



**SOC 370**  
**Minority Groups**  
**Summer 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zachary Palmer

**Office Location:** Ferguson 232

**Office Hours:** Online M-F 1-5pm, in-person by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-468-3276

**University Email Address:** [Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu](mailto:Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Within 24 hours

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Required Text:** Desmond, Matthew and Mustafa Emirbayer. 2016. *Race in America*. New York: Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-9765-7

Additional podcasts will be assigned throughout the semester, links will be posted on D2L.

**Course Description**

A General survey of race, ethnic, and minority relations in the United States. Emphasis is placed on theories of prejudice/discrimination and institutional racism in education, politics, and economics.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this class, you should be able to...

1. Understand the historical, social, political, and economic processes that have produced race and racism in American society
2. Take a sociological perspective of race and ethnicity
3. Better appreciate and understand the experiences and conditions of racial and ethnic groups in the United States

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You must be able to access a computer with Microsoft Word and use D2L.

### GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A= 90-100%  
B= 80-89%  
C= 70-79%  
D= 60-69%  
F= 59% or below

Grades are out of 100 points

### Assessments

- Quizzes (50% of grade)- There will be weekly multiple-choice quizzes, taken through D2L. Quizzes are due every Friday at 5pm.
- Discussion Posts (10% of grade)- Each week you will post your response to the weekly podcast on the discussion board and respond to at least one other student's posts. This is an important part of your participation in the class. Additionally, you are required to post an introductory post at the beginning of the course and a reflection post at the very end.
- Movie Assignment (10% of grade)- Twice during the semester you will watch a documentary online through Kanopy (available for free through the university library) and respond to a set of questions about each movie.
- Final Assignment (30% of grade)- Cumulative final exam consisting of a mix of short answer, multiple choice, and true/false questions

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All courses offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

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YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903-468-6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and Internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<http://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am available through email and in-person during office hours. Please feel free to stop by my office during office hours or any time my door is open.

## COURE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Policies

- This is a 5 week intensive course, which means that it is very easy for you to fall behind. Because of this, it is particularly important for you to turn your work in on time. **As such, I will not accept late work in this course unless there are extenuating circumstances.**
- I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously. The first instance of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the quiz or assignment, the second instance will result in an F in the class.
- If you experience a death in the family, serious illness, or other life trauma, please speak to me and I will work with you to do my best to help you keep up with the course.

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## **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99R0.01](#).

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

### **Students with Disabilities- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

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Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, and environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill- 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus](#) document.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

### **Week 1**

Read/Listen: Chapters 1 & 2, “Race Underneath the Skin” (pod)

Introduction post due **Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm**

Discussion post #1 due **Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

Quiz #1 due **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

Discussion comments on post #1 due **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

### **Week 2:**

Read/Listen: Chapters 3, 4, and 5, “The Original Blexit” (pod)

Discussion post #2 due **Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

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Quiz #2 due **Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Discussion comments on post #2 due **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Movie assignment #1 due **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

**Week 3:**

Read/Listen: Chapters 6, 7, and 8, “A Tale of Two School Districts” (pod)

Discussion Post #3 due **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Quiz #3 due **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Discussion comments on post #3 due **Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Movie assignment #2 due **Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

**Week 4:**

Read/Listen: Chapters 9, 10, and 11, “How Race and Racism Affect Our Friendships” (pod)

Discussion Post #4 due **Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm**  
Quiz #4 due **Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Reflection Post due **Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
Discussion comments on post #4 due **Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

**Week 5:**

**Final Exam due Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> by 5pm**