SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Anthropology, Geography, Sociology
SOC338.500 (Online)
Spring 2016

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Office Hours: MW 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM; TR 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM; TH 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM or by appointment
Department: Anthropology, Geography, Sociology
Class time: Online; one face to face meeting at the end of the semester for a course assessment

Required Texts:

Course Description: This course is the study of social problems, their sociological explanations, and their potential solutions. Topics include family instability, aging, environment, health care, war, crime, minorities, poverty, and drug abuse.

Sociology program learning outcomes:

1) The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
2) The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
3) The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
4) The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
5) The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
6) The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
7) The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.
Student learning outcomes:

1. Students will compare and contrast theories associated with sociological perspectives in social psychology.
2. Students will be able to appreciate the interconnectedness of the individual and society.
3. Students will recognize and discuss social psychological research methodologies.
4. Students will gain an understanding of how diversity in human society is a vital element of the social world.
5. Students will learn to analyze a specific social phenomenon, issue, or problem.
6. Students will learn the differences between macro-sociology and micro-sociology.
7. Students will gain an understanding of how society impacts their day-to-day lives.

Course Requirements (Online Class)

This class meets online and I expect consistent class attendance. Online courses are self-paced and it is the responsibility of each student to dedicate enough time each week to maintain a good grade. While I do not deduct points for poor attendance, I track the amount of time that each student spends online completing assignments, taking quizzes, and interacting with other students. Missed blogs and missed submission deadlines will negatively affect your final grade. Students are expected to take quizzes and complete assignments on time. **Since you have a window of time to complete your exams, anyone who misses any exams will only get to have a retake with a documented absence from the Student Office of Rights and Responsibilities. There will be no retakes for missed blogs.**

Activities and Assignments

In addition to the quizzes, students will write a reflection paper, a book review, log a semester journal dealing with environmental problems, and develop a poster that will be done as a group project; due at the end of the semester. I have posted the guidelines for all assignments in the Getting Started Module. Refer to your Timeline for due dates for all assignments. D2L also does not allow cutting and pasting from Mozilla Firefox so I suggest that you always use Internet Explorer to avoid problems.

Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blogs x 4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes x 4</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of semester final assessment (F2F)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final reflection paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group poster</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester journal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points:</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale (based on total accumulation of points)

900 – 1000 = A; 800 - 899 = B; 700 – 799 = C; 600 - 699 = D; < 600 = F

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of honesty and University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to: 1) Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade in a class; 2) Falsifying information in a paper or other assignment; 3) Helping another student cheat or plagiarize

*Plagiarism occurs when the words or ideas or another person are presented as if they were your own.*

Examples of plagiarism include: 1) Submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; 2) Submitting a paper that has been purchased or obtained from the Internet or another source; 3) Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit

Disability Policy

Any student with a documented disability who needs course adaptations or accommodations, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable documented circumstances such as military deployment, a family emergency, or health emergency that results in hospitalization or long term disability. It is the responsibility of the student to report any health or other problems that result in missing class assignments to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. An email is immediately sent to all instructors. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which
they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**DISCLAIMER:** This syllabus represents an overview of this online course. As with any document, it is subject to change during the semester. Any changes will be communicated by email and in announcements on your D2L homepage.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENT DATES:**

A course calendar with important due dates is posted in the Getting Started Module on D2L. Listed below is an abbreviated calendar:

February 12: First exam opens on D2L @ 8:00 AM
March 4: Exam two opens on D2L @ 8:00 AM
April 8: Exam three opens on D2L @ 8:00 AM
April 13: Book review due in D2L @ 10:00 PM
April 20: Position paper due in D2L @ 10:00 PM
April 22: Final journal documents due in D2L @ 10:00 PM
April 29: Group projects due in D2L @ 10:00 PM
May 2: Final formal assessment, face to face, F482 @ 5:00 PM (*Pizza, Pizza*)