

[PDF of new Syllabus here](#)

Class Location: Online

Professor: Candace Korasick, PhD

Office Hours: By appointment via Teams

Contact: candace.korasick@tamuct.edu

Course Description: This course examines social inequality and categories of difference from a sociological perspective. Students will interrogate social difference and stratification on the basis of race/ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality by examining how these categories are constructed, institutionalized, and experienced.

Course objectives:

- Students will gain social, cultural, and global perspectives in thinking about human difference and inequalities.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by drawing connections between various structures of inequalities.
- Students will be able to place contemporary patterns of social inequality in a historical context.
- By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to identify mechanisms and processes in contemporary life that contribute to patterns of inequality.

Mode of instruction and course access: This course is 100% online and uses the A&M-Central Texas CANVAS Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find 100% of the information related to this course, including discussions, quizzes, and exams. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change.

Contacting your professor: The best way to contact me is through email (candace.korasick@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and a couple of times on Sundays. I do not respond to email after 5 PM. ; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. (I encourage you to send your email as soon as you have an issue that needs my attention. I don't even mind if you send multiple emails as information unfolds. Just be aware that I will not respond until morning.)

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Required reading materials:

Ore, Tracy E. 2023. *The Social Construction of Difference & Inequality*, 8th Edition. Oxford University Press.

Other required materials will be available on Canvas or through the course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: *unequal*

Course requirements:

Below is a description of the four main activities for this online course. They include (1) reading assignments, (2) mini essays, (3) participation on the course discussion boards, and (4) one final exam.

You will notice that most of your grade is based on weekly work, which means it is imperative that you keep up with readings and weekly assignments. Students who ignore the weekly assignments and attempt to “catch up” later in the semester have a very difficult time passing the course.

Reading assignments and other materials

Readings for the course are listed in the schedule below. Students should complete the weekly readings before attempting to complete any assignment, including discussion boards. **Additional readings will be available online in the [course E-Reserves folder](#).** E-Reserve readings are marked on the course schedule as “eRes” readings and are just as important as the readings from your book. ****Our E-Reserve password is: unequal** (all lower case)

- I will also provide you with links to news articles and audio or video clips in the weekly modules. (I will be using NPR quite a bit as radio features are suitable for listening to while you drive, exercise, do chores, etc.) Please be sure to look at all the supplemental items I post, as they are a part of our learning materials for the course. Your final exam may include questions on any of the readings, instructor videos, & supplemental materials.
- Every week will include at least one, and usually three or four, short videos from me. Think of them as mini lectures. I try to keep them to 20 minutes or less. There will be no visuals (other than captions) so that students can strip the audio & listen to them while doing other things.

Mini essays (40% of total grade)

Instead of a major term paper, students will compose four (4) mini essays that reflect on a weekly topic. These essays will be private (i.e. can only be viewed by the student and instructor) and are your chance to analyze and reflect on the readings for the week. **Essays should be 500-750 words** and should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the facts and themes contained within. These essays do not need a title page. They should be single spaced, 12-point font, with a *reference list and in-text citations*. Students should use ASA or APA style. **Mini essays are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM CST.**

- There will be seven (7) mini essay prompts to choose from. Students may complete five (5) and have their lowest score dropped.
- These prompts will have rolling due dates, with the first one being at the close of week 2 and the last at the close of week 8. In other words, you cannot complete all of them at the end of the semester. (That creates too much stress for you and too much work for me.)

Discussion Boards (40% of total grade)

Students will participate in weekly discussion boards. Your primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday**. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers' primary posts.

Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday. Late posts will not receive credit.**

****Please see the detailed instructions for discussion boards posted to Canvas here: [DISCUSSION BOARD INSTRUCTIONS](#)**

Final Exam (20% of total grade).

There will be one comprehensive final exam that covers readings, discussion boards, and any other supplemental material we engaged with during the semester. It will include multiple choice, matching, true false, and short answer questions. You will have a three-day window to complete the exam. It will not be timed. However, once you open it, you must finish it. (That is, you cannot save your answers and return to them later.)

Extra Credit (up to 2.5% added to your final grade)

I am a big fan of rewarding students for paying attention to details. To that end, there are 8 small extra credit assignments hidden throughout the syllabus & in some of the assignment prompts. Each completed task will earn you a 0.25% bump to your final grade. For example, each student who emails me a photo of a moose by the end of the day on Friday, Sept. 1 will earn their first 0.25%.

Students who participate in the "Introductions" discussion board by the end of the day on Sunday, Sept. 3 will earn 0.5% extra credit. (**NOTE:** This is separate from Discussion Board 1, which is due August 31!)

- If several of the students who complete an assignment fail it, I *may* offer an assignment for students to recoup some of those points. It will be open to everyone, and not required of anyone. These are few & far between, but not out of the realm of possibility.

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the CANVAS grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments, like our discussion boards, could require more time to read through and give individualized feedback. For such assessments, you may need to be patient.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up and late policies

This is a 100% online course. You are responsible for managing your time to make sure you complete all assignments on time.

There are no make-ups for discussion posts. In the event that a student experiences an illness, injury, or other emergency that causes them to miss a discussion board, the student has the right to an alternative assignment to make up missed points. The instructor will choose the alternative assignment.

Make-ups for **mini essays** may be granted on a case-to-case basis. That said, solid planning and judicious use of your time should make this unnecessary as you only have to complete 4 of 7 essays.

A student may only make up **the final exam** if there is illness, injury, or another *documented* excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor’s note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Korasick as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. *If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.*

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism on any assignment (discussion boards, quizzes, journals, etc) will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are confused, please ask me. If an assignment is found to be plagiarized, the student will receive a zero for that assignment and a referral to Student Affairs. If the plagiarism is egregious, the student will receive an F for the course. We will be using the built-in plagiarism checker for the mini essays. See also: section below on Academic Integrity.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html]. If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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