



SOC 574
Sociological Theory
Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer

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

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1pm in personal Zoom room (link posted to D2L) or by appointment

University Email Address: Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text: Theory for the Working Sociologist by Fabio Rojas, additional required readings posted to D2L

Course Description

This course focuses on the classical foundations of sociology and its contemporary extensions. The course features in-depth reading of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, 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 course, you should be able to...

1. Identify and explain major sociological theorists and the significance of their work
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 passed on the following scale:

A=90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D=60-69%

F=59% and below

Assessments

- Discussions- Throughout the semester, you will post your response to the primary source readings to the discussion board. Responses should consist of a paragraph summary of each reading and at least a paragraph per reading of your reaction/response. Additionally, you are required to post at least 1 comment per week to 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- 3 times throughout the semester you will write a 5-8 paper based on a particular prompt related to the readings. Each paper is worth 100 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: <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

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.

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. **For the purposes of this course, use of AI in writing discussion boards or papers is considered academic dishonesty.**

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

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

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

	Topic	Readings	Due
1	On Theory	Ch. 1	Introduction Post
2	Power & Inequality: Class	Ch. 2, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” and “Capital”	Discussion #1
3	Power & Inequality: Race	“Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation,” “Racial Formation in the United States,” “A Theory of Racialized Organizations”	Discussion #2
4	Power & Inequality: Gender	“Why Status Matters for Inequality,” “Doing Gender,” “What is Intersectionality?”	Discussion #3
5	Strategic Action: Rational Choice Theory	Ch. 3, “Exchange and Power in Social Life,” “Social Behavior as Exchange”	Discussion #4, Paper #1 due
6	Strategic Action: Economic Theories of Sociology	“Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness,” “Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital”	Discussion #5
7	Values and Social Structures: Culture	Ch. 4: “Division of Labor in Society,” “Suicide: A Study in Sociology,” “Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism”	Discussion #6
8	Values and Social Structures: Rationalization	“Bureaucracy,” “McDonaldization and Society,” “Modernity and the Holocaust”	Discussion #7
9	Social Construction: The Self	Ch. 5, “The Self,” “Presentation of Self in Everyday Life,”	Discussion #8, Paper #2 due
10	Social Construction: Reality, etc.	“The Everyday World as Problematic,” “The Social Construction of Reality,” “Simulacra and Simulation”	Discussion #9
11	Combining Different Theories: Bourdieu	Ch. 6, “Forms of Capital,” “Outline of a Theory of Practice”	Discussion #10
12	Thanksgiving		
13	Combining Different Theories: Foucault	Discipline and Punish,” “A History of Sexuality”	Discussion #11
14	Conclusion	Epilogue of textbook	Discussion #12, Paper #3 due