**Syllabus: Social Problems**

**Course Title & Number: Course Semester**

**Instructor:**

Name & Bio

Email:

Office:

Office Hours:

**INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION**: Provide instructions here for how to communicate with instructor. Do you ask students to email? Do you employ the three before me rule?

**COURSE MEETING INFORMATION**:

Provide detail here about where and when your class will be meeting. If online course, clarify expectations for student engagement.

**WHAT TO EXPECT? :** In this section I like to give a short overview of sociology for those who haven’t taken a class before. This section provides a “heads up” for students to be aware that in the course we may discuss difficult or contentious topics. I also emphasize here that students must show the instructor and other classmates respect

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**:

SOCI 1306: Social Problems: (3-0-3)

Analysis of the major problems of contemporary society, including the social causes of these problems and the public policy consequences of solutions. Topics include inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, deviance and family problems.

*Assessment Level: R3, E3, M1*

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Academic Course Guide Definition:**

SOCI 1306: Application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, deviance, or family problems.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.
3. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.
4. Discuss how solutions to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.
5. Describe how the proposed solutions to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

**CORE Curriculum Course Outcomes:** This course is a Core Curriculum Social and Behavioral Science Foundation Component course. The core objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundational Component area are:

1.     **Critical Thinking:** to include creative thinking; innovation; inquiry; and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

2.     **Communication:** to include effective development and interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

3.     **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

4.     **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence; knowledge of civil responsibility; and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Share here what technical requirements there are. Do you utilize a certain LMS? Have certain rules about computer/phone use in the classroom? Make clear to students what you’re expectations are regarding technology.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Textbook: [*Social Problems: Continuity and Change*](https://library.achievingthedream.org/herkimersocialproblems/) by Tim McLean
2. Computer Access (Canvas, Email, Webdmc, Word/Microsoft 365)
3. Additional Assigned Materials listed on Canvas

The materials on this course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated. The materials on this course website may be protected by copyright; any further use of this material may be in violation of federal copyright law.

**COURSE EVALUATION**: Course grades will be based on three exams, one paper, paper assignments, participation assignments, and discussion board posts. Each component has the following weighted percentages:

Exams (Exam 1-3) 40%

Paper 25%

Paper Assignments 5%

Participation Assignments 15%

Discussion Posts 15%

TOTAL 100%

Course letter grades will be based on the following percentages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Average |
| A  AA        A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% and below bbbelobelow80-83% |

**EXAMS**:

* There will be three multiple-choice exams. The exams (3 total) will count for 40% of your final grade. All exams will include material from the lectures, assigned readings, assigned videos, and participation assignments. You will be examined on material in the readings that are not covered in the lectures and on material covered in the lectures that are not in the readings.
* How will exams be taken? Determine this based upon your class.

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS ANALYSIS PAPER:**

* This paper will be worth 25% of your final grade.
* Students will first choose a social problem they are interested in; and then through scholarly research identify the causes, scope, and consequences. They then will research an organization that attempts to address this social problem, and strategize ways to solve the selected social problem.
* Throughout the course students will be given assignments to assist in writing the social problems paper (paper assignments).
* Late Policy
* Paper Submission Process/rubric

**PAPER ASSIGNMENTS:**

* Paper assignments will be due by WHEN?
* Throughout the semester students will be asked to submit aspects of the paper as an assignment. These paper assignments are primarily for students’ benefit and to keep on track with completing the paper prior to the end of the semester. Therefore, it is to the students’ benefit to complete theses assignments to the fullest!
* The assignments will be graded on a 2-point scale based on if material is correct/sufficient and if the assignment is complete.

**DISCUSSION POSTS:**

* Each week students will be expected to participate in discussion boards in place of in-class discussion. Each week students will be given a prompt or set of questions. At minimum you are expected to complete the following:
* Ideally students will discuss beyond the minimum requirements, as discussion helps to facilitate learning and development of communication skills. Detailed instructions and rubric are posted on Canvas.
* Late policy

**PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS:**

* Participation assignments will be due by WHEN**.** Participation Assignments count for 15% of your final grade.
* Late policy

**LATE WORK POLICY:**

* Describe here what your late work policy is for students. Or if you do not accept any late work.

**TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE:** What are students required to do? What advice do you give for how students can be successful in your class?

Ex. *It is important to review your notes after class and at the end of each week to ensure that you understand the material.* These reviews also help to avoid the problem of being overwhelmed by the material at exam time.

**(Be sure to include the policies from your institution)**

**COLLEGE GRADING SYSTEM:**

**COLLEGE ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT STATEMENT:**

**DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT:**

**Copyright Statement**

Copyright (year) (your name) as to all lectures. Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this class to or by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the instructor teaching this course.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

* **Remind students when assignments and discussion posts are due.**
* Remind students when your weekly modules, lectures, and announcements go live.
* Modules include: Lecture videos, Assignment instructions and submission links, and any additional materials (supplemental videos, notes, etc.).
* Let students know where else they can find a course schedule/due dates.
* Provide some sort of policy/information for communication regarding extensions: Ex. If you are having issues/difficulty completing assignments or exams on time get in with me *immediately* (via email or office hours). If you do not contact me, I cannot provide any help or assistance! If you require any extensions, you must email me and receive approval from me prior to the deadline. **Do not wait until the end of the semester to seek assistance**.
* Be sure to list dates below for what week/date you will be covering the chapter, and when participation assignments/discussion boards/exams will be

1. **Chapter 1 Understanding Social Problems**

Readings**:**

1. Ch 1 – Understanding Social Problems in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. Participation Assignment Due (Date)
3. **Chapter 2 Social Class & Poverty**

Reading**:**

1. Ch 2 – Poverty in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Video:

1. *Inequality for All* – You Tube (1hr 30 min)

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvAFPHLFMa0&t=9s)

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. **Chapter 3 Racial Inequality**

Readings**:**

1. Ch 3 – Racial and Ethnic Inequality in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Lecture/Videos**:**

1. *13th Documentary* – YouTube (1 hour 40 min)

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8)

Assignments:

* 1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
  2. Participation Assignment Due (Date)

Exam 1 (Date)

1. **Chapter 4 Gender Inequality**

Readings**:**

1. Ch 4 – Gender Inequality in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. **Chapter 5 Sexual Orientation & Chapter 9 Sexual Behavior**

Readings:

1. Ch 5 – Sexual Orientation and Inequality in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean
2. Ch 9 – Sexual Behavior in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean:

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. Participation Assignment Due (Date)
3. **Chapter 6: Aging and Ageism**

Reading:

1. Ch 6 – Aging and Ageism in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)

Exam 2 (Date)

1. **Chapter 7: Drugs and Chapter 8: Crime & Criminal Justice**

Readings:

1. Ch 7 – Alcohol & Other Drugs in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean
2. Ch 8 – Crime & Criminal Justice in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Videos:

1. *Crack: Cocaine, Corruption & Conspiracy* – Netflix (1hr 29 min)
2. *Tutwiler* – PBS Frontline (35 min)

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWv66yLetI4)

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. Participation Assignment Due (Date)
3. **Chapter 11: Education**

Reading**:**

1. Ch 11 – Schools and Education in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Videos**:**

1. Separate and Unequal – Pbs Frontline (30 minutes)

(https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/separate-and-unequal/)

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. **Chapter 13: Health Care**

Reading:

1. Ch 13 – Health and Health Care in *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by McLean

Video

1. The Healthcare Divide – Pbs Frontline (1 hour)

(https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/the-healthcare-divide/)

Assignments:

1. Discussion Questions Due (Date)
2. Participation Assignment Due (Date)

Exam 3 (Date)