



**SOC 311— Social Class, Wealth/Power  
SECTION 01W— CRN# 42411  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2023**

**Instructor: Dr. Jiaming Sun**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Lectures (Web Based Class):** Meets 6/5/2023 through 7/6/2023

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**

- Charles E. Hurst. Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences. 10<sup>th</sup>. Ed. 2019. eBook ISBN9780429275777; Or 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. or 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Allyn and Bacon (required). ISBN-10: 0205698298, ISBN-13: 9780205698295 or 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. ISBN: 9780205064779

Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

The main purpose of this course is to examine Social Inequality from a Sociological Perspective and provide an overview of the field of Social Stratification. Social Inequality, or Social Stratification, is a major feature of our daily experience. This course studies the distribution of three primary resources: class, status and power. Special attention is given to examine the ascribed statuses such as age, sex and race interacting with achieved statuses such as class, status and power stratification systems. Also the course will inspect the popular and scientific explanations of inequality, especially with

respect to the high and low ends of the distribution of income and wealth.

- To examine the basic sociological concepts and perspectives on social inequality and stratification;
- To understand the major sociological explanations for social inequality both within the United States as well as the global;
- To recognize what practices and institutions shape these diverse social groupings;
- To enable you applying the course material to your real-life experiences;
- To compare and contrast the popular/public perception of inequality with an academic/intellectual analysis of inequality.

### **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.

**Online Activity** This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access D2L while you participate various activities. Your regular participation activities, login times, visit time spent will be checked regularly. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a unit. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in loss of points (including in your overall performance points).

**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 indicated in D2L and emails. 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 to class, 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 highest score of your attempts.

Open questions with page numbers will be given to students looking for answers for after-class reading. Those questions will be included in quizzes and exams also.

**Writing and Presentation Your Project:** (**this assignment will not be required for summer course**) As part of the course work students must complete a project "Experiencing Inequalities in My Life". It is based on your cumulative knowledge of social inequality and its consequences learned in this course so that work diligently from the beginning of the semester is needed. Students will also be arranged in presentation of his/her own project. Virtual presentations will take place about Week 15 of the semester. The instructor will provide assistance online or during 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 will be based on online lessons, readings, and those quizzes you have taken and will be multiple choices, short essays. The exams are timed will be taken online either. Students may prepare for the exams by using notebooks and textbooks. Student may not share notes with other students during the exams. Students will be provided with study guide prior to the exams. There is 1 more Attempt of taking the exam will be allowed. However, your final score on the exam will be the score of "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 times in the semester, so students will be easily perceive 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**

Online Activity	60
Homework/Reading/Quizzes	160
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	80
Overall performance	20
Total	400

Overall performance points (20 points) is based primarily on student performance over the semester, such as overall assignment completions, user activities, class activities participations, etc., but not just a ranking percentile. All the records, including the percentiles a student received before the end of the semester, can be used as one of the bases for the overall performance of the semester and as a reference for the final evaluation (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in D2L).

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

**Final letter grade:**

- A: 360-400
- B: 320-359
- C: 280-319
- D: 240-279
- F: below 239

## **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**

This course is a D2L online supporting course (a web based course). D2L is a campus wide web-enhanced internet teaching and learning support system. Students taking this course will be able to surf online course website, get reading material, download and upload assignments, take online quizzes and exams, check grades and cumulative points with percentiles anytime online. If you are not familiar with the use of D2L or the Library Online Services, please avail yourself of the online tutorials that are available through your MyLeo web page.

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.

## **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](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](http://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](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 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 1301".

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.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings 7<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>
1	June 5-	The course outline and syllabus. An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality	CH1 (CH1)
2	June 7-	Economic Inequality	CH2 (CH2)
3	June 9-	Status Inequality	CH3 (CH4)
4	June 12-	Political Inequality	CH4 (CH5)

5	June 14-	Sex and Gender Inequality, Sexual Orientation and Inequality	CH5, 6 (CH6, 7)
6	June 16-	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	CH7 (CH8)
7	June 19-	<b>Review *** Mid Term Exam ***</b>	CH1-7 (CH1-8)
8	June 21-	Classical Explanations of Inequality	CH8 (CH9)
9	June 23-	Contemporary Explanations of Inequality	CH9 (CH10)
10	June 26-	The Impact of Inequality on Personal Life Chances	CH10 (CH11)
11	June 28-	Social Consequences of Inequality	CH11 (CH12)
12	June 30-	Social Mobility and Status Attainment: Openness in U.S. Society	CH13 (CH14)
13	July 3-	<b>Review *****</b>	CH8-13 (CH9-14)
14	July 5-	<b>Final Exam***</b> As scheduled by the University	