East Texas A&M University

Soc 436.01W Sociological Theory
Online Course Syllabus
August 25, 2025 - December 12, 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Willie Edwards, Professor
Office Location:	Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217
Office Hours:	MWF 10:00am – 12;00PM
	TTH 2:00p – 5:00pm
Office Phone:	(903) 886.5331
Office Fax:	(903) 886.5330
University Email Address:	willie.edwards@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	(email)
Communication Response Time:	(within twenty-four hours during the weekday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required
Software Required
Optional Texts and/or Materials

Course Description

Sociological Theory. This course examines the nature of theory and reviews major sociological theories, especially structural-functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory, and interactionism. Special attention is given to leading figures representative of the above schools of thought. Prerequisite: Sociology 1301 Introduction to Sociology or its equivalent.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to define, describe and explain the major theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Students will demonstrate their gained accumulated knowledge of sociology theories in written and oral forms.
3. Students will be able to identify the major differences within each theoretical paradigm.
4. Students will apply their individual theoretical lens to the world around them as they develop an explanation of how that social system functions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentations and graphic programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

Course Requirements & Assignments

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the assigned readings.
2. Students should ask the professor questions if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures and class discussions if required or if the class is taught in that type of environment.
4. Students must make the most of the "easy" grades, so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

GRADING

Course Possible Points:

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The following grade scale will be used:

A =

B =

C =

D =

F =

Assessments

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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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

Contact of Professor:
Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Class attendance and participation are expected, especially for this class, senior seminar. I do not plan to build attendance into the class requirements at this point and hope no need will arise to do so. Students are expected to be present and ready to contribute when the class is in session.

Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavorably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class period. Early departure from the classroom will be dealt with accordingly.

Telephone and pagers must be turned off unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.).

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. East Texas A&M University does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation of stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: http://www.plagiarism.org or http://www.unc.edu/depts/scweb/handouts/plagiarism.html.

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Students should be doing everything within their power to become better equipped to secure employment within the field and therefore should maintain a good attitude and desire to learn as much as possible as they prepare to graduate from this university.

The professor will communicate with students through using the individual email address through the *MyLeo* system. Students should make sure they frequently check their email address.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MyLeo account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a Class' from among those choices found under the MyLeo section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

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

ETAMU 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

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
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 &

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with

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all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on 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 East Texas A&M University buildings only by people 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 ETAMU 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.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at ETAMU 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**

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University 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

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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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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