

SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SOC 103)

Spring 2007

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 11:00-12:20pm

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

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office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-10:30am, and by appointment

office: Activity Room 2, 3rd floor of Classroom Bldg.

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. **Class participation= 30%.** This grade depends on your presence in class, pop quizzes, and **in-class assignments** that you complete. You learn best if you take an active part in your education! This is an interactive class. I do not merely stand up in front of class and lecture. You will be required to participate in discussions, games and exercises. **If you miss an in-class assignment, you may not make it up unless you have an excused absence.** Please take note that **the in-class assignments are not all announced beforehand (nor are the pop quizzes, of course)**, nor are they all on the syllabus.
2. **Class presentation= 20%** I will assign you to small groups to do a presentation on a social problem in a different country. In addition to the presentation, you must turn in a two-three page paper about your topic and a Works Cited list. More details to follow, of course.
3. **Paper= 20%** You must write a paper approximately 5 pages long about a social problem. This paper will require research and analysis. Guidelines will be given to you.
4. **Exams= 30%.** There will be two in-class exams this semester. These exams will be short answers and essays based on topics covered in lectures, discussions, films and articles. They are not cumulative! In lieu of the second exam, you may choose to do a service learning project. This project includes performing 6 hours of community service or attending a conference on a social issue and writing a paper about the experience. Details to follow!

IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS:

1. This syllabus is to act as a rough guide for the semester; it is not set in stone. The dates may shift a bit, or I may change some of the articles we read or the assignments we do. Each group of students moves at a different pace and gets fascinated by certain topics. I want to honor this particular group's dynamic. **If you are the type of student that gets frustrated by syllabus changes, please do not take this class.** Having fun with this class requires flexibility!
2. There will be a number of **guest speakers** in class this semester. I have not included them on the syllabus, however, because they often change their schedules around. I will alert you to all guest speakers once they are confirmed to come to class.
3. **If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting class notes, articles, and any assignments I give during class from a fellow student.** I will not re-teach a class to you!
4. **Excused absences:** Only a signed doctor's note (for you, your child or an elderly or disabled person for whom you are responsible) or proof of family emergency or religious commitment will be acceptable. **Those are the only reasons you may reschedule an exam or turn in an assignment late. Otherwise, I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. It is unfair to other students who have worked hard to complete assignments on time. If you have a valid reason to turn in an assignment late or take an exam at a different time, you MUST TALK TO ME BEFORE THE DUE DATE.**
5. If you require certain accommodations for test-taking, please see me before the exam.
6. There will be **extra credit** opportunities over the course of the semester.

Attendance

In addition to knowing your attendance practices from in-class assignments that you complete, I will also take attendance every class period. As you know, attendance figures prominently in your final class grade.

Course Evaluation

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>		<u>Quality Points</u>
A	94-	100	4.0
A-	90-	93	3.7
B+	87-	89	3.3
B	83-	86	3.0
B-	80-	82	2.7
C+	77-	79	2.3
C	73-	76	2.0
C-	70-	72	1.7
D+	67-	69	1.3
D	63-	66	1.0
D-	60-62		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 assignments or exams and/or plagiarizing when writing essays and papers.), you will **automatically fail** that particular assignment.

College Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. From the 11th week through the end of the 13th week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

Disabilities Statement

In addition to contacting me, if you have a disability which may affect your work in this course, please contact Chris Scarborough (892-5751) if you have a learning disability or ADD. Please contact Judy Hilburger (892-5744) or Matt Liscum (383-5240) if you have a physical, visual, hearing, or psychiatric disability.

Cellular Phones and Beepers

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource

Center **only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode**. Vibrating mode is not allowed, as it can sometimes be heard! **Under no circumstances are you to answer your phone or text message in class. If I see you answering your phone or text messaging, I will take your phone til the end of class.**

When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

REQUIRED TEXT: Eitzen & Zinn, Social Problems, 10th ed. (I will give you all additional readings that you need for class.)

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/23 & 1/25: Sociological Approach to Social Problems: class introduction; reading due: chapter 1

1/30 & 2/1: Wealth and Power: readings due: chapter 2 & articles on Military Industrial Complex

2/6 & 2/8: Threats to the Environment: readings due: chapter 4, *White Man's Burden* ; SUV debate

2/13 & 2/15: Poverty: readings due: chapter 7; *Making Ends Meet*; *Ever Higher Society*, *Ever Harder to Ascend*; TANF, budget game, create welfare legislation

2/20: Racial & Ethnic Inequality: readings due: chapter 8; in-class exercise on White Privilege; film: *The Angry Eye*

2/22: Immigration Teach-in

2/27: Racial & Ethnic Inequality (cont'd); reflections on immigration teach-in

3/1: Sexual Orientation: reading due: chapter 10; discussion on same-sex marriage; **Paper due**

3/6 & 3/8: Gender Inequality: reading due: chapter 9; discussion on family violence

3/13 & 3/15: Crime & Justice reading due: chapter 12; Capital Punishment debate; **Exam #1**

3/20 & 3/22: NO CLASSES (Spring Break)

3/27 & 3/29: Paper conferences

4/3 & 4/5: Drugs: readings due: chapter 13, *Drug Use De-criminalized*; in-class: respond to opinion piece

4/10 & 4/12: National Security in the 21st Century: readings due: chapter 18; *Is Torture Ever Justified?*; **Paper revisions due**

4/17 & 4/19: World Pop. and Global Inequality: reading due: chapter 3; film: *Global Village or Global Pillage* or *Yesterday*

4/24 & 4/26 & 5/1: Class Presentations

5/3: Exam #2 or Service Learning Project due!