



SOC 370 Racial and Ethnic Diversity Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Race in America (3rd edition) by Matthew Desmond, Mustafa Emirbayer, Karida Brown, and Victor Ray

You must have the version that comes with access to InQuizitive!

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Weekly required podcasts will be posted to D2L.

Course Description

A general survey of the sociology of race and ethnicity in the United States. Emphasis is placed on how race operates within societal structures, including education, politics, and housing.

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

After completing this course, you should be able to...

1. Explain what sociologists mean when we say that race is a social construct
2. Identity how race has shaped (or been shaped by) historical, political, and economic forces
3. Recognize how racial inequality operates within larger social systems

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Syllabus/schedule are subject to change

Instructional Methods

Lecture, activities, and in-class discussion.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Make sure you do the weekly reading and keep up with the InQuizitive quizzes. If you struggle with accessing the book, contact the bookstore. If you struggle with accessing InQuizitive, go to <https://www.norton.com/help>.
- Regular attendance and active engagement are essential to your learning. Participation is not possible if you are not present!
- If you are confused, struggling, or going through something that will impact your performance in this course, please reach out to me sooner rather than later! I am happy to help get you back on track, but I can only do so if you let me know you need help.

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 of the textbook has an associated interactive reading quiz that will be taken through InQuizitive. You can answer as many questions as it takes to get 100%. Quizzes are due every Friday at 11:59pm. Worth 10 points each.
- **In-Class Writings-** Each week there will be at least one short writing assignment related to the course material (often based on an in-class activity). You must be in attendance to complete that session's in-class writing and they cannot be made up. Students who arrive in class after the in-class writing has begun may not receive credit for that day's writing. Three will be dropped, giving you some wiggle room in case of absences. Each will be graded on a check-plus (100%), check (85%), check-minus (75%), or minus (25%) scale. Worth 10 points each.
- **Podcast Project-** For your final project, you and a partner will research a topic related to race and produce a 15-20 minute podcast on your topic. Your podcast should clearly demonstrate your understanding of course material by engaging with theories and key concepts we've covered, while also extending these ideas beyond what has already been covered in class through independent research and analysis. This will be broken into multiple parts:
 - Topic Proposal- A paragraph outlining your topic and choice of partner (10 points)
 - 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 (25 points)
 - Presentation- During the last week of class, you and your partner will present what you learned about your topic to your peers (15 points)

- Recorded Episode with Transcript and Works Cited- You will submit a recording of your episode along with the transcript of your episode and a works cited page. Your final episode must clearly utilize and cite at least 5 peer-reviewed sources. (50 points)

Course Outline/Calendar

InQuizitive Quizzes due every Friday at 11:59pm! Listen to each week's podcast episode by class time on Friday and come to class prepared to discuss.

Week	Topic	Required Readings and Podcasts	Notes
1	Race in the 21 st Century	Ch 1, "Race Underneath the Skin"	
2	Invention of Race: Slavery and Colonization	Ch 2, "So What Exactly is Blood Quantum?"	No Class Monday for MLK Day
3	Invention of Race: Immigration	"Who You Calling Hispanic"	
4	Politics	Ch 3, "The Co-Opting of MLK Jr. By...Everybody"	No Class Friday, discussion board post for Friday
5	Economics	Ch 4, "WTF Does Race Have to Do With Taxes?"	
6	Housing	Ch 5, "Location! Location! Location!"	
7	Health	"How Race Science Shows Up at the Doctor's Office"	
8	Crime and Punishment	Ch 6, "The Police Are Our Friends?"	
9	Spring Break		
10	Education	Ch 7, "A Tale of Two School Districts"	
11	Aesthetics	Ch 8, "The Evolution of Blackface in the Age of AI"	
12	Associations	Ch 9, "Black Praise in White Pews"	
13	Intimate Life: Relationships	Ch 10, "Keep Your Friends Closer"	
14	Intimate Life: Identity	"A Racial Imposter Epidemic"	
15	Toward a Racial Democracy	Ch 11, "How Can a Computer Discriminate?"	
16	Presentations		

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>

Syllabus/schedule are subject to change

LMS Browser Support:

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

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@etamu.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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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.

Syllabus/schedule are subject to change

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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 requirements and follow their instructors'

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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

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

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@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.

