

SOC 311 01W SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

SOCIAL CLASS, WEALTH/POWER

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Room SS230

Office Hours: ONLINE by appointment (ZOOM)

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 9-5

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required: Books: *Social Inequality and Social Stratification in US Society* by Christopher Doob (Routledge)

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of privilege and hierarchy in society, beginning with earlier societies and then moving to contemporary analyses. While the course description highlights the importance of class, we will also discuss important hierarchies based on race, gender, sexuality, and nationality. Students will learn how privileges and hierarchies were formed historically and how they continue in contemporary society. Students requirements will focus on critically analyzing stratification and privilege within greater society.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify various forms of social stratification and hierarchy.
2. Students will be able to define various forms of social privilege.
3. Students will be able to critically evaluate cultural productions of stratification.

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: (5posts @ 40 pts: 200 points total)

Each week students will need to post a 500 word summary of the week's readings and how the readings help to understand a video that pertains to the topic for the week. Students must interact with at least two of your fellow students' post each week.

Exams: 4 Exams (@200 points each, 800 Total)

The exams will be non-cumulative and only cover each week's reading materials from the assigned chapters. Exams will be 50 questions long, and you will have a time limit of 60 minutes. Exams will include multiple choice questions. All exams will be taken on D2L

Total Class Points: 1000 Points

Grade Scale: A 900-1000

B 800-899

C 700-799

D 600-699

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.

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students must be prepared to participate in group work and be prepared to take notes and complete work with their peers. Peers are an important source of learning and we must always work collaboratively in the “real world”.
2. Students must come prepared to learn. That’s why it is essential to participate in class discussions and by reading the chapter ahead of time.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. Please treat everyone with respect, including your peers and instructor. Disrespectful behavior towards anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated. I will discuss any incidences of disrespectful behavior privately the first time it occurs. You will be asked to leave the course if disrespectful behavior persists.

How do we engage in respectful behavior:

- **Critique Ideas, Not People:** You are expected to thoughtfully challenge arguments and assumptions using evidence and sociological concepts. You are never permitted to demean, belittle, or personally attack a classmate or the instructor.
- **Engage with Empathy:** Recognize that classmates come from diverse backgrounds with different lived experiences. Assume good intent, listen to understand, and be mindful of the impact of your words.
- **Maintain a Professional Learning Environment:** All communications—in discussion forums, on collaborative documents, and in any live sessions—must adhere to standards of academic and professional conduct.

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>

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>

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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

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.

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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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One (7/06-7/12): Introduction, Marx, Global Inequality

Read Chps, 1, 2, and 3

Online Discussion Due: 7/12

Week Two (7/13-7/19): Foundations of Inequality, Hierarchy, Middle Class

Read Chps 4, 5 and 6

Online Discussion Due: 7/19

Exam 1 Due: 7/19

Week Three (7/20-7/26): Working Class, Poverty, Race

Read Chps 7, 8 and 9

Online Discussions Due: 7/26

Exam 2 Due: 7/26

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Week Four (7/27-8/2) Gender Oppression, Conclusion

Read Chps 10 and 11

Online Discussion Due: 8/2

Exam 3 Due: 8/2

Week Five (8/3-8/16): Forced Migration

Online Discussion Due: 8/6

Exam Four Due: 8/6