

**SOCI 1306.03 Social Problems**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2017**

**Location:** N/A

**Time:** Online

**Instructor:** Ms. Crystal G. Brown

**Office:** CHSS, Room 270c  
SHSU  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2446

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\* E-Mail is usually the best way to contact me.

**Office Hours:** 12:00p.m.-1:00 p.m.  
or by appointment.

**Course Description:** Application of sociological principles to the major problems of contemporary society. Special attention given to mental disorders; use and abuse of drugs and alcohol; sexual deviance and crime and delinquency; problems of youth and the family in contemporary society; institutionalized aspects of inequality, prejudice and discrimination; and population and environmental concerns.

**Student Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- explain basic sociological principles, concepts and issues related to the study of social problems
- Identify problems we face in modern society and understand some of their complexities. Recognize ways these problems affect your own life.
- Differentiate between and apply the sociological theories of Structural-Functionalism, Conflict, and Symbolic Interactionism to problems as a framework for understanding possible causes, purposes, and solutions.
- Learn to think critically and creatively about social problems.
- Be motivated to take individual action to improve the world in which we live.

Toward the end of the semester, a multiple choice, anonymous, questionnaire will be distributed in class. All students in all SOCI 1306 courses will be asked to participate in the activity. This is a tool the Sociology Department will use to monitor progress on student learning objectives.

**Skill Objectives:**

- **think critically** Including innovation, creative thinking, inquiry and analysis,

- **apply** an evolutionary perspective to social phenomena
  - to **review** several persistent and widespread social problems
  - **communicate** intercultural competence, understanding, and interaction **orally and in writing**.
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- **Required Text:** Macionis, John J. 2016. Social Problems. New York: Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN: 9780133909593 or 013390959X

**Attendance:** (Not applicable to online-students) SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, will be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. If you arrive more than **5 minutes** after the start of class, you will be counted absent. If you leave more than **5 minutes** before the end of class, you will be counted absent. **Documentation is required** for an absence to be excused, to make up missed assignments, quizzes or exams.

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. On exam day, you must have access to Blackboard. Each exam will be worth 100 points (3 x 100 = 300). All exam grades will factor into your final grade.

The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook AND the material discussed in class. Although much of the class lectures will refer to the text, new material will also be introduced. You are expected to read and study the textbook independently. Information discussed in class, as well as that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams.

Make-up exams will be given only if arranged with the professor **PRIOR** to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and **ONLY** if the reason for the absence is deemed valid by the professor. Documentation for absences must be provided to make-up assignments, quizzes or exams.

In addition to the exams there will be a weekly assignments on the topics covered in class. Class assignments submitted via Blackboard, which will consist of a variety of quizzes, discussions, and responses to articles. Late assignments will not be accepted and they cannot be made up due to unexcused absences. Assignments should be critically thought out and analysis based responses. There will be approximately 10-15 weekly assignments which will be worth a total of 100 points. **NO E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. HARD COPIES SUBMITTED IN CLASS IS THE ONLY METHOD I WILL ACCEPT.**

In addition to the exams, there may be multiple opportunities to receive extra credit in the course. These points will count toward the final grade.

Final grades will be calculated by adding points earned from three administered exams, discussions, weekly reflections, and any extra credit points earned. The grades will be weighted as follows:

Exams (3): 100 points each=300

Assignments/Quizzes (15): 5 to 10 points each =100

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<b>Total:</b>	<b>400 points</b>
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The grade scale should go as follows, (360 points or higher= A, 320-359 points= B, 280-319 points =C,240-279 points= D, and 239 or lower is a grade of F. If your final average is within two points of a higher letter grade and you have no more than two absences, your grade will be rounded up. If you do not meet both of these requirements, your grade will remain as is.

*Academic Dishonesty:* All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

#### *STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:*

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 register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). 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 you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

*Absences and Attendance Policy:* 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the

student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

</dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*

<http://www.V.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

**Instructor Evaluations:** Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. This feedback is important. It is used by professors to improve their teaching. Please participate in the evaluation process.

Inotes, studying the text and class notes for the quizzes and exams. Once a week you will be required to provide a Weekly Reflection. You will also have some in-class exercises to help you understand the material.

**Required Supplies:** You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. In addition, Exams might be administered online via Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard and your SHSU email address for course materials and announcements.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Aug. 23</b>	Classes Begin on Wednesday & Introduction to course
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Aug. 28</b>	Chapter 1
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Sept. 4</b>	Ch. 2 Poverty & Wealth ( <b>No Class on Monday, Labor Day</b> )
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Sept. 11</b>	Ch. 3 Racial & Ethnic Inequality

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Sept. 18</b>	Ch. 4 Gender Inequality
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Sept. 25</b>	<b>Exam 1 opens on September 28, 2017</b>
<b>Week 7 of</b>	<b>Oct. 2</b>	Ch. 5 Aging & Inequality
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Oct. 9</b>	Ch. 6 Crime, Violence, & Criminal Justice
<b>Week of</b>	<b>Oct. 16</b>	Chapter 7 Sexuality
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Oct. 23</b>	<b>Exam 2 opens on October 27, 2017</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Oct. 30</b>	Chapter 8 Alcohol and other Drugs
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Nov. 6</b>	Ch. 9 Physical and Mental Health

<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Nov. 13</b>	Ch. 9 Physical and Mental Health
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Nov. 20</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Nov. 27</b>	Ch. 12 Family Life <b>Exam 3 will open on November 29, 2017</b>
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Exam 3 will close on December 1, 2017</b>

**Classroom Rules of Conduct: The student shall abide by code of conduct as described in the University Code of Conduct <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Although we are not meeting in a physical classroom, there will potentially be interaction between yourself and fellow students. In addition, I will be interacting with the classroom as a whole. You are required to conduct yourself in a respectful manner despite different perspectives presented. Your posts on discussion boards, emails, etc. should meet the code of conduct as presented by Sam Houston State University. I encourage dialogue as this is a college course, and everyone should feel free to do so in a respectful environment. Disrespectful behavior will cause a deduction from your grade point average.

- 1) Students are to treat other students, guest speakers and faculty with respect.
- 2) Please do not talk while the professor, guest lecturer, or another classmate, is speaking or during films. Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk during class as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
- 3) Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two points from your next exam. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom. This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances

are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.

- 4) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
- 5) Computers may be used to take notes only. You must sit in the first two rows of the classroom to use a computer.
- 6) Please no food, drink or tobacco products in the classroom.
- 7) Students may record lectures with the professor's approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*  
<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**