

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

### **Fall 2012**

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

email: Use email link on Blackboard site. (If your Blackboard email is temporarily not functioning, you may contact me at [ckrcmar@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:ckrcmar@trcc.commnet.edu). That is simply a short-term option, though.)

**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. Most weeks, 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 (except for discussions):** Email them to me as an attachment AND pasted into the email itself.

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

## **DUE DATES FOR EVERYTHING ARE IN THIS SYLLABUS!**

**You must 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.

### 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	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, Social Problems, 12<sup>th</sup> ed.;
- 2) Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto;
- 3) additional articles and/or lectures most weeks-- to be accessed through the "Required Readings" link in our course site

## CLASS SCHEDULE

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

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

### **WEEK 1 (8/27-9/2): Sociological Approach to Social Problems**

**reading due:** chapter 1;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 9/2:** participation in discussion

### **WEEK 2 (9/3-9/9): Wealth and Power**

**reading due:** chapter 2 and articles;

**assignment due:** Watch *Inside Job* in preparation for next week's assignment.

### **WEEK 3 (9/10-9/16): A Conflict Approach to Social Problems**

**reading due:** The Communist Manifesto and lecture notes;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 9/16:** *Inside Job* assignment

### **WEEK 4 (9/17-9/23): World Pop. and Global Inequality**

**reading due:** chapter 3 and article;

**assignment due:** Prepare for next week's assignment.

### **WEEK 5 (9/24-9/30): Threats to the Environment**

**reading due:** chapter 4 and articles;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 9/30:** environment or foreign aid assignment

### **WEEK 6 (10/1-10/7): Demographic Changes in the USA & Problems of Place**

**reading due:** chapters 5 & 6 and my lecture;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 10/17:** participation in discussion

### **WEEK 7 (10/8-10/14): Poverty**

**readings due:** chapter 7, power point on welfare, and articles;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 10/14:** participation in discussion

**WEEK 8 (10/15-10/21): Racial & Ethnic Inequality**

**reading due:** chapter 8;

**DUE by 11:59pm on 10/15:** EXAM #1

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 10/21:** Watch *A Class Divided* at

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

and do essay.

**WEEK 9 (10/22-10/28): Gender Inequality and Sexual Orientation**

**readings due:** chapters 9 & 10;

**assignment due:** Prepare for next week's discussion. (Read the discussion question to know what you need to do.)

**WEEK 10 (10/29-11/4): Disability & Ableism**

**reading due:** chapter 11;

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

**WEEK 11 (11/5-11/11): Crime & Justice and Drugs**

**readings due:** chapters 12 & 13 and articles;

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

**WEEK 12 (11/12-11/18): Education**

**reading due:** chapter 16 and article;

**assignment due:** Prepare for next week's discussion.

**WEEK 13 (11/19-11/25): Health Care System**

**reading due:** chapter 17 and articles;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 11/25:** participation in discussion

**WEEK 14 (11/26-12/2): National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**readings due:** chapter 18 and articles;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 12/2:** memo to President Obama

**WEEK 15 (12/3-12/9): Progressive Plan**

**readings due:** chapter 19 and article;

**assignment due by 11:59pm on 12/9:** participation in final discussion of the semester

**WEEK 16 (12/10-12/16): Final Week**

**due by 11:59pm on 12/10:** SB vs. PB or Service Learning Papers;

**due by 11:59pm on 12/16:** Exam #2