



## SOC 595 01W SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Julia Meszaros, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson 230

Office Hours: In office 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

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email and Zoom**

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Textbook Required:** Books: *The Structure of Scientific Revolution* by Thomas Kuhn  
(Will upload a PDF copy on D2L)

*The Literature Review: A Step by Step Guide for Students* by Diana Ridley

### Course Description

This is a graduate course that prepares students to write research based literature reviews. The course will cover a variety of techniques for collecting literature related to a research topic, as well as various techniques for writing a successful literature review. Students will also discuss the process of knowledge creation and researchers' roles in producing knowledge.

### Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to examine their role as researchers in knowledge production.
2. Students will be able to conduct research of previous literature relating to a research topic of their choice.
3. Students will be able to write a well crafted literature review of a research topic of their choice.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered entirely 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.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Weekly D2L Discussion Posts: (11 posts @ 30: 330 points total)

Each week students will need to post a 500 word summary of the week's readings and how the readings help situate scientific knowledge creation and assessment. The first three weeks' readings will focus on knowledge creation while the rest of the semester will focus on reviewing other people's scholarly studies. Students must interact with at least two of your fellow students' post each week.

Research Question and Hypothesis (1@ 100 points)

You will choose a research topic that interests you and will be responsible for crafting a research question and hypothesis. Please provide an introduction to your topic..what are the main questions you are interested in examining? Why is this topic an important topic for research? Provide a general overview in addition to your research and hypothesis. Should be one to two pages long.

First Draft of Literature Review: (1@200 points)

Each student will choose a research topic to craft a literature review about. The literature review draft will focus on synthesizing the major arguments and literature surrounding the research topic that the student has chosen. Should be six to eight pages long double spaced.

Concept Mapping: (1@20 points)

Students will draw or create a concept map that outlines their main arguments and the literature that they will be using.

Final Literature Review (1 @ 300 pts: 250 points total)

Each student will turn in a final draft of the literature review that has been reviewed by at least two peers and that addresses the professor's feedback from the first draft. Should be six to eight pages long.

Total Class Points: 1000 Points

Grade Scale: A 900-1000

B 800-899

C 700-799

D 600-699

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

F Below 600

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.

## 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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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**

#### **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>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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](#)

[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/>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Week One:

-Introduction Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Read First half of Thomas Kuhn's Scientific Revolution

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Week Two:  
Second half of Thomas Kuhn's Scientific Revolution  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Three:  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM  
Read Donna Haraway's Situated Knowledges  
Article on Standpoint Theory

Week Four:  
Read Chapter 1 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Analyzing the Past article  
\*\*Research Question & Hypothesis due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Five:  
Read Chapter 2 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Read Dissertation Lit Review PDF  
Weekly Discussion post due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Six:  
Read Chapter 3 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Evaluating Scholarly Sources article  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Seven:  
Read Chapter 4 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Article on Note Taking  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Eight:  
Read Chapter 5 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Chp 1 of Doing a Literature Review  
\*\*\*First Literature Review Draft Due due Friday by 11:59 PM

SPRING BREAK

Week Nine:  
Read Chapter 6 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Chp 2 of Doing a Literature Review  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Ten:  
Read Chapter 7 of Ridley's Literature Review  
Chp 3 of Doing a Literature Review  
Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Week Eleven:

Read Chapter 8 of Ridley's Literature Review

Chp 4 of Doing a Literature Review

Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

\*\*\* Peer Review 1 Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Twelve:

Read Chapter 9 of Ridley's Literature Review

Chp 5 of Doing a Literature Review

Weekly Discussion Post Due Friday by 11:59 PM

Week Thirteen:

Read Chapter 10 of Ridley's Literature Review

Chp 6 of Doing a Literature Review

Week Fourteen:

\*\*\*Argument Concept Map Due by 11:59 PM

FINAL WEEK

FINAL LITERATURE REVIEW DUE 5/6 by 11:59

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*