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**SOC 597- SOCIOLOGY of THE INTERNET
SECTION 01W— CRN# 27211
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2023**

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COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web Based Class): 1/17/2023 through 5/12/2023

This syllabus is intended to help you clearly understand the course goals, expectations, testing methods and topics we are going through so you may maximize your performance. It should also help you to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings that will affect your grade adversely.

Text

Manuel Castells: Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society. Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN13: 9780199255771, ISBN10: 0199255776.

Online version of the textbook: <http://books.google.com/books?id=Q1Mo-3ObWWgC&printsec=frontcover>

Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

This course explores the social implications of the Internet by introducing the history of the Internet, culture of the Internet, and looking over all the Internet related social activities. The course will combine online lectures, readings, virtual discussions and presentations. You will be asked to become an active rather than a

passive learner, and the more you put into this course, the more you will get out of it. Emphasis will be placed on:

- The Internet and its history;
- Understanding of culture of the Internet;
- Analyzing the impact on individual behaviors and society in large;
- The effect of e-business, e-commerce, e-education, and e-government;
- Digital divide in nation and worldwide;
- Globalization and the Internet.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As per the university rule, students taking one course with three credit-hours are expected to spend six hours in each week on studying lecture online, watching videos clips, reading chapters, doing assignments, and preparing quizzes and exams.

Attendance and Participation-

This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access D2L while you have time to participate various activities. Your regular participation activities, including the time spent online lessons, short videos and virtual discussions will be checked. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a week to avoid losing ONLINE ACTIVITY (or USER ACTIVITY) points.

There will be several points for ONLINE ACTIVITY. The points will not give to those who have less than minimum or zero minute of usage online in a week. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in a further loss of points from your overall performance points. It can mean a difference of a final letter grade as well. So take it seriously.

Assignments and Quizzes –

Assignments will include reading chapters, writing reading summary, and doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand class material and prepare the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have a plenty of notifications sent by emails and D2L notification. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. Late submission will cause a minimum 20% deduction of penalty for the first week, and then 10% each subsequent week late (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day and after taking the exams.

Online quizzes will be given to evaluate what have been covered in previous lectures. In order to do well on your quizzes and tests, be sure to bring your textbook while watching videos or lectures, take notes, read chapters, and

highlight important materials in the text and alternate reading materials. The style of quizzes will be multiple choices, true/false. Questions in your quizzes could be questions in your exams also. There is 1 more attempt after the due date of the quiz is over will be allowed. Your final score on this quiz will be the score of "the highest one of your attempts".

Open questions with page numbers will be given to students looking for answers while reading the textbook. Those questions will be included in quizzes and exams also.

Online Discussions and Term Project Presentation- There will be several online discussions and a final Term Project presentation during this semester. Students are request to participate virtual discussion via VoiceThread regularly. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on "netiquette" go to the. For detailed rules on "netiquette" go to the website:<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Writing Term Paper-

As part of the course work students must complete a term paper "Social Impact of the Internet: How the Internet influences my life". It is based on your cumulative knowledge learned in this course so that work diligently from the beginning of the semester is expected. Students will also be arranged in discussions for preparing your writing. The instructor will provide assistances through online or during virtual office hours and, if necessary, appointments can be set up to discuss any problems that could arise.

Exams-

There will be two exams during the semester. These exams are open-book format with multiple choices, short essays questions that based on class lectures, readings, and those quizzes you have taken. Students may use the textbook with notes arranged in convenient reference form. Students may not share notes with another student during the exams. The final exam is not cumulative and will cover the lectures presented after the midterm exam. Students will be provided with a study guide prior to the exams. There is 1 more attempt of taking the exam will be allowed. However, your final score on this exam will be the score of the "average of your attempts".

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered in a Stimulative Grading Scheme (SGS). This scheme provides an incentive to students who are excelling academically in this course. The SGS provides students with "Distribution Points to Date" three or four time in the semester, students will be easily having a perception of his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So students

are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submitting all assignments on time, and standing in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy

Attendance/Online Activity	10
Homework/Reading	80
Term Project	70
Quizzes & Online Discussions	140
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	100
Overall performance	20
Total	500

Overall performance points (20 points) based primarily on ranking percentile in class will be added on your total points. For instance, student who is at the 80th percentile will receive 18 points, and student who is at the 60th percentile will receive 14 points and so on (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in D2L).

Final grades will be assigned on the following aspects and scale:

Final letter grade:	A: 450-500
	B: 400-449
	C: 350-399
	D: 300-349
	F: below 299

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>

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 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.

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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: Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

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

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

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce

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

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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

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, 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 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.

Email Correspondence

In this course, email is an essential corresponding method and a supplement to lectures. This means that you can expect to hear from the instructor via emails regularly throughout the semester, such as using email for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Needless to say, students are expected to check email regularly in daily fashion (a couple of times a day). Conversely, you should feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions, requests or problems that might not be addressed clearly in online lessons.

You may access to your email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from D2L (and all other the university's emails) will go to this account. Conversely, you are to email me via the D2L email system or your myLeo email since the university spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and usually the emails in spam won't be checked. Email sent to the instructor should be with a subject to "SOC 597".

HOWEVER in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers, please post all class related questions in the Virtual Office. This will be our Q&A forum. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature or for a bonus point should be sent individually to the instructor's email address via D2L.

If you are having problems in class, please contact the instructor immediately. Please understand that you should not contact the instructor only at the end of the semester being unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The course schedule is tentative and somewhat subject to change. Although this course will follow the schedule, it is possible that some adjustments will be made as we progress through the semester.

Wk	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Jan. 17-	Welcome, Introduction to the course outline and syllabus.	

2	Jan. 23-	Introduction	Ch. 1
3	Jan. 30-	the history of the Internet	Ch. 3
4	Feb. 6-	The culture of the Internet.	Ch. 3
5	Feb. 13-	Internet Addicts and Its Social Problems	Ch. 4
6	Feb. 20-	CyberCrime and CyberSecurity.	Ch. 5
7	Feb. 27-	Review	
8	Mar 6-	*** Mid Term Exam ***	Ch. 1-5
9	Mar 13-	Spring Break	
10	Mar 20-	E-Business and New Economy.	Ch. 6
11	Mar. 27-	Computer-Mediated Communications	Ch. 7
12	Apr. 3-	E-education and Internet.	Ch. 8
13	Apr. 10-	Politics and E-government.	Ch. 9
14	Apr. 17-	Digital Divide.	Ch. 10
15	Apr. 24-	Review. Discussions.	Ch. 6-10
16	May 1	Virtual presentation of Your term paper.	
17	May 8-12	*****Final Exam*** As scheduled by the University	