

SYLLABUS-FALL 2012
SOCI 2251-01 SOCIAL PROBLEMS
T/R 0930-1045
2021 SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASSROOM BLDG.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an overview of current social problems facing US society with attention to developing insights into the conceptual analyses of meaningful solutions.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

DR. LINDA A. TREIBER

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OFFICE HOURS: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM TUESDAY/THURSDAY
 AND BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of the concepts, theories and research methodologies of sociology as applicable to a wide variety of social problems.
2. To develop a critical sociological eye toward evaluating current social problems.
3. To formulate possible solutions to society's social problems.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- ❖ Eitzen, D. Stanley, Maxine Baca Zinn and Kelly Eitzen Smith, 2009. *Social Problems, 11th Edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon
- ❖ Critser, Greg. 2003. *Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin.
- ❖ Crone, James. 2007. *How Can We Solve Our Social Problems?* Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

ATTENDANCE:

Absences from class will only be excused for students who have documentation that severe illness, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present. Students are responsible for all readings and attendance at lectures and films. Attendance will be taken in every class.

EXAMS:

There will be three exams. The dates are noted in the syllabus. Although the exams are not comprehensive, the instructor assumes that knowledge obtained in readings, lectures, and assignments is cumulative. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions.

Make-up exams are available only for students who have documentation that illness, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present at the regularly scheduled examination date. Make-up exams are administered during the final exam period.

The third and final exam will be administered according to the University final exam schedule. **The final exam date is non-negotiable**, so please make arrangements to be there.

Evaluation	Weight
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
FINAL EXAM	20%
Analyzing Social Problems in the News 1-page Writing Assignments (8)	25%
Applied Sociology Action Report	10%
Class Participation	5%

TOTAL	100%
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ANALYZING THE NEWS: SOCIAL PROBLEMS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

See Syllabus for due dates

The act of writing about the news rather than just thinking about it helps you understand relevant sociological principles and improve critical thinking skills. For this assignment you are asked to find a newspaper or magazine article related to material covered in class or in or texts and provide a **one-page written analysis** of the news report that explores a sociological aspect of the ideas or events depicted in the article (Malcom 2006: 144).

First, locate an article. Your article should have appeared in print or online no more than 2 weeks before the assignment is due. Please attach a copy of the news article to the paper. The paper should begin with a brief summary in your own words. Summaries should not take up the whole paper, but be no more than a few sentences long. They should touch on the main points of the article and provide a thorough overview.

After providing a summary, identify a sociological term, concept or theory that pertains to the chosen article. Explain this term or concept. The highlighted theory or concept should come from recently covered material. This should be approximately 2 weeks before the analysis is submitted. The assignment works better if you just chose one sociological idea for analysis so that you can go in more depth in the space allotted.

The next step is to explain the link between the news article and the sociological concept. The purpose is to recognize and explain the relevance of sociology as it applies to real world events depicted in the article.

Finally, provide a “point of divergence” which is an explanation of how the ideas or events depicted in the news item differ (however slightly) for the highlighted sociological concept. This is the most challenging aspect of the assignment. It requires to truly understand the sociological idea on which you base your sociological analysis. In other words students completing this exercise must be able to recognize other perspectives in order to identify and explain a point of divergence. You might find this easier at first by completing the following sentence” This isn’t a perfect example of (the sociological concept) because _____.”

Summary of Grading Social Problems Newspaper Articles

1. Choice of article (5%)
2. Brief summary of article (5%)
3. Explanation of the sociological concept (25%)
4. Analysis of the article (explanation of the connection between the news event and the sociological concept) (25%)
5. Point of divergence (how does the news event differ from the sociological concept?) (25%)
6. Overall writing quality (15%)

TOTAL 100%

Your 1-page papers are due **in class** on the dates assigned . Please turn in a hard copy in class on date due—not by email unless specifically cleared with me.

The papers will be graded on the quality of both the content and form. Please proofread and check your papers. A **late penalty of 5 points per day-including weekends-** will be assessed for all papers that are not turned in on time. Further details will be presented in class.

APPLIED SOCIOLOGY ACTION REPORT:

This assignment will give you the opportunity to attend and participate in a university-sponsored social event, or visit a social service agency, or other form of participative learning. A short action report detailing the event, agency, or other learning opportunity and possible ways that it can help ameliorate a social problem. The report paper should be 3 pages in length, Times New Roman font, 10-12 point and 1-inch margins. References and title page are not included in the 3-page length.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken every class. Every student is expected to participate in class. This means contributing to class discussions as well as active participation in class exercises, which will be held at announced and unannounced times throughout the course. Examples of in-class exercise include short writing assignments, small group discussions, and in-class projects. **You cannot get credit for class participation unless you are in class.**

GRADES:

Grades will be based upon your percentage of the total number of points on exams, written work, and attendance. A= 90-100%; B= 89.99-80%; C= 79.99-70%; D= 69.99-60%; F= Below 60%.

Please do not send your papers via email. As stated in the guidelines, late points will be deducted for work that is not received on time.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs, Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

DISABILITIES:

If you have other academic or testing needs, then please make an appointment with me so that we may work together to serve those needs.

