Psychology & Sociology of Diverse Populations  
PSY 310.001 Syllabus  
Texas A & M – Commerce  
Henderson 207  
MWF 10:00am to 10:50am

**Instructor**  Morgan Saxon, Graduate Assistant Teaching  
**Phone**  972.742.3012 Text or call  
**E-mail**  Morgan.Saxon@tamuc.edu  
**Office Hours**  By appointment at BIN 101

**Catalog Course Description:** This course will examine the variables which affect the educational perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors of the microcultures which comprise our population. This course will include, but will not be limited to, culture as a function of socioeconomic status, religion, gender, language, age, exceptionality, geographical origins and ethnicity.

**Student Learning Outcome:** One overall goal of this course is to prepare students for an interconnected world. In this class students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of interconnectedness of global dynamics (e.g., issues, processes, trends, and systems). To demonstrate knowledge of interconnectedness of global dynamics students will be asked to write a final paper that connects concepts presented in class to global issues.

**Technology Requirements:** You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.


**Required Supplemental Readings**  
Class handouts  
Web-based articles and reports (delivered through eCollege)

**Students with Disabilities:** 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  
Gee Library Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Administrative Policies and Requirements:

Attendance. Attendance in this course is mandatory. There will be class demonstrations, discussions, and films designed to enrich your learning experience. And further, the text for this course is thick with information: coming to class will help clarify concepts and focus your studying. Each student will be allowed up to 3 unexcused absences; if you have more than 3 unexcused absences your grade will be reduced by one full letter grade. For every 3 additional unexcused absences your grade will be reduced by one full additional letter grade. All absences will be considered unexcused except as mandated by University policy for University excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. In addition, students that are 15 or more minutes late for class will be considered absent.

Email. All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) and eCollege accounts associated with this class. All class communication will be done through Leo Mail/eCollge. I WILL NOT send communication about the class to personal email accounts. If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused. Also, students will NOT be allowed to make up exams unless the absence is considered excused. In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed within 1 week of the original due date.

Drop Policy: Students are responsible for officially dropping/withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of “F”. Please refer to the academic calendar in order to be aware of drop dates.

Grading:

1) Exams: There will be a Midterm and a Final. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions and possibly short answer/essay type questions. Exams will be accessed and completed through eCollege. Each test is 100 points (200 points total)

2) Online Discussions: In lieu of meeting on Fridays, students will participate in class discussions held through eCollege. Students will make an original post by Friday at 11:59pm where they will discuss their thoughts and reactions to the material discussed in class earlier that week. Students will then respond to posts made by their classmates by Sunday at 11:59pm. Students do not have to respond to each of their classmates, but must demonstrate knowledge of the material and add value to the discussion through their responses. Each discussion post will be worth 10 points (Maximum of 100 points).

3) Final Paper: The final paper will consist of a 2-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, left/right margins 1”, top/bottom margins 1”, saved as .docx .doc or .rtf). In this paper you will (1) define a concept or multiple concepts that you learned in this class, (2) describe the concept(s), (3) describe an issue that affects people in multiple countries (e.g., social injustice, environmental issue, political issue), (4) describe how the concept(s) you learned in this class apply to understanding the global issue (or how to mitigate possible negative outcomes.
of the issue). For this paper to be included in your ePortfolio you must earn 70% or higher on this paper. Please use APA format and be sure to cite any outside sources (e.g., newspapers, websites, journal articles). The paper is worth 100 points. The final paper is due (to the dropbox on eCollege) by Sunday, November 29th by 11:59PM.

4) Attendance/Participation/In-class Activities: With the nature of this course and the subject, we will have in class discussions frequently. It is vital that everyone contributes in order to get a better understanding of different views on the topics at hand. Thus participation in class will be worth 100 points.

5) EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit assignments may be assigned to the class as a whole throughout semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Grade Assignments:
A = 450-500 points
B = 400-449 points
C = 350-399 points
D = 300-349 points
F = < 300 points

Student Conduct:
“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me. Students who plagiarize any material or engage in cheating will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students will be assigned seating by the instructor. If students are not in their assigned seat during a given class period they will be marked absent. The instructor reserves the right to change the seating arrangement at any time during the semester. Students who are tardy to class are required to sit in the designated area so their attendance may be verified at the end of class. Anyone more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent for the day.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Other forms of Technology:
Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class. If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me prior to the beginning of class and leave your cell phone on top of the desk. Otherwise, I should see no cell phones during the course of the class. Students using cell phones during class without permission may be asked to leave and will be counted absent. Other forms of technology are treated as above.
Changes to the syllabus
Minor changes may be made to the syllabus. If changes are made, announcements will be made in class, will be emailed out, and will be posted on ecollege.

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, and ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.

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**The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 14th between the hours of 10:30am and 12:30am.