SOC 331:  
Introduction to  
Social Research  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER  
2017 (July 10 to August 10)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Assistant Professor

Office Location: SS 218  
Office Hours:

Office Phone: 903-886-5169  
Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email  
Communication Response Time: Regular Business Hours, 24 Hours Response Time

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required


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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
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 powerpoints, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
Optional Texts and/or Materials: None

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to research methods and focuses particularly on the application of social research, developing fundamental, conceptual and empirical research skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The course will provide students with tools to be able to apply in their own research and to understand scholarly work produced by others. The main goals of the course are (upon successful completion of the course the student will):

- Understand the relationship between theory and research as they apply to social science as well as to public policy; λ
- Demonstrate a wide variety of research techniques and design issues that are utilized in social science research; λ
- Describe survey instrumentation and be able to develop a quality survey questionnaire; λ
- Enable to use appropriate techniques to answer research questions; λ
- Identify the components of and be able to construct a research proposal; λ
- Identify as well as evaluate a variety of reference materials, including journals and valid internet sites that are used in social science research endeavors.

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 ecollege. If you need help using ecollege, please see the technology services staff for help.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

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 eCollege web site cannot be accepted as 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.

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.

GRADING

GRADING SCALE:

POINTS SYSTEM:
Weekly Assignments 10@30pts each 300
Exams 2@150 pts each 300
Article Critiques 4@100 400

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab.  http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx

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: It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site  http://247support.custhelp.com/

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.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number.
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you.

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility BEFORE the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support
Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myLeo.
https://leo.tamuc.edu

Learner Support
The One Stop Shop was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/

The Academic Success Center provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success. http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
The best way to contact me is by email (Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu). When you do so, please include your name, which section you are in, and your message. I check email during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm) and I will try to respond within 24 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are expected to hand in assignments on time. If, due to some emergency or illness, this proves impossible, students are required to contact me by way of explanation before assignments are due, and, if necessary, provide evidence of illness.

READINGS: You are expected to complete all readings on time and be prepared to discuss them in class. There is a lot of reading in this course, none of which is optional. If you get behind, it will be difficult to catch up. You need to complete the readings prior to the class session in which they will be discussed. You will learn more if you do so. I highly recommend that you take careful notes on the assigned readings so that you can learn more, retain information, and prepare for exams.

Weekly Assignments: Please check the Doc Share folder for your weekly assignments.

Article Reviews: You will be responsible for locating and reviewing four (4) academic journal articles throughout the term. These articles can be on whatever you choose, as long as the subject pertains to SOCIOLOGY. You can find more information on how to access academic journal articles through the library webpage:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUSediKX45c

Information for the article reviews will be uploaded on eCollege.

EXAMS: There will be two (2) exams (one midterm, one final) given over the course of the semester. The exams will be short answer/essay. Each exam will cover material from class/lectures/discussions and readings from your books.

Points are accumulated in this course instead of averaged. You will have a grade report on eCollege keeping track of your points as this semester progresses. Your grade is not 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
**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


Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

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

**ADA Statement**

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

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**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
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.

** COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR **

** All assignments are due Sunday night at 11:59pm CST. Please note the exception for the final week of class **

| Lectures 1 and 2: Read Babbie Chapters 1 and 2; Complete Assns. 1 & 2 | Due: 7/16 |
| Lectures 3, 4 and 5: Read Babbie Chapters 3, 4, 5; Complete Assns. 3 & 4; Article Review 1 Due | Due: 7/23 |
| Lectures 6, 7 & 8: Read Babbie Chapters 7, 8 and 9; Complete Assns 5, 6, 7; Article Review 2 Due; Exam 1 Due | Due: 7/30 |
| Lectures 9 and 10: Read Babbie Chapters 10, 11; Complete Assns. 8 & 9; Article Review 3 Due | Due: 8/6 |
| Lecture 13,14,15: Read Babbie Chapters 13, 14, 15; Complete Assn. 10; Article Review 4 Due; Exam 2 Due | Due: 8/10 |

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.