

SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SOC 103) ON-LINE Spring 2012

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

email: Use email link on Blackboard site.

office phone: 860-892-5788

office hours: If you want to meet in person, 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 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 for 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 two open-book exams this semester. They will be posted approximately one week before the due date.

DUE DATES FOR EVERYTHING ARE IN THIS SYLLABUS!

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. I'll check email at least a few times every week. 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

<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 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, 12th 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.**

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

WEEK 1 (1/23-1/29): Sociological Approach to Social Problems: reading due: chapter 1 and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 2 (1/30-2/5): Wealth and Power: reading due: chapter 2 and any other articles in the week's folder; Watch *Inside Job*

WEEK 3 (2/6-2/12): A Conflict Approach to Social Problems: reading due: The Communist Manifesto and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 4 (2/13-2/19): World Pop. and Global Inequality: reading due: chapter 3 and any other articles in the week's folder; **Global Social Problems assignment due by 9pm on 2/19**

WEEK 5 (2/20-2/26): Threats to the Environment: reading due: chapter 4 and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 6 (2/27-3/4): Demographic Changes in the United States: readings due: chapter 5, my lecture and any other articles in the week's folder ; **Problems of Place:** reading due: chapter 6

WEEK 7 (3/5-3/11): Poverty: readings due: chapter 7 and any other articles in the week's folder; **Exam #1 due by 9pm on 3/11**

WEEK 8 (3/12-3/18): 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 3/18**

WEEK 9 (3/19-3/25): SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 10 (3/26-4/1): Gender Inequality: reading due: chapter 9; **Sexual Orientation:** reading due: chapter 10; **Disability & Ableism:** reading due: chapter 11

WEEK 11 (4/2-4/8): Crime & Justice reading due: chapter 12 & materials on Capital Punishment; **Drugs:** reading due: chapter 13

WEEK 12 (4/9-4/15): The Economy and Work: reading due: chapter 14 and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 13 (4/16-4/22): Education: reading due: chapter 16; **Health Care System:** reading due: chapter 17 and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 14 (4/23-4/29): National Security in the 21st Century: reading due: chapter 18; *Is Torture Ever Justified?* and any other articles in the week's folder

WEEK 15 (4/30-5/6): Progressive Plan: reading due: chapter 19 and any other articles in the week's folder; **SB vs. PB or Service Learning Papers due by 9pm on 4/30;**

EXAM #2 DUE by 9pm on 5/9