



## **SOC 485 Senior Seminar in Sociology, FALL 2023**

MWF 1-1:50 PM

SS 309

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Julia Meszaros, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson 230

Office Hours: IN PERSON: IN PERSON: M 3-4:30PM, W 3-4:30 PM ONLINE TUE 2:00-4PM  
and by appointment

University Email Address: [Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu](mailto:Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email and Zoom

Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 9-5

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

1. Lambert, Stephen. *Great Jobs for Sociology Majors* (available used on Amazon)
2. ASA Booklet: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Careers with an undergraduate degree in Sociology (provided online by me on D2L class site)

### **Course Description**

The course examines ways sociology majors can synthesize sociology curriculum and apply the sociological perspective to the real world, along with their knowledge and skills outside the academic world in real work settings. In addition, this course will guide students in the process of resume preparation, interviewing skills, graduate program, and career opportunities available

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with a sociology major. Special attention will be given to leadership skills needed in the world of work. Prerequisite SOC 111, 331, 332, 436, and a senior status.

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will be accountable for developing an intermediate (average) amount of sociological knowledge. Thus the student should be familiar with the majority of the sociological concepts that exist in most introductory textbooks. To measure this objective students will be expected to use the sociological concepts during class activities b. To measure this objective students will be expected to perform at least in an average manner (70 points or better) on a multiple choice and an essay exam to be administered during this course
2. Students will become familiar and investigate what professional employment exists for sociology majors. This SLO will be assessed in weekly in class assignments and projects.
3. Students will produce materials for their post graduation job search, such as a resume and cover letter. SLO will be measured by an assessment of these materials.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Students must be prepared to participate in group work and be prepared to take notes and complete work with their peers.
2. Students must come prepared to learn. That's why it is essential to participate in class discussions online and by reading the chapter ahead of time.
3. Please treat everyone with respect. Disrespectful behavior towards anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave the course if disrespectful behavior persists.

**Assessments:**

**Weekly Online Assignments (15X20=300)**

This class is a blended course, which means that a large component of this course will be online. Every week Friday you will have an online assignment related to reviewing sociological materials from the various theoretical and methodological things you have covered in previous Sociology courses and assignments directed towards preparing for the job market.

**Research Paper: (200)**

This assignment will allow students to continue demonstrating their ability to construct a senior quality research paper. Students will demonstrate their skills in conceiving a thought and following it through to completion. Students may use the ASA or APA style of writing and citation (students ought to know the difference between these two styles of citation). Pick a topic and share it with me if you want to ensure that it is sociological.

- The research paper assignment will be worth 200 points.
- The paper must have at least 3 scholarly references.
- The paper must be at least 5 pages double spaced (not including the cover or the reference pages).

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As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and PURDUE OWL. It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

### **Midterm Exam: (200)**

The midterm exam will review basic sociological concepts to ensure that students have developed a relative knowledge of the major theories and methods within the discipline of Sociology. The midterm exam will be multiple choice, 50 questions and focus on the sociological themes we discuss in the beginning of the course

### **Job Preparation Packets (3X100)=300**

**Resume (100 points):** You will craft a professional resume that you can utilize when you graduate to apply to professional jobs after your college.

**Cover Letter (100 points):** You will craft a professional cover letter directed for two jobs that you want to apply to.

**Mock Interview (100 points):** I will partner you with each other to conduct mock interviews with each other. You will have to dress to impress as if you were truly interviewing for a position. You will work on potential interview questions in one of your weekly assignments.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Attendance will also be crucial in order to complete in-class assignments.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered partially online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

**Grade Policies:** For incompletes, you must speak with me ahead of time and have completed most of the course work. **I do not round grades**, and I do not change grades after they have been submitted. Grades are available on D2L so you can track your up to date progress in the course.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

You are allowed to attend three on campus events and write a paragraph relating them to Sociology. Each paragraph is worth 5 points and will be graded at the end of the semester.

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## 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

## 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.

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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**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific 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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance 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>

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## **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  
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/>

## **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**

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

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Week One Theoretical Backgrounds of Sociology

- Review of main sociological theories
- Online assignment due
- Read handout on D2L

Week Two Feminist and Critical Social Theories

NO CLASS ON MONDAY FOR HOLIDAY

- Read Patricia Hill Collins, "It's all in the family" (PDF online)

Week Three Ethics of Social Science Research

- read Michael Zimmer's "But the data is already public: Ethics of doing research on Facebook"
- Online assignment due

Week Four Research Design: Qualitative vs Quantitative

- Online assignment due
- Read article by Robinson, Brandon Andrew. "Non-Binary Embodiment,

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Queer Knowledge Production, and Disrupting the Cisnormative Field: Notes  
From a Trans Ethnographer

Week Five Analyzing Contemporary Research

- Read article by Sweet, Paige. "The Sociology of Gaslighting"
- Online Assignment

Week Six MIDTERM EXAM

- Review materials for exam
- EXAM DUE 2/21

Week Seven Searching for Jobs/Grad Programs

- Read Handout online
- Online assignment

Week Eight Crafting a Resume

- Read Various links to resume guides online
- Online assignment

SPRING BREAK

Week Nine Crafting a Cover Letter

- Read various links to cover letter guides online
- RESUME DUE 3/21

Week Ten Requesting Letters of Reference

- COVER LETTER DUE 3/28

Week Eleven Feedback on Materials

- Peer Feedback
- Online Assignment

Week Twelve Preparing for Interviews

- Read various guides to interviewing
- Online Assignment

Week Thirteen Interviews

- Interview Prep

Week Fourteen Writing Research

- Research Brainstorming
- Online Assignment

Week Fifteen Doing Own Research

- Feedback on Research Paper Draft

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Week Sixteen: FINALS WEEK  
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE 5/6!

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