



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

SOC 574
Sociological Theory
Fall 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer
Office Location: BA 102F
Office Hours: MWF 11am-1pm
Office Phone: 903-886-5230
University Email Address: Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text: *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory* (3rd edition), eds. Scott Appelrouth and Laura Desfor Edles

Course Description

This course focuses on the classical foundation of sociology and its contemporary extensions. The course features an in-depth reading of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Du Bois, and Mead as well as works representative of Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Critical Theory, and other major strands of sociological thought.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify and explain major sociological theorists and the significance of their work

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2. Describe, synthesize, and explain theoretical arguments based on the reading of primary source materials
3. Apply a theoretical lens to the world around you

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

- Discussions- Throughout the semester, you will post your response to the primary source readings to the discussion board. Responses should consist of an approximately 2-3 sentence summary of each primary source reading and at least a paragraph per reading of your reaction/response. Additionally, you are required to post at least 1 comment per week on someone else's post or comment, asking questions, supplying additional information, or otherwise meaningfully engaging in the discussion. Each week's discussion is worth 20 points.
- Papers- 4 times throughout the semester you will write a 5-8 page paper based on a particular prompt related to the readings. Each paper is worth 125 points. More details can be found on D2L.

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:

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<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

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

- I do not accept late work except in cases in which you have made arrangements with me within 24 hours of the assignment deadline for an extension

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- 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
- All students must behave respectfully toward everyone else 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](#).

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](#) 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 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:

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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

Week 1: Introduction

- Read: Chapter 1
- Due Sunday, September 4th at 11:59pm: Discussion #1

Week 2: Marx

- Read: Chapter 2, “The German Ideology,” “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” “The Communist Manifesto,” “Capital”
- Due Sunday, September 11th at 11:59pm: Discussion #2

Week 3: Durkheim

- Read: Chapter 3, “The Division of Labor in Society,” “The Rules of Sociological Method,” “Suicide: A Study in Sociology,” “The Elementary Forms of Everyday Life”
- Due Sunday, September 18th at 11:59pm: Discussion #3

Week 4: Weber

- Read: Chapter 4, “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,” “The Distribution of Power within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party,” “The Types of Legitimate Domination,” “Bureaucracy”
- Due Sunday, September 25th at 11:59pm: Discussion #4

Week 5: Simmel

- Read: Chapter 6, “Exchange,” “The Stranger,” “Metropolis and Mental Life”
- Due Sunday, October 2nd at 11:59pm: Discussion #5, Paper #1

Week 6: Du Bois

- Read: Chapter 7, “The Souls of Black Folk,” “The Souls of White Folk”
- Due Sunday, October 9th at 11:59pm: Discussion #6

Week 7: Mead

- Read: Chapter 8, “Mind,” “Self”

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- Due Sunday, October 16th at 11:59pm: Discussion #7

Week 8: Structural Functionalism

- Read: Chapter 9, “Manifest and Latent Functions,” “Social Structure and Anomie”
- Due Sunday, October 23rd at 11:59pm: Discussion #8, Paper #2

Week 9: Critical Theory

- Read: Chapter 10, “The Culture Industry Reconsidered,” “One-Dimensional Man,” “Black Feminist Thought”
- Due Sunday, October 30th at 11:59pm: Discussion #9

Week 10: Exchange and Rational Choice Theories

- Read: Chapter 11, “Social Behavior as Exchange,” “Exchange and Power in Social Life,” “Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital”
- Due Sunday, November 6th at 11:59pm: Discussion #10

Week 11: Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy

- Read: Chapter 12, “Presentation of Self in Everyday Life,” “Asylums,” “The Managed Heart”
- Due Sunday, November 13th at 11:59pm: Discussion #11, Paper #3

Week 12: Phenomenology

- Read: Chapter 13, “The Social Construction of Reality,” “Institutional Ethnography,” “The Everyday World as Problematic”
- Due Sunday, November 20th at 11:59pm: Discussion #12

Week 13: Thanksgiving

Week 14: Poststructuralism

- Read: Chapter 14, “Discipline and Punish,” “Orientalism”
- Due Sunday, December 4th at 11:59pm: Discussion #13

Week 15: Postmodernism

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- Read: Chapter 15, “Simulacra and Simulations,” “Gender Trouble”
- Due Sunday, December 11th at 11:59pm: Discussion #14, Paper #4