



## **SOC 535.01W Readings in Sociology Spring 2023**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zachary Palmer

**Office Location:** BA 102F

**Office Hours:** MWF 10-11am, 1-2pm in-person; Tuesdays 7-8pm Zoom (Zoom Room posted to D2L)

**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 Texts**

- Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Desmond, Matthew. 2017. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Broadway Books.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2008 [1990]. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. London, UK: Routledge.

All additional readings will be posted to D2L

#### **Course Description**

This course explores advanced sociological principles through the use of selected classical and contemporary readings. Students will be expected to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of sociological materials and to analyze and discuss them from divergent theoretical perspectives.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Explain and apply a sociological perspective to contemporary society
2. Read, synthesize, and integrate a variety of materials
3. Effectively complete the general sociology question on the comprehensive exam

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

You must be able to access a computer with Microsoft Word and use D2L. Use of Zoom is optional, but recommended.

## **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- Each week you will post 3 times on the discussion board- a thorough response to the discussion prompt and two substantive comments on your peer's posts. Your response to the discussion prompt is worth 10 points each, and each comment on a peer's post is worth 5 points for a total of 20 points per week.
- Book Review- We will be reading 3 books during the semester. You will choose one of the books to write a critical, academic style book review. More information is included on D2L. Worth 50 points.
- Literature Review- You will choose a topic related to inequality and produce a summary and synthesis of existing research on that topic. More information is included on D2L. Worth 100 points.
- Presentation- You will record a presentation on the topic you chose for your lit review, sharing what you learned with your fellow students. In addition to posting your presentation, you must comment on at least 2 of your peer's presentations. More information can be found on D2L. Your presentation itself is worth 20 points and each comment on a peer's presentation is worth 5 points for a total of 30 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)

## **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).

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulties with any part of Brightspace (D2L), 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 am available through email during business hours (and, let's be honest, a lot of time outside of business hours). You can also drop into my Zoom office hours any time and, if you are local, my in-person office hours as well.

## **CORE 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
- If you experience a health in the family, serious illness, or other life trauma, please speak with 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 on the discussion boards 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
- I take plagiarism very seriously. The first instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 on the discussion post or paper. The second instance will result in a 0 in the class.

### **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**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments (due Saturdays at 11:59pm)</b>
1	Introduction	Syllabus	Introduction Post
2	Thinking About Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis</li> <li>Who Rules America? Power and Politics</li> <li>Inequality by Design</li> <li>Why Status Matters for Inequality</li> </ul>	Thinking about Inequality Discussion
3	Social Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Counts</li> <li>The New American Class Structure</li> <li>Defining Middle Class: Cash, Credentials, or Culture?</li> </ul>	Social Class Discussion

4	Unequal Childhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life</li> </ul>	Unequal Childhoods discussion, book review*
5	How Class is Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms of Capital</li> <li>• How to Hoard Opportunities</li> <li>• Coached for the Classroom</li> <li>• Cultural Knowledge and Social Inequality</li> </ul>	How class is maintained discussion
6	Poverty and the Underclass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pervasive Penalty: How the Criminalization of Poverty Perpetuates Homelessness</li> <li>• Flat Broke with Children</li> <li>• Poverty in America: New Directions and Debates</li> </ul>	Poverty and the underclass discussion
7	Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mark of a Criminal Record</li> <li>• The Mark of a Women's Record</li> <li>• The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African Americans</li> </ul>	Discrimination discussion
8	Evicted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</li> </ul>	Evicted discussion, book review*
9	Spring Break		
10	Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmented Assimilation on the Ground: The New Second Generation in Early Adulthood</li> <li>• Will the New Second Generation Experience Downward Assimilation: Segmented Assimilation Re-assessed</li> <li>• The Multifaceted American Experiences of the Children of Asian Immigrants: Lessons for Segmented Assimilation</li> </ul>	Immigration discussion
11	Racial Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Theory of Racialized Organizations</li> <li>• Still the Linchpin: Segregation and Stratification in the USA</li> <li>• Color-Blind Racism in Pandemic Times</li> <li>• Getting In, Getting Hired, Getting Sideways Looks: Organizational Hierarchy and Perceptions of Racial Discrimination</li> </ul>	Racial inequality discussion

12	Gender as a Structure of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gender Revolution: Uneven and Stalled</li> <li>• Gender as a Social Structure: Theory Wrestling with Activism</li> <li>• Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations</li> </ul>	Gender discussion
13	Intersectionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Combahee River Collective Statement</li> <li>• Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color</li> <li>• Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas</li> <li>• Structural Gendered Racism Revealed in Pandemic Times</li> </ul>	Intersectionality discussion
14	Black Feminist Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment</li> </ul>	Black Feminist Thought discussion, book review*
15	Literature Reviews		Literature Review
16	Presentations		Post presentation, comment on other student's presentations

\*You only need to do one book review