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## **SOC 1306: GLB/US SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2022  
6/6 to 7/7 2022

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris  
Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building Room 217  
Office Hours: Virtual, by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5169  
Office Fax: 903-886-5330  
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**  
Communication Response Time: 24 to 48 Hours, M-F 8-5

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Open access text, on D2L

Software Required: **Access to course website- you need to have an active email username and password. I will post your grades to the course website, as well as your powerpoints, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.**

Optional Texts and/or Materials: None

### **Course Description**

It goes without saying that societies have problems—we experience them every day. But that doesn't mean we have to take them for granted. Can we understand them instead? Can we gain insight into what causes them, what perpetuates them, and what alleviates them? What do social problems look like through the scientific lens of sociological inquiry, distanced from the assumptions and interpretations we carry around with us in our daily lives? This course applies the insights of sociology and sociological research to various problems affecting our society. In doing so, it investigates causes, consequences, and the complications that attend attempts to address social problems. In doing so, however, it also provides resources for thinking

and acting in response to the problems that may bother you about the world in which you live. Social Problems critically engages students in the process of understanding the various dysfunctions of society, their complex dimensions, and their prospects for change.

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

Through this course, students should gain a basic operational sociological understanding of the causes and dynamics of social problems. Students will be able to apply various sociological theoretical perspectives to real-world problems and will become knowledgeable of relevant empirical evidence. Those who take this course will gain critical insight on the difficulties a number of key problems poses for societies. With a combination of evidence, theory, and engagement, the successful student will demonstrate an ability to step back from everyday reality and address the problems of social life from an informed perspective. This course will enhance not only students' growth as individuals, but will also expand their capacities for participation in the dialogue and conduct of a participatory republic.

1. Sociological Knowledge: Students should be able to demonstrate a sociological perspective based on critical thinking in order to better understand the social world in which they live and interact on a daily basis. Assessed by: Assignments, Exams
2. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues. Assessed By: Discussion Board; Assignments
3. Sociological Application: Define and give examples of basic sociological terms and concepts that will help them better understand their social world and to lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields. Assessed by: Overall course grades.
4. Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems. Assessed by: Assignments; Discussion Board.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

**Using the Learning Management System, Powerpoint, Microsoft Word, and Internet.**

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be conducted entirely via the web. All components of this class are online. We will not meet any time as a class. This course is primarily administered through D2L. If you need help using D2L, please see the technology services staff for help.

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc. Ignorance about details given in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the D2L web site cannot be accepted as excuse in any manner. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements and grading procedures. That will be the key to doing well in the course.

Also, please feel free to ask me questions about the course requirements through e-mails as needed.

2. This is an online course. Read instructions given under each week carefully.
3. All of your exams will be based on your text book.
4. You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates.

Please specify the following in your e-mail: your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I check your record before responding to your need or question. You can also get an appointment to see me before and after each class or through an e-mail to me.

Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the D2L. If you have problem with your email system, please contact the Instructional Technology office. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website and in the undergraduate catalog.

## **GRADING**

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

900-1000 =A  
800-899=B  
700-799=C  
600-699=D  
500-0=F

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## Assessments

Assignment	SLO Addressed	Points
Weekly Discussions (10@30 points)	1;2;4	300
Application Exercises (3@100 points)	1;4	300
Article Reviews (4@100 points)	1;2;3;4	400
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>

## 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](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 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.

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## 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

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Farris, Professor Farris, Instructor Farris), an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. If you have read this far, please send me via email, a photo of a Unicorn. The people to do this within the first two weeks of class will get 5 extra credit points. See the attached page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

I will try to get assignments and exams graded and handed back in a timely manner. Should you have any questions/comments/concerns about your grades, then you can speak with me regarding your grades. If you are unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion with me, then you can speak to the department head.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

**Students are expected to hand in assignments on time.** If, due to some emergency or illness, this proves impossible, students are required to contact me by way of explanation before assignments are due, and, if necessary, provide evidence of illness.

Weekly Discussions: A handout with the requirements for the weekly discussions and the grading rubric will be uploaded on D2L.

Article Reviews: You will have four article reviews throughout the course of the term. More information on each of these assignments will be provided.

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Application Exercises: You will have three application exercises this term.

**Points are accumulated in this course instead of averaged. You will have a grade report on D2L keeping track of your points as this semester progresses. Your grade is not negotiable. It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades and your progress in the class. I will not change grades at the end of the semester, so please do not email me asking if you can do anything for a better grade. Keep up with your work during the semester.**

### **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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **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](#)

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### [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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, 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

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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.

## Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Please note: Everything will be due Sunday at 11:59pm with the exception of the last week, which will be shorter. Please plan accordingly.

Start Date:	Module / Assignment Description:	Due Date:	Point Value:
<b>6/6</b>	<b>Week 1</b>	<b>6/12</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 1 and 2</li> </ul>		0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Discussion Question 1 and 2</li> </ul>		30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Article Review 1</li> </ul>		100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>6/13</b>	<b>Week 2</b>	<b>6/19</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 3</li> </ul>		0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Discussion Question 3</li> </ul>		30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Article Review 2</li> <li>• Complete Application Exercise 1</li> </ul>		100 100

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<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>Module / Assignment Description:</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Point Value:</b>
<b>6/20</b>	<b>Week 3</b>	<b>6/26</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 4</li> </ul>		0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Discussion Question 4</li> </ul>		30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Application Exercise 2</li> </ul>		100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>6/27</b>	<b>Week 4</b>	<b>7/3</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 5 and 6</li> </ul>		0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Discussion Question 5 and 6</li> </ul>		30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Article Review 3</li> </ul>		100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Application Exercise 3</li> </ul>		100
<b>7/3</b>	<b>Week 5 SHORT WEEK</b>	<b>7/7</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 7 and 8</li> </ul>		0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Discussion Question 7, 8, 9, 10</li> </ul>		30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete Article Review 4</b></li> </ul>		<b>100</b>

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