



**SOC 370**  
**Racial and Ethnic Diversity**  
**Fall 2023**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zachary Palmer

**Office Location:** BA 102F (subject to change when Ferguson reopens)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 10-11am, 4-5pm, or by appointment

**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 Text**

*Race in America* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer

InQuizitive will be utilized in this course, so make sure you have access to the Learning Tools

Additional required material will be posted on D2L

**Course Description**

A general survey of the sociology of race and ethnicity in the United States. Emphasis is placed on how race operates within societal structures, including education, politics, and housing.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Explain what sociologists mean when we say that race is a social construct
2. Identify how race has shaped (or been shaped by) historical, political, and economic forces
3. Recognize how racial inequality operates within larger social structures
4. Describe a racial democracy perspective and how it compares to other perspectives on race and racism

## 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

- InQuizitive Online Interactive Reading Quizzes- Each chapter has an associated interactive reading quiz, which will be taken through InQuizitive (links provided on D2L). You can answer as many questions as it takes to get 100%. Worth 10 points each.
- In-Class Writings- Each week there will be at least one short writing assignment completed in class. **You must be in attendance to complete that session's in-class writing**, as they will often be based on activities completed during class time. Three will be dropped, giving you some wiggle room in case of absences. Each will be graded on a check-plus (100%), check (85%), and check-minus (75%) scale.
- Podcast Project OR Final Exam- You can choose to either do a project OR take the comprehensive final exam. Details about the podcast project are posted 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:

<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 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

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties with any part of D2L, please contact Brightspace (D2L) Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found at <http://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am available through email during business hours and in my office during office hours. Please feel free to come by office hours at any time. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please reach out to me!

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Policies

- **Late Work-** I will only accept late work if you contact me within 24 hours of the deadline to make arrangements.
- **Attendance-** This is an in-person class, so attendance on time is required for in-class writing points. **If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you are not able to receive in-class writings points for that class session.** However, I drop your lowest 3 in-class writings to offer a little wiggle room, so please stay home if you are sick or think you are becoming sick.
- **Academic Dishonesty-** I take academic dishonesty seriously. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero on the assignment and a report to the Dean of Students.

- **Office Hours-** Office hours are for YOU! Please come by if you have any questions or worry you are falling behind in the class. If you cannot during the listed days/times, you can also email me to set up an appointment either in-person or through Zoom.

### **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, 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 34.06.02R1, 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

InQuizitive quizzes are due Tuesdays at 11:59pm (with the exception of weeks that do not have assigned chapters from the textbook). Students must have listened to podcast episodes by class time Thursdays

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Readings and/or Podcasts</b>
1	Race in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Ch 1, "Race Underneath the Skin" (Podcast)
2	The Invention of Race: Slavery & Colonization	Ch 2, "So What Exactly is 'Blood Quantum'?" (Podcast)
3	The Invention of Race: Immigration	"Who You Calling 'Hispanic'?" (Podcast)
4	Politics	Ch 3, "The Original Blexit" (Podcast)
5	Economics	Ch 4, "Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap" (Video)
6	Housing	Ch 5, "Location! Location! Location!" (Podcast)
7	Health	"This Racism is Killing Me Inside" (Podcast)
8	Crime and Punishment	Ch 6, "Imagining a World Without Prisons or Police" (Podcast)
9	Education	Ch 7, "A Tale of Two School Districts" (Podcast)
10	Aesthetics	Ch 8, "In the Name of Beauty" (Reading)
11	Associations	Ch 9, "Keep Your Friends Closer" (Podcast)
12	Thanksgiving	
13	Intimate Life	Ch 10, "A Prescription for Racial Imposter Syndrome" (Podcast)
14	Toward a Racial Democracy	Ch 11, "What Does it Mean to Inherit Whiteness?" (Podcast)