

## SOCIAL PROBLEMS Fall 2017

1306.02: Social Problems (3 Credit Hours)

**Location:** Internet    **Class Meeting Times:** No Class Meetings – All Internet-Based

Instructor: Caron Charlton Cates

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Office Hours: I can be reached via email Monday – Friday from 10:00 – 6:00. I will respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them or you can set up an appointment with me online.

Required Text: Macionis, John J. 2013. Social Problems (6th ed.), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, Prentice Hall. ISBN# \_\_\_\_\_ changes depending on where you order the text.

### **Course Description:**

This course applies sociological principles and concepts in the examination of major social problems in the United States and worldwide. Of particular interest will be those issues concerning social inequalities relative to poverty, racism, and sexism. Other major social issues such as violence and crime, global inequalities and environmental pollution will also be areas of focus.

The student will learn to incorporate the sociological perspective in his/her analytical reading. The sociological perspective requires that the student accept at least two fundamental assumptions: (a) we are all products of our social environment, and (b) we must take a critical stance toward all social forms.

A critical examination of society allows us to see how social arrangements perpetuate social problems. This course will allow the student to find the usefulness of the sociological perspective in explaining and resolving social problems. The course will also help students establish knowledge which will provide a good foundation for advanced courses, or individual study, leading to expertise with respect to these problems.

This is an internet course. Students are required to have a SHSU student identification card and a SHSU email account in order to enroll in the class. The SHSU email account is necessary to access Blackboard which is the software used for the course. The class is conducted completely over the Blackboard system. Blackboard is available at the top of the SHSU web page or under the Information box on the right hand side of the page (these locations change when they change the website). To log on, type your SHSU email address and your password. Once in the online portal, click on SOC 1306 and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item you wish to access such as syllabus or calendar for information.

**Attendance Policy:** This is an internet class so no attendance records are kept.

### **Exams and Grading Plan**

There will be four multiple-choice exams (100 pts. each) during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the days preceding the exam. Your exams will be available under the Quiz and Exams tab on the days they are to be taken. **The four tests are on Sept 13-14, Oct 4-5, Nov 1-2 and Dec 1-2.** These are not comprehensive exams. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a make-up exam.

**You will have between 8:00 a.m. on the first day until 11:00 p.m. on the second day**  
**You will have only 90 minutes to complete each exam. The exams are open**  
**note exams but you must complete them in 90 minutes. I encourage you to take the exam**  
**as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute.**

**You can only take each exam once so be sure to answer all of the questions before you submit the exam. Also be sure to have a secure internet connection. Dial/up phone line connections are not secure and tend to kick you off the Internet. In the event a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a makeup exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.**

**Make up Exams:** Make up exams will be allowed ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES. In the event that a student could not take one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Remember make-up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests. The quizzes and discussions cannot be made up once they have closed. For this reason I give you 6 and hold you responsible for 5. I do not drop the lowest test grade, each test is equally weighted. I encourage you to take the exams and quizzes early when they open. Make-up exam day is **Dec. 4th**, you are only allowed to make-up one exam.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester, six quizzes (worth five points each) will be given. You will only be responsible for 5 of the 6 quizzes. I will take your 5 best scores. In the event you complete all 6 quizzes you may use quiz #6 for extra credit. Quizzes will be made up of multiple choice questions. More on quizzes to follow.

**Quiz dates and discussion dates will be posted on the SHSU Blackboard by August 23, 2017.**

**Discussion Groups:** At six points throughout the semester, students will be asked to participate in discussion groups (**again, your only responsible for 5/6 discussion rooms and will take your 5 best scores**). In the event you complete all 6 discussions you may use #6 for extra credit. Each discussion group is worth 5 points, making up the total 25 points for class participation. Discussion groups will be open for one week so that students with busy schedules will have ample time to participate. In order to do well in discussion groups, students will need to be familiar with the readings/notes prior to participating. More on this will follow in the semester.

Exam #1 100 points

Exam #2 100 points  
Exam #3 100 points  
Exam #4 100 points  
Quizzes 25 points  
Discussion Groups 25 points

Final grades will be based on the total number of points in the class:

450 - 405 - A  
404 - 360 - B  
359 - 315 - C  
314 - 270 - D  
269 - 0 - F

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam, assignment and/or a class activity is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, assignment or class activity in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, and then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

**Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence

and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

**"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.**

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Study Tips:** Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has her own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you

fail the first test, I recommend that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

First Class – August 23

Introduction to the Sociological Framework

Sociology: Studying Social Problems Chapter 1

Poverty and Wealth Chapter 2

Racial and Ethnic Inequality Chapter 3

Gender Inequality Chapter 4

TEST ONE (1-4)

Aging and Inequality Chapter 5

Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice Chapter 6

Sexuality Chapter 7

Alcohol and Other Drugs Chapter 8

TEST TWO (5-8)

Physical and Mental Health Chapter 9

Economy and Politics Chapter 10

Work and the Workplace Chapter 11

Family Life Chapter 12

Education Chapter 13

TEST THREE (9-13)

Urban Life Chapter 14

Population and Global Inequality Chapter 15

Technology and the Environment Chapter 16

War and Terrorism Chapter 17

Make-Up Exam Day

FORTH EXAM (14-17)

NO FINAL EXAM

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Course Outline is subject to change – I will post a calendar on SHSU Online by August 23**

