



**SOC 331—INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH
SECTION 01W-- CRN # 41354
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2020**

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COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web Based Class): 6/1/2020 through 7/2/2020

This syllabus intends to help you clearly understand the course goals, expectations, testing methods and topics we are going through so you may maximize your performance. It should also help you avoid mistakes and misunderstandings that may affect your grade adversely.

Text W. Lawrence Neuman. *Social Research Method*. 7th Ed.
Publisher: Pearson, 2009 ISBN-10: 0205615961; ISBN-13:
978-0205615964. (required). It can be purchased through
Amazon for the 7th edition.

- Jiaming Sun. *Global Connectivity and Local Transformation*. University Press of America. ISBN 0-7618-4008-7 (optional).

Additional materials will be posted on the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

This course provides an introduction to research methods and focuses particularly on the application of social research, developing fundamental, conceptual and empirical research skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The course will provide students with tools to be able to apply in their own research and to understand scholarly work produced by others. The main goals of the

course are (upon successful completion of the course the student will):

- Understand the relationship between theory and research as they apply to social science as well as to public policy;
- Demonstrate a wide variety of research techniques and design issues that are utilized in social science research;
- Describe survey instrumentation and be able to develop a quality survey questionnaire;
- Enable to use appropriate techniques to answer research questions;
- Identify the components of and be able to construct a research proposal;
- Identify as well as evaluate a variety of reference materials, including journals and valid internet sites that are used in social science research endeavors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As per the university rule, students taking one course with three credit-hours in summer section are expected to spend six hours in each unit on studying lecture online, watching videos clips, reading chapters, doing assignments, and preparing quizzes and exams.

Online Activity This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access D2L while you have time to participate various activities. Your regular participation activities, including the time spent online lessons, short videos and virtual discussions will be counted with points. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a unit to avoid losing ONLINE ACTIVITY (or USER ACTIVITY) points.

There will be several points for each unit's ONLINE ACTIVITY (total around 60 points). The points will not give to those who have less than minimum or zero minute of usage online in a unit. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in a further loss of points from your overall performance points. It can mean a difference of a final letter grade as well. So take it seriously.

Assign/Quiz Assignments will include reading chapters, writing reading summary, and doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand class material and prepare the

exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have a plenty of notifications sent by emails. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. Late submission will cause a minimum 20% deduction of penalty for the first unit, and then 10% each subsequent unit late (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day and after taking the exams.

There are several questions (OPEN QUESTION) with page numbers in the textbook for students seeking answers each unit. In order to do well on "Open Questions", be sure to watch the online lesson for every chapter and look at the page numbers indicated with the questions. Most questions have their answers directly from the textbook.

Online quizzes will be given to evaluate what have been covered in previous lectures. In order to do well on your quizzes and tests, be sure to bring your textbook to class, take notes, read chapters, and highlight important materials in the text and alternate reading materials. The style of quizzes will be multiple choices, true/false. Questions in your quizzes could be questions in your exams also. There is 1 more Attempt after the due date of the quiz is over will be allowed. Your final score on this quiz will be the highest score of your attempts.

Writing and Presentation of a Research Proposal- (this assignment will not be required for summer course). As part of the course work students must complete a research proposal. It is based on your cumulative knowledge and skill of social research learned in this course.

Exams There will be two exams during the semester. These exams will be based on online lessons, readings, and those quizzes you have taken and will be multiple choices, short essays. The exams are timed and will be taken online. Students may prepare for the exams by using notebooks and textbooks. Student may not share notes with other students during the exams. Students will be provided with a study guide prior to the exams. There is 1 more Attempt of taking the exam will be allowed. However, your final score on the exam will be the score of "average of your attempts".

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered in a Stimulative Grading Scheme (SGS). This scheme provides an incentive to students who are excelling academically in this course. The SGS provides students with "Distribution Points to Date" three or four times in the semester, so students will be easily perceive his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submitting all assignments on time, and standing in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy

Attendance	60
Discussion/Reading/Writing	50
Quizzes	80
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	90
Overall performance	40
Total	400

Overall performance points (40 points) based primarily on a ranking percentile in the class will be added on a student's total points by the end of the semester. For instance, a student who is at the 80th percentile will receive 36 points, and a student who is at the 60th percentile will receive 28 points and so on (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in D2L).

Final letter grade:

- A: 360 – 400
- B: 320 – 359
- C: 280 – 319
- D: 240 – 279
- F: below 239

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections 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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

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

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course is a D2L online supporting course (a web based course). D2L is a campus wide web-enhanced internet teaching and learning support system. Students taking this course will be able to surf online course website, get reading material, download and upload assignments, take online quizzes and exams, check grades and cumulative points with percentiles anytime online. If you are not familiar with the use of D2L or the Library Online Services, please avail yourself of the online tutorials that are available through your MyLeo web page.

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.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work 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 your Instructor.

Technical Support

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

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

In this course, email is an essential corresponding method and a supplement to lectures. This means that you can expect to hear from the instructor via emails regularly throughout the semester, such as using email for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Needless to say, students are expected to check email regularly in daily fashion (a couple of times a day). Conversely, you should feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions, requests or problems that might not be addressed clearly in online lessons.

You may access to your email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from D2L (and all other the university's emails) will go to this account. Conversely, you are to email me via the D2L email system or your myLeo email since the university spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and usually the emails in spam won't be checked. Email sent to the instructor should be with a subject to "SOC 318".

HOWEVER in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers, please post all class related questions in the Virtual Office. This will be our Q&A forum. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature or for a bonus point should be sent individually to the instructor's email address via D2L.

If you are having problems in class, please contact the instructor immediately. Please understand that you should not contact the instructor only at the end of the semester being unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor 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](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

TAMUC Attendance

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

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

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[nts/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf](#)

Students with Disabilities - ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection 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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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, an 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 34.06.02.R1, 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 and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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 OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The course schedule is tentative and somewhat subject to change. Although this course will follow the schedule, it is possible that some adjustments will be made as we progress through the semester.

Unit	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	June 1-	Introduction to the course outline and syllabus. Science and research.	Ch. 1, 2
2	June 3-	Dimensions of research	Ch. 2
3	June 5-	Theory and research.	Ch. 3
4	June 8-	How to Write a Research Proposal.	Ch. 4
5	June 10-	The Literature Review and Ethical Concerns	Ch. 5
6	June 12-	Qualitative and Quantitative research designs.	Ch. 6
7	June 15-	Review, *** Mid term exam***	Ch. 1-6
8	June 17-	Qualitative and Quantitative, Measurement.	Ch. 7
9	June 19-	Qualitative and Quantitative sampling.	Ch. 8
10	June 22-	Experimental research.	Ch. 9
11	June 24-	Survey research.	Ch. 10

12	June 26-	Nonreactive research and secondary analysis.	Ch. 11
13	June 29-	Field research.	Ch. 13
14	July 1-	Review, ***Final Exam*** As scheduled by the University	Ch. 7- 13