Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/

SOC 535 01W: Readings in Sociology

COURSE SYLLABUS:SPRING 2026
Meets 1/29/2026 to 5/8/2026
Web Based Class

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Professor
Office Location: Ferguson 218
Office Hours: Online and by appointment
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: Email**
Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

SOC 535:

1.Collins, Patricia Hill. 2009. Black Feminist Thought. ISBN: 9780415964722. Full text available through TAMUC Library Website
 2. Marx, Karl. Communist Manifesto. Full text available through TAMUC Library Website
3. Smith, Dorothy. 1987. The Everyday World as Problematic. ISBN: 9781555530365
4. Goffman, Erving. 1959. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life. ISBN: 9780385094023

5. Mills, C. Wright. 1959. Sociological Imagination. ISBN: 9780195007510 Full text available through TAMUC Library Website

6. Thompson, William. 2019. Sociological Wisdom. ISBN: 9781538127889 Full text available through TAMUC Library Website

The instructor will also distribute other readings as necessary- most likely via email or on the course website.

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 discussions, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

None

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION: **This online graduate course explores advanced sociological principles through the use of selected classic and contemporary readings. Students will be expected to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of sociological materials and to analyze and discuss them from divergent theoretical perspectives.**

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

Through readings and other materials, we will pursue the following course objectives.

1. Apply a sociological perspective to the world.
2. Use analytical and critical thinking skills; especially the ability to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of materials.
3. Familiarize students with some of the important classical and contemporary literature/sociological theorists.
4. Express ideas in written communication.
5. Prepare students for other graduate courses and the written comprehensive exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course will be conducted entirely via the web. All components of this class are online. We will not meet any time as a class. This course is primarily administered through D2L. If you need help using D2L, please see the technology services staff for help.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc. Ignorance about details given in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the D2L web site cannot be accepted as an excuse in any manner. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements and grading procedures. That will be the key to doing well in the course. Also, please feel free to ask me questions about the course requirements through e-mails as needed.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

2. This is an online course. Read instructions given under each week carefully.
3. All of your exams will be based on your text book.
4. You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates.

Please specify the following in your e-mail: your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I check your record before responding to your need or question. You can also get an appointment to see me before and after each class or through an e-mail to me.

Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the eCollege. If you have problem with your email system, please contact the Instructional Technology office. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website and in the undergraduate catalog.

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*

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would ask my professor to do for me?
If the answer is yes, you're probably on the right track.

A Note on AI/ChatGPT Use

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
For this course, the use of AI is NOT allowed. The use of AI will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment for the first offense. The second offense will result in a grade of F for the course and submission to the academic dishonesty committee.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following 1000 point scale:

900-1000 =A
800-899=B
700-799=C
600-699=D
500-0=F

POINTS SYSTEM:

Assignment	Points	SLO's Addressed
Weekly Discussion	10 @ 50 pts (500)	1; 2; 3
Book Critiques	5 @ 100 pts (500)	1; 2; 3; 4

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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

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 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

The instructor's communication response time and feedback on assessments are stated clearly.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Assignments
Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.

Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Weekly Discussions: There will be 10 online discussions. Discussion questions will be posted that relate to the books and other relevant readings.

NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and believes on some topic which they know absolutely nothing about. Online discussions should reflect critical thinking and contain complete sentences that are grammatically correct. This is an academic course and your discussion topics will be linked directly to reading assignments. Your posts, as such, should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. Cite your sources where appropriate. It is fine to critique, interpret, and occasionally interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand. Always be polite and courteous when responding to someone else's comments or questions. The use of AI/Chat GPT is prohibited.

Critical Book Reviews: There will be 5 book critiques worth 100 points each. These should be 3-4 pages in length (typed, double spaced) and submitted to the appropriate Folder. See guidelines for writing reviews and see the course schedule for due dates of each review. The use of AI/Chat GPT is prohibited.

Points are accumulated in this course instead of averaged. You will have a grade report on D2L keeping track of your points as this semester progresses. Your grade is <u>not</u> negotiable.

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.

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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 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

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

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Gee Library- Room 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

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/34Safet yOfEmployeesAndStudents/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.

Everything will be due at 11:59pm via D2L unless otherwise stated.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Week	Topic	Read	Assignments	Due Date
1: 1/29	Introduction, Syllabus, General Concepts, Code of Ethics	Thompson Ch 1-2	Discussion 1 (50 points)	2/1 11:59pm
2: 2/2	Histories	Thompson Ch 3-4	Discussion 2 (50 points)	2/8 11:59pm
3: 2/9	Marxism	Marx	Discussion 3 (50 points) Critical Response to Marx (100 points)	2/15 11:59pm
4: 2/16	Sociological Imagination	Begin Mills	Discussion 4 (50 points)	2/22 11:59pm
5: 2/23	Sociological Imagination	Finish Mills	Critical Response to Mills (100 points)	3/1 11:59pm
6: 3/2	Symbolic Interaction	Begin Goffman	Discussion 5 (50 points)	3/8 11:59pm
7: 3/9	SPRING	BREAK		3/15
8: 3/16	Symbolic Interaction	Finish Goffman	Critical Response to Goffman (100 points)	3/22 11:59pm
9: 3/23	Standpoint Theory	Begin Smith	Discussion 6 (50 points)	3/29 11:59pm
10: 3/30	Standpoint Theory	Finish Smith	Critical Response to Smith (100 points)	4/5 11:59pm
11: 4/6	Feminism	Begin Collins	Discussion 7 (50 points)	4/12 11:59pm

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12: 4/13	Feminism	Finish Collins	Critical Response to PCH (100 points)	4/19 11:59pm
13: 4/20	Interaction/Social Roles	Thompson Ch 5-6	Discussion 8 (50 points)	4/26 11:59pm
14: 4/27	Social Behavior	Thompson Ch 7-8	Discussion 9 (50 points)	5/3 11:59pm
15: 5/4	Social Change	Thompson Ch 9-10	Discussion 10 (50 points)	5/9 (SHORT WEEK) 11:59pm

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