



SOC 517: Teaching Sociology & CJ

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: *In the Trenches: Teaching and Learning Sociology* by Maxine P. Atkinson & Kathleen S. Lowney

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this semester, you should be able to...

1. Create a well-constructed syllabus
2. Communicate information effectively in a lecture format
3. Develop assessments and grading rubrics to measure student learning
4. Understand and discuss issues related to technology and accessibility in the contemporary college classroom
5. Clearly articulate a personal teaching philosophy

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Online, asynchronous

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

- Discussion Posts- There will be weekly discussions of the readings and course topics via the discussion board on D2L. This discussion is primarily a space for you to process the material and learn from each other. As such, it will be graded based on completion and only worth 5 points per week.
- Syllabus- You will put together a syllabus for an Introduction to Sociology class and turn in both the syllabus and a 2-3 page reflection on the process. This is due Sunday, February 18th at 11:59pm for a total of 25 points.
- Recorded Lecture- You will turn in a 10-15 recorded mini-lecture on a topic that would be covered in Introduction to Sociology and a 2-3 page reflection on the process. This is due Sunday, 3/10 at 11:59pm for a total of 25 points.
- Assessment & Rubric- You will develop an assessment (paper, activity, or other assignment) to measure student learning on a topic related to Introduction to Sociology, including a grading rubric as well as a 2-3 page reflection on the process. This is due Sunday, 4/21 at 11:59pm for a total of 25 points.

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- Teaching Philosophy- You will write a 2-3 page statement of your teaching philosophy. This should be similar to what you might submit in a job application. This is due Sunday, 5/5 at 11:59pm for a total of 25 points.

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.

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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>

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

Late Work

Late work poses a practical problem, one is that assignments are spaced out to create a manageable grading load and the other that it is impossible to track how students are doing in the course if, for example, all work is turned in at the end of the semester. However, I also understand that most of you have full-time jobs, are caring for children, etc. My solution is this: **There is a 48 hour grace period for all assignments, no questions asked. Beyond that, I will not accept late work.**

Plagiarism

I take plagiarism very seriously. The first instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 on the discussion post or assignment. The second instance will result in a 0 in the class. **For the purposes of this course, the use of generative AI in writing discussion posts or assignments is considered academic dishonesty.**

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

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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 / CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction	Introduction to textbook
Week 2	Learning Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes	Chapter 1
Week 3	Syllabus Construction & How Much to Cover	Chapters 2 & 3
Week 4	Choosing Teaching Techniques	Chapter 4
Week 5	Constructing a Lecture	Chapter 5

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Week 6	Active Learning & Inquiry Guided Learning	Chapters 6 & 7
Week 7	SPRING BREAK	
Week 8	Importance of Writing	Chapter 8
Week 9	Guiding Discussion	Chapter 9
Week 10	Critical Thinking	Chapter 10
Week 11	Measuring Student Learning	Chapter 13
Week 12	Grading	Chapter 14
Week 13	Teaching and Technology & Accesibility	Chapter 17 & Chapter 18
Week 14	Teaching Philosophy	Chapter 21

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