



Please click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid-19 Information: <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

SOC 370
Racial and Ethnic Diversity
Summer 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer
Office Location: Ferguson 232
Office Hours: Online M-F 1-2pm
Office Phone: 903-468-3276
University Email Address: Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text

Race in America (2nd edition)

InQuizitive will be utilized in this course, so make sure you have the Ebook with Learning Tools

Additional required material will be posted on D2L

Course Description

A general survey of the sociology of race and ethnicity in the United States. Emphasis is placed on how race operates within societal structures, including education, politics, and housing.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following...

1. Explain what sociologists mean when we say that race is a social construct
2. Identify how race has shaped (and been shaped by) historical, political, and economic forces
3. Recognize how racial inequality operates within larger social structures
4. Describe a racial democracy perspective and how it compares to other perspectives on race and racism

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

- InQuizitive Online Interactive Reading Quizzes- Each chapter has an associated interactive reading quiz, which will be taken through InQuizitive. Each are worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.
- Discussion Posts- There will be two discussion prompts per week based on the assigned podcasts. You must post your response to the prompt AND a response to one other student's posts in order to receive full credit. Each discussion post is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.
- Final Exam- The final exam will cover the readings, podcasts, and lectures and be a mix of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Worth 100 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

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.

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. Please feel free to reach out to me to set up a Zoom meeting if you want to have a more in-depth conversation. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me!

COURSE 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 to turn work in on time. As such, **I will not accept late work in this course unless there are extenuating circumstances such as illness, family emergency, etc.**
- I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously. The first instance of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the particular quiz/assignment/discussion post, 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.

- We will be discussing sensitive topics in this course. All students must behave respectfully toward everyone in this class and avoid offensive language and personal insults. I will not tolerate any kind of harassment in this class, and offensive posts or comments will be removed from the discussion board.

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

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](#)

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

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

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: Each module you will listen to a podcast episode. The link to each episode is posted in the folder for the module in which it is associated. Each episode also has a written transcript for those who have hearing issues or simply prefer reading to listening. These transcripts can also be found on the linked pages.

Week 1

Guiding questions- How do sociologists think about race? Where does the idea of race come from? Why do we have the racial categories in America that we have today?

Learning objective- 1) Explain what it means when sociologists say that race is a social construct

- Module 1 (Race in the 21st Century)
 - Read: Chapter 1
 - Listen: “Who You Calling ‘Hispanic’?”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Wednesday, June 8th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 1 Quiz, Discussion Post 1
- Module 2 (Invention of Race)
 - Read: Chapter 2
 - Listen: “Members of Whose Tribe?”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Saturday, June 11th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 2 Quiz, Discussion Post 2

Week 2

Guiding questions- What role does race play in politics and the economy? How has race historically shaped these forces in American society? How have these forces shaped racial categories and the experiences of racial minorities?

Learning Objective- 2) Identify how race has shaped (and been shaped by) historical, political, and economic forces

- Module 3 (Politics)
 - Read: Chapter 3
 - Listen: “The Original Blexit”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Wednesday, June 15th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 3 Quiz, Discussion Post 3
- Module 4 (Economics)
 - Read: Chapter 4
 - Listen: “Payback’s A B*****”
 - Watch: “The Racial Wealth Gap Explained” Video
 - Due Saturday, June 18th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 4 Quiz, Discussion Post 4

Week 3

Guiding Questions- What is structural/institutional racism? How does race shape where we live, and why is that important? What role has racism played in shaping the criminal justice system we have today?

Learning Objective- 3) Recognize how racial inequality operates within larger social structures

- Module 5 (Housing)
 - Read: Chapter 5
 - Listen: “Location! Location! Location!”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Wednesday, June 22nd at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 5 Quiz, Discussion Post 5
- Module 6 (Crime and Punishment)
 - Read: Chapter 6
 - Listen: “An Immune System”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Saturday, June 25th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 6 Quiz, Discussion Post 6

Week 4

Guiding Questions- How does race impact people’s life chances and experiences within the world? How does structure connect to the individual?

Learning Objectives- 3) Recognize how racial inequality operates within larger social structures

- Module 7 (Education)
 - Read: Chapter 7
 - Listen: “A Tale of Two School Districts”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Wednesday, June 29th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 7 Quiz, Discussion Post 7
- Module 8 (Aesthetics)
 - Read: Chapter 8
 - Listen: “Pretty Hurts”
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Saturday, July 1st at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 8 Quiz, Discussion Post 8

Week 5

Guiding Questions- What can we do to create a more racially just society?

Learning Objective- 4) Describe a racial democracy perspective and how it compares to other perspectives on race and racism

- Module 9 (Toward a Racial Democracy)
 - Read: Chapter 11
 - Listen: None
 - Watch: Lectures
 - Due Wednesday, July 6th at 11:59pm: InQuizitive Chapter 11 Quiz, Discussion 10
- Due Thursday, July 7th at 11:59pm: Final Exam