

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY DIVERSITY AND CIVILITY STATEMENT
CONDENSED VERSION
February 2020

The Department of Sociology supports Texas A&M's commitment to diversity and welcomes individuals of all abilities, ages, citizenships, educations, ethnicities, family statuses, gender identities, genders, languages, military experiences, political views, races, religions, sexes, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences (<http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).

Exposure to many different ideas and viewpoints, and experiences with people from various backgrounds and disciplines is key to your education. Sociology is the research-driven study of our social world, not a set of ideas with which you must agree. This course may feature content and discussions challenging your deeply held beliefs, encouraging you, as a student of social science, to examine your beliefs and why you hold them. Exposure to sociological frameworks with which you disagree develops your ability to navigate diversity around you, and the discomfort it can generate, which you may experience throughout your education, and in your career.

This course promotes learning through respectful and civil discourse. Frame discussions with classmates and the instructor using rules of evidence and present ideas with civility and respect. Each student can make valuable contributions. Beliefs, values and experiences expressed or shared by classmates should be respected if presented respectfully. Discussions should focus on ideas, not individuals. Inside and outside the classroom (including electronic venues such as *GroupMe*), students should engage in reasoned discussion without derogatory comments and dehumanizing language about other persons, groups, or viewpoints. No action(s) counter to this standard will be tolerated and offending students may be barred from further discussions.

Student Conduct Code Rule 21 will be strictly enforced. TAMU respects freedom of expression for instructors and students, but classroom conditions must support the rights of (1) instructors to teach and (2) students to learn. Classroom behavior interfering with exercise of either of these rights will not be tolerated. Disruptive classroom behavior may result in disciplinary action (section 24.4.15; <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule21/>).

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior (i.e., rude, unprofessional, inappropriate and/or harmful to others) in the classroom, in meetings during office hours, or during class-related communications outside lecture (online or in-person), will result in a warning from the instructor or TA. However, for seriously disruptive or disrespectful behavior, no warning will be issued, and action will be taken, which may involve immediate removal from class. If negative behavior persists following a warning, the instructor and/or TA will require an in-person meeting with the student and Sociology Department Head/Associate Head to discuss and document a behavior modification plan, to be signed by the student and forwarded to the Department Head. Further infractions will immediately involve the Department Head and Academic Dean (per Rule 21).