



**SOC 1301—GLB/INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY  
SECTION 01E— CRN# 20349  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2024**

**Instructor: Dr. Jiaming Sun**

Face-to-face Office Hours: M, W 9:00-10:50 am, F 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Virtual Office at D2L: 24/7 or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5321

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

Email: Jiaming.sun@tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Lectures (In-Person with Web-enhanced):** MWF 11:00a-11:50a (SS 150), Meets. 1/10/2024 through 5/10/2024

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**

- William E. Thompson, Joseph V. Hickey, Mica L. Thompson. *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology*, 8/E

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers | Published: 04/20/2016. ISBN-10: 9781442255975; ISBN-13: 978-1442255975 (required)

Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

This course has been selected as a Global Course—tied to the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Texas A&M University-Commerce QEP seeks to prepare students for an interconnected world. In relation to the QEP, students completing this course will be able to (LO1) demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems), (LO2) apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics, and (LO3) view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world. This course will provide activities, experiences, and opportunities to reach all of the QEP learning outcomes. The term project in this course will be utilized to assess the QEP student

learning outcomes for each student. Students are responsible for uploading a copy of the project to their ePortfolio in ManeSync.

This course is an introduction to basic concepts, theoretical perspectives and major issues in contemporary sociology. Sociology is a field of study that explains social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena in terms of social interactions, social structures, and social forces. This course will introduce you to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, social institutions, social class, inequality, race, and gender. The major aim of the course is to provide the student with an extensive overview of the discipline of sociology, introducing the student to the basic theoretical systems that generate a scientific analysis of contemporary social life.

The main goals of the course (SLOs) are:

- To understand essential terminology and assumptions central to this science;
- To understand how culture, socialization and social structure impact human behavior;
- To demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues and apply the sociological perspective to a study of social class, deviance, race, and gender;
- To understand how sociologists examine the primary institutions of any society including family, organization, religion, economy, and political structures;
- To be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

**Attendance and Participation**- This is in person with a wed-enhanced course. Your attendance is counted! You are required to participate in class meetings and access D2L in various activities as well. Your regular participation activities, including the time spent on 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 be given to those who have less than a minimum or zero minutes 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 in a final letter grade as well. So, take it seriously.

**Assignments and Quizzes** – Assignments will include reading chapters, writing a reading summary, doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand class material and prepare for the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have plenty of notifications sent by email. 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 later (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day after taking the exams.

Online quizzes will be given to evaluate what has 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 choice, 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. However, 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 for after-class reading. 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. Discussions will open when we begin a new unit of study, and they will close at midnight on the day prior to the examination that covers that unit material. Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on “netiquette” go to the website:<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

**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. These exams will be taken online). Students may use one sheet of compact 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 into 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 easily be having of his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So, students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submit all assignments on time, stand in the higher percentile of the distribution charts, etc.

#### **Grading Policy**

Attendance/Online Activity	40
Homework/Reading	80
Online Discussions and Term Project	90
Quizzes	90
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	100
Overall performance	20
Total	500

(See the detail in Stimulative Grading Scheme in Course Home of 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](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 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](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/)

<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>Wk</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Jan. 10-	Welcome, Introduction to the course outline and syllabus.	
2	Jan. 15-	Discovering Sociology.	Ch.1
3	Jan. 22-	Doing Sociology. The Development of Sociology. Sociology and Scientific Knowledge.	Ch. 2
4	Jan. 29-	Society and Culture. Globalization and Cultural Diversity.	Ch. 3
5	Feb. 5-	Socialization. Desocialization and Resocialization.	Ch. 4
6	Feb. 12-	Social Interaction in Everyday Life.	Ch. 5
7	Feb. 19-	Social Groups and Organizations. Deviance and Conformity. Social Control	Ch.6, 7
8	Feb. 26-	Social Stratification. Social Classes in the United States. Global Stratification	Ch. 8, 9
9	Mar. 4-	<b>Review *** Mid Term Exam ***</b>	Ch. 1-9
10	Mar. 11-15	<b>Spring Break</b>	
11	Mar. 18-	Race and Ethnicity, Discrimination. Sex and Gender.	Ch. 10, 11
12	Mar. 25-	Age and the Elderly. Families. Education	Ch. 12-14
13	Apr. 1-	Global Religious Diversity. Religious Diversity in the United States. Power and Politics, Democracy: American Style.	Ch. 15, 16
14	Apr. 8-	The Economy and Work. Health and Medicine.	Ch. 17, 18

15	Apr. 15-	Population, Urbanization and Ecology.	Ch. 19
16	Apr. 22-	Social Change, Collective Behavior, and the Future.	Ch. 20
17	Apr29-	<b>Review. Virtual presentation of Your proposal.</b>	Ch. 10- 20
18	May 6-10	<b>*****Final Exam***</b> As scheduled by the University	