CONDUCT:

Several rules of classroom conduct should be followed. Please do not use cell phones during class. Arrive on time and do not leave early. When it comes to laptops, please use these for note-taking only during class time. This is especially true during class films. If an instructor (including me) or any of your peers says or does anything that you consider racial or sexual harassment, notify the instructor immediately. If this happens in class, you may write me an anonymous note or contact me in person. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and or inappropriate behavior is a violation of the KSU student council regulations. I value and respect your contributions. Please do the same for others in the class.

COURSE OUTLINE:

I plan to follow the course outline listed below as closely as possible. If changes are necessary during the semester, I will announce them in advance. Please read the specified material in the text prior to the dates on which they will be discussed. I expect that you will come to class prepared to discuss assigned course material. You will be responsible for all assigned readings, whether they are explicitly covered in class or not. Please ask questions about any information presented in texts or lectures.

August 21	Introductions, syllabus	Review syllabus, obtain textbooks
August 23	Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 1, "Sociological Approach to Social Problems" Crone, Chapter 1, "Preparing to Solve Our Social Problems"
August 28	Wealth and Power	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 2, "Wealth and Power: The Bias of the System" Critser, "Introduction" pages 1-6.

August 30	Social Inequality WORKSHOP: Writing about social problems	BRING A NEWS ARTICLE TO CLASS Crone, Chapter 2, "Barriers, Possibilities, and How Sociology Can Help" Crone, Chapter 3, "How Can We Solve the Problem of Increasing Inequality?"
September 4		Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 3, "World Population and Global Inequality"
September 6	Population and Global Inequality	Crone, Chapter 12, "How Can We Solve the World's Population Problem?"
September 11	Global Health Paper 1 due in class	FILM: "Rx for Survival, Part 3, Back to Basics" Critser, Chapter 2, "Supersize Me (Who Got the Calories into Our Bellies)" pages 20-29.
September 13	Technology and the Environment	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 4, "Threats to the Environment" Crone, Chapter 13, "How Can We Solve the World's Environmental Problem?"
September 18	Demographic Changes in the USA Paper 2 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 5, "Demographic Changes in the United States: The Browning and Graying of Society"
September 20	Rural and Urban Problems	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 6, "Problems of Place: Urban, Suburban, and Rural"
September 25	Rural and Urban problems, continued	
September 27	EXAM 1	
PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY		
October 2	Poverty, Social Conditions Paper 3 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 7, "Poverty" Crone, Chapter 4, How Can We Solve the Problem of Poverty?"
October 4	Social Structures and Weight Gain	Critser, Chapter 3, "World Without Boundaries (Who Let the Calories In)" pages 30-48.
October 9	Racial and Ethnic Inequality Paper 4 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 8, "Racial and Ethnic Inequality" Critser, Chapter 4, "Why the Calories Stayed on Our Bodies" pages 63-108.
October 11	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Crone, Chapter 5, How Can We Solve the Problem of Racial and Ethnic Inequality?" Critser, Chapter 5, "What Fat Is and Fat Isn't" pages 109-126. FILM: "Race, the Power of an Illusion", part 3 "The House We Live in"
October 16	Gender Paper 5 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 9, "Gender Inequality" Critser, Chapter 6, "What the Extra Calories Do to You" pages 127-154.

October 18	Gender	Crone, Chapter 6, How Can We Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality? Women and Size Factsheet Criser, Chapter 7 “What Can Be Done” pages 155-176.
October 23	Sexuality Paper 6 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 10, “Sexual Orientation”
October 25	NO class	
October 30	EXAM 2	
SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
November 1	Disabilities	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 11, “Disability and Ableism”
November 6	Crime Paper 7 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 12, “Crime and Justice” Crone, Chapter 8, “How Can We Solve the Problem of Crime?”
November 8	Drugs	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 13, “Drugs” Crone, Chapter 9, “How Can We Solve the Problem of Drugs?”
November 13	Work Paper 8 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 14, “Work”
November 15	Families	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 15, “Families” Crone, Chapter 11, “How Can We Solve the Problems of Families?” FILM: “Let’s Get Married”
November 20	Education Applied Sociology Action Report due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 16, “Education” Crone, Chapter 7, “How Can We Solve the Problem of Unequal Education?”
November 22 no class		
November 27	Health and Health Care Delivery	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 17, “Health and Health Care Delivery” Crone, Chapter 10, “How Can We Solve the Problem of Health Care?”
SOLUTIONS		
November 29	Solving Society’s Social Problems	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 19, “Progressive Plan to Solve Society’s Social Problems” Crone, Chapter 14, “Solving Our Social Problems: Predictions and Conclusions
December 4		Finish class LAST DAY
December 11	FINAL EXAM	1030-am to 1230-pm. Not that time is different from actual course meeting time

FINAL EXAM TUESDAY December 11: 1030-1230

Writing Center: KSU also offers a free service to all students with the goals of not only helping students write better papers, but also making the students become better writers. I encourage you to visit their office in the Humanities Building (Room 242) and talk to their personnel about your writing assignments. You can also go to their website at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/> and click on the “Make an Appointment” link.