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**SOC 1301**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall 2021**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zachary Palmer  
**Office Location:** Ferguson 232  
**Office Hours:** MWF 12-1pm  
**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**

To minimize costs, we will be using an online text called *A Sociology Experiment*, available at <https://www.sociologyexperiment.com>. It costs one dollar per chapter. You will need to register with the site to purchase each of the necessary chapters. Please contact me if you have any questions or issues accessing the assigned readings.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help students better understand the social world in which they live as well as provide a foundation for other courses in sociology. It provides an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including globalization, diversity, socialization, social control, social order, deviance, and social change. This course emphasizes global dynamics from a sociological perspective and helps students view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

This introductory course is part of the QEP Global curriculum and can be counted for University Studies credit in Social and Behavioral Sciences and is a required prerequisite for nearly all other courses in sociology. After completing this course, you should be able to...

1. Demonstrate a sociological perspective based on critical thinking skills in order to better understand the social world in which we live and interact on a daily basis
2. Define and give examples of basic sociological terms and concepts that will help you better understand your social world and lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields
3. Explain the scientific method and specific sociological research methods to illustrate how sociologists collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics, including global issues, processes, trends, and systems

### **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

#### **Assessments**

- *In-Class Writings* - Throughout the semester, there will be in-class activities and writing assignments. These can only be completed in class, though more will be assigned than are required (14+ will be assigned, 10 are required). Each are worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.
- *Assignments*- There will be 4 assignments, each worth 25 points for a total of 100 points. More information about the assignments is posted on D2L.
- *Exams*- There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points for a total of 300 points.

### **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)

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**

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulties with any part of D2L, please contact Brightspace (D2L) Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found at <http://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

I am available through email during business hours and in my office during office hours. Please feel free to come by office hours at any time. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please reach out to me!

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Policies**

- Late work will not be accepted in this course except in cases of extenuating circumstances that necessitate an extension.

- I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously. The first instance of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the particular exam/assignment, the second instance will result in an F in the class.
- Coming in late is a distraction to other students, so I will not allow students to enter the classroom if they are more than 10 minutes late to class.
- Regular attendance is expected and you must be in-class for the in-class writings and activities (although more of these will be offered than the required 10), however you are encouraged to **stay home if you are sick, feel you are becoming sick, or if someone in your household has tested positive for Covid-19. If you test positive for Covid-19, please contact me to arrange how to keep up with the class remotely during quarantine.**
- 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.

### **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:

[http://www.tamuc.edu/student\\_guidebook/Student\\_Guidebook.pdf?\\_ga=2.174666466.139137986.1597081037-785048279.1537547496](http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf?_ga=2.174666466.139137986.1597081037-785048279.1537547496)

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the [Attendance webpage and 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 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

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.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by

calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## COURSE CALENDAR

### **Week 1: Introduction to Sociology**

Read- Chapter 1

### **Week 2: Research Methods**

Read- Chapter 2

### **Week 3: Social Structure & The Individual**

Read- Chapter 3

Research Methods Assignment due through D2L Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

### **Week 4: Culture**

Read- Chapter 5

### **Week 5: Class and Stratification**

Read- Chapter 4

Exam 1 Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Week 6: Gender and Sexuality**

Read- Chapter 6

### **Week 7: Race and Ethnicity**

Read- Chapter 7

### **Week 8: Families**

Read- Chapter 8

13<sup>th</sup> Movie Assignment due through D2L Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

### **Week 9: Education**

Read- Chapter 9

Exam 2 Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Week 10: Religion**

Read- Chapter 10

### **Week 11: Immigration and Urbanization**

Read- Chapter 12

Religion Observation Assignment due through D2L Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

**Week 12: Deviance, Crime, and Violence**

Read- Chapter 13

**Week 13: Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 14: Health & Illness**

Read- Chapter 15

**Week 15: Conclusion**

Read- None

Sociological Autobiography/Reflection Assignment due through D2L Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

**Final Exam During the Scheduled Final Period**