



SOC 1301 01H: Introduction to Sociology, Honors
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Professor
Office Location: Ferguson Room 218
Office Hours: On Campus: M/W 7:00 am to 9am, 10:00 am to 10:30 am and by appointment
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 24 to 48 Hours, M-F, 8am to 5pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: None
Software Required: Access to course website- you need to have an active email username and password. I will post your grades to the course website, as well as your powerpoints, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Course Description

SOC 1301 – GLB/Intro to Soc
Hours: 3

This course is designed to help students better understand the social world in which they live as well as provide a foundation for other courses in sociology. It provides an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including globalization, diversity, socialization, social control, social order, social stratification, ethnicity, social deviance, and social change. This course emphasizes global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems) from a sociological

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

perspective, and helps students view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

Sociology is the systematic study of society and the humans that interact within that society. This course is designed as an introduction to the discipline of sociology and “thinking sociologically.” Sociology is fundamentally about rethinking our “common sense” views of society. At times sociological research confirms our perceptions about society and other times it challenges commonly held views. This course will expose you to how sociologists study society. We will cover fundamental concepts and theories in sociology and examine a number of examples of sociological research and practice. Our ongoing goal will be to assess the ways in which society structures our lives- through human and social groupings, social institutions, and ideologies.

In addition to required readings and class discussions, students will become familiar with sociology through short written assignments and other in and out of class activities.

Honors Designation Addendum

This section of SOC 1301 is an Honors-level course and integrates the East Texas A&M Honors College mission to connect, create, and contribute. Honors students will engage in additional projects, theoretical analysis, and applied sociological inquiry to deepen their learning experience. Expectations include leading discussions, conducting mini-research projects, and integrating scholarly sources into reflective and analytical writing.

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

The purpose of the course will be to gain a basic understanding of sociology in a global world. By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate knowledge in:

1. Sociological Knowledge: Students should be able to demonstrate a sociological perspective based on critical thinking in order to better understand the social world in which they live and interact on a daily basis.
2. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.
3. Empirical/Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.
4. Sociological Application: Define and give examples of basic sociological terms and concepts that will help them better understand their social world and to lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields.
5. Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify and interpret several of the major theoretical perspectives used in sociology
- Identify and interpret the influence of culture, socialization and group membership on individuals
- Identify and interpret the major dimensions of social inequality in society

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- Apply sociological concepts and theories to your personal experiences, your observations of others and your thinking on larger social issues to produce sociological explanations for human behavior

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the Learning Management System, Powerpoint, Microsoft Word, and Internet.

This class will meet twice a week (M/W) on campus and students will have out of class Friday assignments, unless otherwise noted, during our regular class time.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Do the reading ahead of time: Reading about a definition or issue and then hearing about it in class will help to cement your knowledge of the definition or issue. This will be very beneficial when it comes time to study for your exam.

Take Notes: I will use a power-point style presentation for this class, however this power-point presentation is not all inclusive. I will be making many important points during lecture, and these will not be included on the power-point. The power-point is to be used as an outline to help you while you take notes; not to be the only notes you take.

Face Your Fears: Ask questions in class. I do realize that this can be hard, especially in a large class. However, asking questions is the only way to find out information you want to know, and it is likely that your classmates may have the same question.

Make Yourself Known: Showing an interest and letting me know you have an interest will help you understand the material, and help me understand you. Talk to the instructor!

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GRADING

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 270–300 Points

B = 240–269 Points

C = 210–239 Points

D = 180–209 Points

F = 179 & below

Assessments

Total: 300 Points

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- **Sociological Scrapbook (50 points)**
Create a scrapbook (digital or physical) that includes sociological artifacts such as news articles, memes, ads, or photos. Each artifact must be accompanied by a brief sociological analysis connecting it to course concepts or theories. Honors students should include at least two artifacts tied to peer-reviewed research or theory.
- **Mini Research Project: Student-Designed Sociological Inquiry (75 points)**
Design and conduct a small-scale sociological study, such as 1–2 interviews, a short survey, or an observation. Submit a brief proposal, a 3–4 page analysis connecting findings to at least one sociological theory, and a short presentation (recorded or in-class).
- **Theory Deep Dive Essay (40 points)**
Choose one major theorist (e.g., Marx, Weber, Du Bois, or Collins) and write a 2–3 page essay applying their ideas to a current social issue. Your analysis must include at least three academic sources.
- **Discussion Leadership & Prep Sheet (25 points)**
Co-facilitate one class discussion by summarizing key points from the reading and preparing 2–3 discussion questions. Submit a one-page prep sheet that also includes a relevant current event or media example.
- **Discussion (5 @ 10 points each = 50 points)**
Participate in five in-class discussions by interacting with thoughtful responses that connect course concepts to real-world examples.
- **Classroom Contributions & Honors Check-Ins (60 points)**
Active participation and engagement throughout the course, including brief check-ins or reflections on your progress, feedback for peers, and updates on your research project.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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

Late Work Policy: Late work (except in class activities like discussions) will be accepted without question for up to one week after the original due date and will be subject to a 10% penalty. Assignments submitted more than one week late will not be accepted unless prior approval has been granted by the instructor. Please reach out as early as possible if you anticipate needing additional time.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

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

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Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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.

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

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.

