



**SOC 318-- URBAN SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY
SECTION 01W-- CRN# 81439
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2024**

Instructor: Dr. Jiaming Sun

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COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web Based Class): 8/26/2024 through 12/13/2024

This syllabus intends 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 avoid mistakes and misunderstandings that may affect your grade adversely.

Course Description

Urban Sociology and Anthropology. Three semester hours. This course examines the city and urban life in international perspective. Sociological and anthropological studies will be used to examine the development and growth of cities. The course examines concepts such as urbanism, over-urbanization, and urban primacy as well as social problems characteristic of contemporary urban life.

Text

- Mark Hutter. Experiencing Cities, 2/E, Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-10: 0205816851
ISBN-13: 9780205816859 (required)
- Jiaming Sun. Global Connectivity and Local Transformation. University Press of America. ISBN 0-7618-4008-7 (optional).
- Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

In Urban Sociology we will examine the reasons for the growth and development of cities and the different ways people live in cities. The

course will combine online lectures, readings, virtual discussions, writing a project and presentation. You will be asked to become an active rather than a passive learner. The more you commit yourself in learning of this course, the more you gained from it. The main goals of the course are:

- Be able to understand and compare different ideas as to the consequences of urbanization, and identify the different approaches to studying metropolitan areas;
- Be able to explain and identify what roles of institutions (i.e., religion, politics, economy) in the growth and development of cities in the U.S. and elsewhere;
- Be able to describe how the experience of living in cities differ from different groups based on their race, ethnicity, immigrant status, and social class;
- Be able to understand and utilize the research methods to examine cities and apply your sociological imagination to issues in your own life and community;
- Be able to reinforce your knowledge of the basic sociological concepts and analytical skills you learned in previous courses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

Online Activity This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access D2L while you participate various activities. Your regular participation activities, login times, visit time spent will be checked regularly. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a unit. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in loss of points (including in your overall performance points).

Assign/Quiz Assignments will include reading chapters, writing reading summaries, and doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand class material and prepare the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have a plenty of notifications sent by emails. 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 additional 10% each subsequent week late (up to 50 % deduction). No

late submission will be accepted by the day and after taking the exams.

There are several questions (OPEN QUESTION) with page numbers in the textbook for students seeking answers in each week. In order to do well on "Open Questions", be sure to watch the online lesson for every chapter and look at the page numbers indicated with the questions. Most questions have their answers directly from the textbook.

The style of quiz will be multiple choices, 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 "average of your attempts".

Writing and Presentation of Your Project As part of the course work students must complete a project "My Firsthand Experience of Urban Life". It is based on your cumulative knowledge of urban sociology learned in this course so that work diligently from the beginning of the semester is needed. Students will also be arranged in presentation of his/her own project. Virtual presentations will take place about Week 13 of the semester. The instructor will provide assistance online or during office hours and, if necessary, appointments can be set up to discuss any problems that could arise.

Exams There will be two exams during the semester. These exams will be based on online lessons, readings, and those quizzes you have taken and will be multiple choices, short essays. The exams are timed and will be taken online. Students may prepare for the exams by using notebooks and textbooks. Student may not share notes with other students during the exams. 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 the exam will be the score of "average of your attempts".

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered in 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 be

easily perceive his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submitting all assignments on time, and standing in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy

| | |
|--|------------|
| Homework/Reading/Quizzes | 160 |
| Online Discussions, and Virtual presentation | 80 |
| Midterm Exam | 80 |
| Final Exam | 80 |
| Research Project | 80 |
| Overall performance | 20 |
| Total | 500 |

Overall performance points (20 points) based primarily on student performance over the semester, but not just based on a ranking percentile. (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in D2L).

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

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.

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](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>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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, 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.

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

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 318".

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.

| Week | Dates | Topic | Readings |
|-------------|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Aug. 26- | Introduction course outline, and syllabus, Introduction to Experiencing Cities. | |
| 2 | Sep. 2- | Introduction to Experiencing Cities. | Ch. 1 |
| 3 | Sep. 9- | The Emergence of Cities | Ch. 2 |
| 4 | Sep. 16- | The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Urban Sociology | Ch. 3 |
| 5 | Sep. 23- | Chicago School: Urban Ecology and Urbanism | Ch. 4 |
| 6 | Sep. 30- | Urban Planning | Ch. 5 |
| 7 | Oct. 7- | Urban Political Economy, The New Urban Sociology, and the Power of Place | Ch. 6 |
| 8 | Oct. 14- | Review | Ch.1-Ch.6 |
| 9 | Oct. 21- | ***Mid Term Exam*** | |
| 10 | Oct. 28- | The City as a Work of Art | Ch. 7 |
| 11 | Nov. 4- | The Skyscraper as Icon | Ch. 8 |
| 12 | Nov. 11- | Urban Enclaves and Ghettos: Social Policies | Ch. 11 |
| 13 | Nov. 18- | Gender in the City | Ch. 12 |

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|----|----------|--|----------------|
| 14 | Nov. 25- | Downtown Stores: Shopping as Community Activity | Ch. 14 |
| 15 | Dec. 2- | Review, Virtual presentation of Your project; Discussion of Presentations. Review | Ch.7- Ch.14 |
| 16 | Dec.9-13 | ***Final Exam*** As scheduled by the University | |