



SOC 370: Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer

Office Location: Ferguson 232

Office Hours: W 10am-2pm (in person), 6-7pm (Zoom)

University Email Address: Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: *Race in America* (2nd edition) by Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer with e-learning tools (InQuizitive)

The e-learning tools should have come with your copy of the e-book. These will be an important part of your grade, so make sure you are able to access InQuizitive.

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this semester, 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You must be able to access a computer with Microsoft Word and use D2L

Instructional Methods

In-person with some online components

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

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 are used to measure attendance at participation. **Three will be dropped**, giving you some wiggle room in case of necessary absences. Each will be graded on a check-plus (100%), check (85%), and check-minus (75%) scale. Worth 5 points each.
- Midterm Exam- Mix of multiple choice and short-answer questions, worth 50 points. Taken in-class **Thursday, March 7th**.
- Podcast Project OR Final Exam- You can choose to either do the podcast project OR take the comprehensive final exam. Details about the podcast project are posted on D2L. Worth 50 points.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am available through email during business hours. You can also drop into my Zoom office hours or, if you are local, my in-person office hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance

This is an in-person class, so attendance on time is required for in-class writing points. **If you arrive in class after we have completed the in-class writing, you are not able to receive in-class writing points for that class session.** However, I drop your lowest 3 in-class writings because unforeseen circumstances arise every semester in which you may need to miss class.

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 come by during the listed days/times, you can also email me to set up an appointment either in-person or through Zoom.

Respect

We will be covering sensitive topics this semester related to race and racism. Please be respectful of your fellow students. Use of racial slurs and personal attacks toward other students will not be tolerated in this class and you will be asked to leave and I will contact the Dean of Students.

Late Work

I will only accept late work if you contact me within 24 hours of the deadline to make arrangements.

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](#).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDER

Week	Topic	Required Readings and Podcasts	Due
1	Introduction	Syllabus	How to Use InQuizitive Quiz
2	Race in the 21 st Century	Ch 1, "Race Underneath the Skin" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #1
3	The Invention of Race: Colonization and Slavery	Ch 2, "So What Exactly is 'Blood Quantum'?" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #2
4	The Invention of Race: Immigration	"Who You Calling 'Hispanic'?" (Podcast)	
5	Politics	Ch 3, "The Original Blexit" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #3
6	Economics	Ch 4, "WTF Does Race Have to Do With Taxes?" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #4
7	Housing	Ch 5, "Location! Location! Location!" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #5
8	Health	"This Racism is Killing Me Inside" (Podcast)	
9	Crime and Punishment	Ch 6	InQuizitive Quiz #6
10	Spring Break		
11	Crime and Punishment: War on Drugs	"By Any Other Name" (Podcast)	
12	Education	Ch 7, "A Tale of Two School Districts" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #7
13	Aesthetics: Media	Ch 8, "From Blackface to Blackfishing" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #8
14	Associations	Ch 9, "Keep Your Friends Close" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #9
15	Intimate Life	Ch 10, "A Prescription for Racial Imposter Syndrome" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #10
16	Toward a Racial Democracy	Ch 11, "How Does a Computer Discriminate?" (Podcast)	InQuizitive Quiz #11
17	Conclusion	None	Podcast (if not taking final)

Final Exam scheduled for Thursday, May 9th from 10:30-12:30

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.