

SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SOC 103) ON-LINE

Spring 2015

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

How to contact me: Use “message” link on Blackboard site. (If your Blackboard site is temporarily not functioning, you may contact me at ckrcmar@trcc.commmnet.edu. That is simply a short-term option, though. DO NOT send assignments to my trcc account.)

Course Overview: Introduction to a wide variety of social problems and the phenomena that create these problems, as well as an exploration of some of the possible solutions to such problems.

Course Objective: Students will be able to define, describe, and apply fundamental sociological concepts and investigatory methods to a variety of social problems.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

1. Discussions= 33.3%. This is an interactive class. The Discussion grade will be comprised of all the grades you receive on discussions. More specific guidelines on expectations for discussions are in the Welcome Letters and Discussion Guidelines.

2. Assignments=33.3% You have a handful of assignments that you must complete; their grades together comprise this portion of your final grade. Guidelines must be accessed through the link marked “Assignment Guidelines” in our course site.

3. Exams= 33.3%. There will be two open-book exams this semester. They will be posted approximately one week before the due date. Access them through the link marked “Exams” in our course site.

HOW TO SUBMIT EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Using the “messages” link in our course site, send them to me as an attachment AND pasted into the message itself.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS: Use the link marked “Discussions” in our course site.

DUE DATES FOR EVERYTHING ARE IN THIS SYLLABUS!

It is your responsibility to keep track of all due dates.

Some students keep a calendar with due dates listed in it, or they print out the syllabus, highlight due dates, and tape it to the wall next to their computer, or they input reminders to themselves in their laptop or smart phone or other tech device.

HOW OFTEN CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO BE CHECKING ON THE CLASS?

Do not expect me to be available online 24/7. I'll check messages, assignments and discussions a few times every week, and I will grade things in a timely fashion. If you have questions about assignments, discussions or exams, please send me a message in plenty of time to respond to you. If you send me a message the night before something is due, I will most likely not get it in time to respond. You know exactly when work is due; plan accordingly.

Grades...Equivalent Quality Points

A 94- 100 4.0

A- 90- 93 3.7

B+ 87- 89 3.3

B 84- 86 3.0

B- 80- 83 2.7

C+ 77- 79 2.3

C 74- 76 2.0C- 70- 73 1.7
D+ 67- 69 1.3
D 64- 66 1.0
D- 60-63 0.7
F 0.0

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor. If you ever present someone else's work as your own (This comes in the form of cheating on discussions, assignments or exams and/or plagiarizing when writing essays.), you will automatically fail the class. Copying from a classmate's postings or an article or book is stealing someone else's ideas. That is extremely unethical and I take it very seriously.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- 1) Eitzen, Zinn & Smith, *Social Problems, 13th ed.*
- 2) Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
- 3) additional articles-- to be accessed through the "Required Readings" link in our course site

CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1 (1/26-2/1): Intro to Our Course

Read Welcome Letters, Guidelines for Discussions and Assignments, and Syllabus...Familiarize yourself with Blackboard...Make sure you have all technical issues worked out...Start getting into the habit of checking course messages and announcements regularly!

WEEK 2 (2/2-2/8): Sociological Approach to Social Problems

reading due: chapter 1

due by 11:59pm on 2/8: participation in discussion

WEEK 3 (2/9-2/15): Wealth & Power

reading due: chapter 2 and articles

assignment: Prepare for *Inside Job* assignment.

WEEK 4 (2/16-2/22): A Conflict Approach to Social Problems

reading due: The Communist Manifesto and lecture notes

due by 11:59pm on 2/22: *Inside Job* assignment [Send to me attached to a message, as well as pasted into the message!]

WEEK 5 (2/23-3/1): World Population & Global Inequality

reading due: chapter 3 and articles

assignment: Prepare for Environment OR Foreign Aid assignment.

WEEK 6 (3/2-3/8): Threats to the Environment

reading due: chapter 4 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 3/8: Environment OR Foreign Aid assignment [Send to me attached to a message, as well as pasted into the message!]

WEEK 7 (3/9-3/15): Demographic Changes in the USA and Problems of Place

reading due: chapters 5 and 6

due by 11:59pm on 3/15: participation in discussion; EXAM # 1 DUE by 9am on 3/15

WEEK 8 (3/16-3/22): Spring Break

WEEK 9 (3/23-3/29): Poverty

reading due: chapter 7, power point on welfare and articles

due by 11:59pm on 3/29: participation in discussion

WEEK 10 (3/30-4/5): Racial & Ethnic Inequality

reading due: chapter 8 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 4/5: *A Class Divided* assignment [Send to me attached to a message, as well as pasted into the message!]

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html>

WEEK 11 (4/6-4/12): Gender Inequality & Sexual Orientation and Disability & Ableism

reading due: chapters 9, 10 & 11 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 4/12: participation in discussion

WEEK 12 (4/13-4/19): Crime & Justice and Drugs

reading due: chapters 12, 13 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 4/19: participation in discussion

WEEK 13 (4/20-4/26): Education & Health Care

reading due: chapters 16 & 17 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 4/26: participation in discussion

WEEK 14 (4/27-5/3): National Security in the 21st Century

reading due: chapter 18 and articles

assignment: Prepare for memo to Obama assignment.

WEEK 15 (5/4-5/10): Progressive Plan to Solve Social Problems

reading due: chapter 19 and articles

due by 11:59pm on 5/10: participation in discussion

EXAM #2 DUE by 9am on 5/12