic probationary requirements, resulting in suspension
- An Office of Community Standards and Conduct request
- Not making appropriate tuition and fee payments
- Enrollment is in violation of academic policy
- Not admitted for the term in which they registered

It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate forms to the Registrar's Office and ensure that he or she will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if he or she chooses not to attend the class after being enrolled.

Undergraduate students: please review the [Dropping and Withdrawing](#) section in the catalog.

Graduate students: please review the [Schedule Changes: Dropping, Adding and Withdrawing](#) from Courses section in the catalog.

### Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in university policy UTDSP5005 (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5005>). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding disputes over grades, application of degree plan, graduation/degree program requirements, and thesis/and dissertation committee, adviser actions and/or decisions, evaluations, and/or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to

resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originated.

### Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades may be given at the discretion of the instructor of record for a course, when a student has completed at least 70% of the required course material but cannot complete all requirements by the end of the semester. An incomplete course grade (grade of 'I') must be completed within the time period specified by the instructor, not to exceed eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. Upon completion of the required work, the grade of 'I' may be converted into a letter grade (A through F). If the grade of Incomplete is not removed by the end of the specified period, it will automatically be changed to a grade of F. The incomplete grade policy is included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic#incomplete-grades> and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/grades#grade-of-i-incomplete>.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy and practice of UT Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. **If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need academic accommodations for this class, you are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Accessibility (OSA).** Some aspects of the course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is typically taught may be accommodated to facilitate your participation and progress. OSA will assist you in determining academic accommodations that are appropriate for your situation. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. To avoid any delay, please contact OSA as soon as

possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations cannot be provided until an OSA Letter of Accommodation has been given to the instructor. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact OSA for a confidential discussion. OSA is located in the Administration Building, AD 2.224 They can be reached by phone at 972-883-2098, or by email at [studentaccess@utdallas.edu](mailto:studentaccess@utdallas.edu).

### Religious Holy Days

UT Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities, including examinations and travel time for the observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, of the Texas Tax Code.

Students are encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment.

Excused students will be allowed to take missed exams or complete assignments within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the President of UT Dallas or from the President's designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of Texas Education

Code 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

This information is also included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/religious-holy-days>, and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/religious-holy-days>.

### Making a False Alarm or Report Involving a Public or Private Institution of a Higher Education

Making a false threat at any Texas higher education institution is considered a State Jail Felony, not a Class A misdemeanor, according to a law passed by the Texas Legislature.

This legislation was enacted in response to several threats in past years at several universities across the U.S. that disrupted classes and prompted evacuation of campus property, even though the reports turned out to be a hoax.

This law relates to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education. A person commits an offense under Section 42.06, Texas Penal Code, if he or she knowingly initiates, communicates or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, or aircraft, automobile, or other mode of conveyance.

An individual adjudged guilty of a state jail felony shall be punished by confinement in a state jail for any term of not more than two

years or less than 180 days and, in addition to confinement, may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

UT Dallas students should be aware that the State of Texas takes these threats seriously, and the legal consequences, which are severe, go beyond anything that the University's disciplinary committee can address.

This information is also included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/false-alarms> and in the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/false-alarms>.

**Interactive Campus Map** – Locate Severe Weather Shelters, Elevators, and Bathrooms. The interactive campus map (<https://map.utdallas.edu>) allows users to search for severe weather shelter areas in each building. On the map, click on a building and select "Storm Shelters" from the "Find" drop-down menu. Remember, a severe weather shelter area is usually any interior room without windows, such as a restroom, hallway, conference room, or office. Try to find shelter on the lowest floor of the building and stay away from large auditoriums or gyms. Users can also use the same map to locate elevators and bathrooms.

### Academic Support Resources Resources to Help You Succeed

For help with a research assignment, such as finding journal articles or using a database, try CHAT at [McDermott Library](#).

The [Comet Cupboard](#) is a UT Dallas food pantry initiative dedicated to helping students in need. The Comet Cupboard is located in MC 1.604,

on the first floor of the McDermott Library, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-2709.

[Comet Cents](#) provides financial literacy to students with the peer-to-peer model. This money management center provides one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester. Comet Cents works to help students improve their financial situation with topics such budgeting, credit card debit, investing and other personal finance areas.

[Intercultural Programs](#) provides a host of transition programs for international students and intercultural competency trainings for all students. They are located in SSB 3.6, on the third floor of the Student Services Building. Their phone number is 972-883-4528.

[The Student Counseling Center](#) offers confidential services to students either for individual appointments or as part of groups. Initial appointments must be made in person in the Student Counseling Center, which is located in SSB 4.600, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Their main number is 972-883-2575 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline is 972-883-8255 (972-UTD-TALK).

[The Testing Center](#), run by the Education Technology Services, offers a 300-seat computer lab, providing UT Dallas students access to a comfortable and secure test environment for online/paper exams, quizzes, instructional testing, and assessments. The Testing Center is located in Room 11.175, the first floor of the Synergy Park North 2 (SP2) building and can be contacted by calling 972-883-5498. See <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center>.

If you experience issues taking an exam in eLearning, please contact the UTD eLearning Helpdesk: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/elearning/helpdesk>.

### Graduation Help Desk

The [Graduation Help Desk](#) is a one-stop resource within the Office of Undergraduate Education designed to help undergraduate

students overcome obstacles to a timely graduation. The Graduation Help Desk supports undergraduate students, faculty and staff to develop solutions to complex academic and non-academic issues. This resource is equipped to promote all undergraduate students' success by helping them at any point during their academic careers from their arrival at UT Dallas until their graduation. Contact the Graduation Help Desk at [graduationhelpdesk@utdallas.edu](mailto:graduationhelpdesk@utdallas.edu) or 972-883-3999.

### **Student Success Center**

The **Student Success Center (SSC)** offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual appointments, small group appointments, drop-in labs, workshops, and weekly reviews. All undergraduate students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible to participate in these services. Not all courses will be supported by all services. Please check the website at the beginning of each semester to find out which courses are supported by which services.

**All services are free of charge.**

In **Academic Success Coaching (ASC)**, students can receive help with time management, goal setting, test preparation, and various other study techniques and strategies. Student coaches offer one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester. The Communication Lab (CommLab) offers one-on-one and group appointments where students can gain practical feedback for improving oral and group presentations. The Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) program provides an active, engaged learning experience for students enrolled in potentially difficult gateway courses. Students who register with PLTL will meet in small groups once a week and are expected to attend every session. Students who regularly attend sessions typically

earn a half to a whole letter grade higher than students who do not participate in the PLTL program.

**Peer Tutoring (PT)** offers math and science tutoring assistance for many of the historically challenging undergraduate courses at UT Dallas. The sessions are designed to address students' individual questions and needs; however, the tutors do not provide answers for homework, quizzes, or exams.

**Supplemental Instruction (SI)** provides peer-facilitated weekly study sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. SI sessions encourage active, collaborative learning based on critical thinking and transferable study skills. The Writing Center (WC) is a collaborative learning environment for students interested in developing stronger writing skills. One-on-one appointments are offered, as are weekly workshops. Scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended, but drop-in hours are also available.

The Student Success Center's main office is located in the McDermott Library Building on the first floor, MC 1.302, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6707 or by sending an email to [ssc@utdallas.edu](mailto:ssc@utdallas.edu).

### **University Resources**

Additional university resources, "Resources for Study and Campus Life" are listed in the online Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/resources/index> and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/resources/index>.

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