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

AI IN DR. FARRIS' CLASSROOM

You're welcome to use AI tools (like ChatGPT), Grammarly, or similar support services in this class—as long as you're using them the way you'd use me: as a resource to support your learning, not as a shortcut to avoid doing the work.

Think of it like this:

Would you ask me to write your discussion post for you?

Would you ask me to complete your final project or reflection?

Probably not—and if you did, I'd (kindly) say no!

But would you ask me to help brainstorm ideas, explain a sociological concept, give feedback on a rough draft, or suggest ways to structure your response?

Absolutely. That's using support in a way that still keeps the work (and the learning) yours.

If you do use any AI tools (including Grammarly or ChatGPT), you must note it at the bottom of your assignment.

Just a short line is fine—for example:

- “I used Grammarly to check grammar and clarity.”
- “ChatGPT helped me outline my initial ideas for this post.”
- “I asked ChatGPT to explain symbolic interactionism in simpler terms.”

Being transparent helps build trust and keeps our academic work ethical and clear.

If you're ever unsure whether you're using AI appropriately, just ask yourself: *Is this something I would ask my professor to do for me?*

If the answer is yes, you're probably on the right track.

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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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Subject to change. Most Fridays are asynchronous/out of class unless underlined and italicized. When we meet on Zoom, I expect cameras on and participation.

Week 1: The Sociological Perspective

Mon 8/25 – First Day of Class: Introductions, Syllabus, Honors Overview, Sociological Scrapbook Launch

Wed 8/27 – The Sociological Perspective (Print notes if desired)

Fri 8/29 – *Optional Zoom check-in for scrapbook and theory questions*

Week 2: Sociological Perspective & Culture

Mon 9/1 – *Labor Day – No Class*

Wed 9/3 – Culture: Norms, Values, and Symbols

Fri 9/5 – *Discussion: Media & Cultural Messages (Zoom during class time)*

Week 3: Socialization

Mon 9/8 – Socialization Begins (Distribute Norm Breaking Assignment)

Wed 9/10 – Agents of Socialization

Fri 9/12 – *In-Class Discussion & Application Exercise (Zoom during class time)*

Week 4: Social Structure & Interaction

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Mon 9/15 – Social Structure / Status & Roles

Wed 9/17 – Social Interaction / Dramaturgy

Fri 9/19 – *Discussion: The Self in Society (Zoom during class time)*

Week 5: Norms, Rules & Breaking Them

Mon 9/22 – Norm Breaking Lab Day (Mandatory attendance)

Wed 9/24 – Share and Analyze Norm-Breaking Experiences

Fri 9/26 – *Norm Breaking Reflection Due (11:59pm)*

Week 6: Sex & Gender

Mon 9/29 – Introduction to Sex and Gender (Distribute Gender Assignment)

Wed 10/1 – Gender Norms & Socialization

Fri 10/3 – *In-Class Discussion: Gendered Expectations (Zoom during class time)*

Week 7: Gender & Inequality

Mon 10/6 – Film: *And the Band Played On*

Wed 10/8 – Continue Film / Class Discussion

Fri 10/10 – Begin Gender Assignment Write Up (out of class)

Week 8: Marriage & Family

Mon 10/13 – The Sociology of Family (*Read: The Second Shift excerpt*)

Wed 10/15 – Family Roles & Inequality

Fri 10/17 – *In-Class Discussion: “The Second Shift” (Zoom during class time)*

Week 9: Doing Sociology – Research Methods

Mon 10/20 – Sociological Research / Ethics

Wed 10/22 – Gender Assignment Final Write-Up (Mandatory)

Fri 10/24 – *Gender Assignment Due 11:59pm*

Week 10: Theory Deep Dive

Mon 10/27 – Classical & Contemporary Theorists

Wed 10/29 – Workshop: Connecting Theory to Today (Prep for Essay)

Fri 10/31 – *Theory Deep Dive Essay Due 11:59pm*

Week 11: Race & Ethnicity

Mon 11/3 – Race as a Social Construct / “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”

Wed 11/5 – Race, Privilege, and Inequality

Fri 11/7 – *In-Class Discussion: Colorblindness & Privilege (Zoom during class time)*

Week 12: Race & the Criminal Justice System

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Mon 11/10 – Begin Film: *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

Wed 11/12 – Continue Film & Discussion

Fri 11/14 – *Discussion + Reflection (CC Check-In) (Zoom during class time)*

Week 13: Deviance & Social Class

Mon 11/17 – Deviance and Social Control

Wed 11/19 – Stratification & Social Class

Fri 11/21 – *Mini Research Project Workshop (Proposal or Progress Check) (Zoom during class time)*

Mon 11/24 – Fri 11/28 – *Thanksgiving Break – No Class*

Week 14: Social Class & Inequality

Mon 12/1 – In-Class Exercise: Class Mobility and Privilege

Wed 12/3 – Film: *People Like Us: Social Class in America*

Fri 12/5 – *Discussion: Class and the American Dream / CC Due (Zoom during class time)*

Week 15: Final Week

Mon 12/8 – Final Scrapbook Presentations & Reflections

Wed 12/10 – Mini Research Project Presentations (if not already submitted)

Fri 12/12 – *All Final Assignments Due by 11:59 PM: Scrapbook + Mini Research Project + Final Check-Out*