



## **SOC 370: Racial and Ethnic Diversity**

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer  
Office Location: Ferguson 232  
Office Hours: MW 9-9:50, 11-11:50  
University Email Address: [Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu](mailto:Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: Email  
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Race in America (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer with e-learning tools (InQuizitive)

All additional material will be posted to D2L

### **Course Description**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this semester, you will 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 systems

*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**

- Keep up with the required readings and podcasts—this is critical for your success in this class and one of your major responsibilities as a student
- Come to class on be on time. It's hard to keep up with your classes when you miss significant amounts of in-class instruction.
- Drop by office hours as much as you want. We as your professors are in our offices during those times FOR YOU. Not only can this be a good way to get your questions answered, check on your progress in the class, or learn more about topics you're interested in, it is also a good way for professors to get to know you. If we know you well, we write better letters of recommendation when you are applying for jobs or graduate school because we have more to say!

## **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 Quizzes- Each chapter has an associated interactive reading quiz, which will be taken through InQuizitive. You can answer as many questions as it takes to get to 100%. Worth 5 points each. Due Fridays at 11:59pm.
- In-Class Writings- Each week there will be at least one short writing assignment completed in class. **You must be in attendance and on time to complete that session's in-class writing and they cannot be made up.** Three will be

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

dropped, giving you some wiggle room in case of absences. Each will be graded on a check-plus (100%), check (85%), check-minus (75%) scale. Worth 5 points each.

- Midterm Exam- There will be a midterm exam, based on a combination of multiple-choice and short essay questions, taken in-class on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Worth 50 points.
- Podcast Project- For your final project, you will research a topic related to race and, along with a partner, produce a 10-15 minute podcast on your topic. This is broken into multiple parts:
  - Topic Proposal- A Paragraph outlining your topic and choice of partner (5 points) **Due Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**
  - Annotated Bibliography- An annotated bibliography on your topic, containing a minimum of 5 peer-reviewed sources. You and your partner must each turn in your own annotated bibliographies completed separately (10 points), **Due Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**
  - Presentation- During the last week of class, you and your partner will present what you learned about your topic to your peers (5 points) **Completed in-class the week of April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>**
  - Recorded Episode with Transcript and Works Cited- You will submit a recording of your episode along with the transcript of your episode, and works cited (30 points) **Due Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am (the end of the final exam period)**

## 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)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## 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>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- I grant a 48-hour grace period on all InQuizitive quizzes with no questions asked. Beyond the 48-hour grace period, however, I do not accept late work
- This is an in-person class, so attendance on time is required for in-class writing points. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you may not be able to receive in-class writing points for that class session. I drop your lowest 3 in-class writings with the understanding that life happens and perfect attendance is not a reasonable expectation
- If something comes up in your life such as a serious illness, death in the family, etc. please let me know so that we can work together to make sure you do not fall behind in this class
- I take academic dishonesty seriously. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero on the assignment and a report to the Dean of Students. **For the purposes of**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**this class, use of ChatGPT and other forms of generative AI are considered cheating, however you may use AI to help you generate your transcript based on your recorded episode.**

### **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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

#### **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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

## **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 syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

### **AI use policy**

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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

| Week | Topic   | Required Readings and/or Podcasts  | Due  |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1    | Race in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century          | Ch 1, “Race Underneath the Skin” (Podcast)                                     | InQuizitive Quiz #1                          |
| 2    | The Invention of Race: Slavery & Colonization | Ch 2, “So What Exactly is Blood Quantum?” (Podcast)                            | InQuizitive Quiz #2                          |
| 3    | The Invention of Race: Immigration            | “Who You Calling ‘Hispanic’?” (Podcast)  |  |
| 4    | Politics                                      | Ch 3, “Paola Ramos on Defectors”   | InQuizitive Quiz #3                          |
| 5    | Economics                                     | Ch 4, “WTF Does Race Have to Do With Taxes?”                                   | InQuizitive Quiz #4                          |
| 6    | Housing                                       | Ch 5, “Location! Location! Location!” (Podcast)                                | InQuizitive Quiz #5                          |
| 7    | Health  | “In the World of Medicine, Race-Based Diagnoses Are Still Very Real” (Podcast) |  |
| 8    | Crime and Punishment                          | Ch 6, No Podcast   | InQuizitive Quiz #6                          |
| 9    | Spring Break                                  |  |  |
| 10   | Midterm Exam and More                         | No Podcast   |  |
| 11   | Education                                     | Ch 7, “A Tale of Two School Districts”   | InQuizitive Quiz #7                          |
| 12   | Aesthetics                                    | Ch 8, “Race, Romance, and Reality TV”  | InQuizitive Quiz #8, Topic Proposal          |
| 13   | Associations                                  | Ch 9, “Keep Your Friends Closer” (Podcast)                                     | InQuizitive Quiz #9                          |
| 14   | Intimate Life                                 | Ch 10, “A Prescription for Racial Imposter Syndrome” (Podcast)                 | InQuizitive Quiz #10, Annotated Bibliography |
| 15   | Toward a Racial Democracy                     | Ch 11, “How Does a Computer Discriminate?” (Podcast)                           | InQuizitive Quiz #11                         |
| 16   | Presentations                                 |  |  |

Recorded podcast episode due during the final exam period

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*