

SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SOC 103) ON-LINE

Spring 2014

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.commnet.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.Class Participation= 33.3%. This is an interactive class. Class participation grade will be comprised of grades you receive on discussions and/or assignments. Every week, you will be required to participate in discussions and/or you will have projects to do. More specific guidelines are in the Welcome Letters, the assignment guidelines, and discussion guidelines.

2.System-blame vs. Person-blame Paper OR Service Learning Paper=33.3% Guidelines must be accessed through the link marked "Paper 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, PAPERS 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 email, assignments and discussions a few times every week, and I will grade things in a timely fashion. If you have questions about assignments, papers or exams, please email me in plenty of time to respond to you. If you email me 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 2.0

C- 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 and papers.), 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 (1/27-2/2): Welcome to Social Problems! Familiarize yourself with course content, especially the Welcome Letters and Discussion Guidelines. There's a heavy reading load, so I strongly encourage you to start the required reading.

WEEK 2 (2/3-2/9): Sociological Approach to Social Problems
reading due: chapter 1
assignment due by 11:59pm on 2/9: participation in discussion

WEEK 3 (2/10-2/16): Wealth and Power
reading due: chapter 2 and articles
assignment: Prepare for the Inside Job assignment due next week.

WEEK 4 (2/17-2/23): A Conflict Approach to Social Problems
The Communist Manifesto and lecture notes
assignment due by 11:59pm on 2/23: Inside Job assignment

WEEK 5 (2/24-3/2): World Pop. and Global Inequality
reading due: chapter 3 and articles
assignment: Prepare for the Foreign Aid or Environment assignment due next week.

WEEK 6 (3/3-3/9): Threats to the Environment
reading due: chapter 4 and articles
assignment due by 11:59pm on 3/9: Environment OR Foreign Aid assignment

WEEK 7 (3/10-3/16): Demographic Changes in the USA & Problems of Place
reading due: chapters 5, 6 and articles

assignment due by 11:59pm on 3/16: participation in discussion

WEEK 8 (3/17-3/23): Spring Break!

WEEK 9 (3/24-3/30): Poverty

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

assignment due by 11:59pm on 3/30: participation in discussion;

due by 9am on 3/24: Exam #1

WEEK 10 (3/31-4/6): Racial & Ethnic Inequality

reading due: chapter 8 and articles

assignment due by 11:59pm on 4/6: A Class Divided essay

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

WEEK 11 (4/7-4/13): Gender Inequality and Sexual Orientation and Disability & Ableism

reading due: chapters 9, 10, 11

assignment due by 11:59pm on 4/13: participation in discussion

WEEK 12 (4/14-4/20): Crime & Justice and Drugs

readings due: chapters 12 & 13 and articles

assignment: Prepare for next week's discussion.

WEEK 13 (4/21-4/27): Education & Health Care

reading due: chapters 16 & 17 and articles

assignment due by 11:59pm on 4/27: participation in discussion

WEEK 14 (4/28-5/4): National Security in the 21st Century

reading due: chapter 18 and articles

assignment due by 11:59pm on 5/4: memo to President Obama

WEEK 15 (5/5-5/11): Progressive Plan to Solve Social Problems

readings due: chapter 19 and articles

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

WEEK 16 (5/12-5/18): **due by 9am on 5/12: SB vs. PB or Service Learning Papers;**

due by 9am on 5/18: Exam #2