

# **SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SOC 103) ON-LINE**

## **Spring 2011**

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

email: Use email link on Blackboard site.

office phone: 860-892-5788

office hours: If you live close to TRCC, you can email or call me to make an appointment.

**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 weekly discussions and/or assignments. You will be required to participate in discussions **every week**, and/or you will have projects to do. More specific information about the discussions is in the On-line Welcome Letters. Read these letters before you do anything else for this class! Follow the syllabus closely so you know when assignments are due!
2. **System-blame vs. Person-blame Paper OR Service Learning Paper= 33.3%** Guidelines are in the System-blame vs. Person-blame and Service Learning folders.
3. **Exams= 33.3%.** There will be three open-book exams this semester. They will be posted a week before the due date.

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

Do not expect me to be available online 24/7. I guarantee that I will check the discussions at least twice per week, and I will post follow-up questions. 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 respond. You know exactly when work is due; plan accordingly.

### **Course Evaluation**

| <b><u>Grades</u></b> | <b><u>Equivalent</u></b> |     | <b><u>Quality Points</u></b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 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 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 TEXT:** Eitzen & Zinn, Social Problems, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.; and Marx, The Communist Manifesto

### CLASS SCHEDULE

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN THIS CLASS**, make sure you read **Online Welcomes 1 and 2**, and become familiar with other content on our site. If you do not read the welcome letters, you will miss information critical to your successful participation in this class.

**Also, DUE DATES for exams and assignments are listed on this syllabus. Make sure you make note of due dates.**

**WEEK 1 (1/24-1/30): Sociological Approach to Social Problems:** reading due: chapter 1

**WEEK 2 (1/31-2/6): A Conflict Approach to Social Problems:** reading due: The Communist Manifesto

**WEEK 3 (2/7-2/13): Wealth and Power:** reading due: chapter 2; **Case Studies due by 9pm on 2/13**

**WEEK 4 (2/14-2/20): World Pop. and Global Inequality:** reading due: chapter 3

**WEEK 5 (2/21-2/27): Threats to the Environment:** reading due: chapter 4

**WEEK 6 (2/28-3/6): Demographic Changes in the United States:** readings due: chapter 5 and my lecture on immigration; **Problems of Place:** reading due: chapter 6; **EXAM #1 DUE by 9pm on 3/6**

**WEEK 7 (3/7-3/13): Poverty:** readings due: chapter 7; *Making Ends Meet*

**WEEK 8 (3/14-3/20): Spring Break!**

**WEEK 9 (3/21-3/27): Racial & Ethnic Inequality:** reading due: chapter 8; Watch the film *A Class*

*Divided* at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html>; **assignment due by 9pm on 3/27**

**WEEK 10 (3/28-4/3): Gender Inequality:** reading due: chapter 9; **Sexual Orientation:** reading due: chapter 10

**WEEK 11 (4/4-4/10): Disability & Ableism:** reading due: chapter 11; **EXAM #2 DUE by 9pm on 4/10**

**WEEK 12 (4/11-4/17): Crime & Justice** reading due: chapter 12 & materials on Capital Punishment; **Drugs:** reading due: chapter 13

**WEEK 13 (4/18-4/24): Genocide and Refugee Crises:** reading due: my lecture on Darfur, the sudanreeves website, and outline of refugee issues

**WEEK 14 (4/25-5/1): National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** readings due: chapter 18; *Is Torture Ever Justified?*

**WEEK 15 (5/2-5/8): Progressive Plan:** reading due: chapter 19

**WEEK 16 (5/9-5/15): SB vs. PB or Service Learning Papers due by 9am on 5/10; EXAM #3 DUE by 9am on 5/15**