SOCI 2105: SOCIAL ISSUES: PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY

Kennesaw State University
Fall 2013

Online course--no class meetings
Credit Hours: 2

Instructor:
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Course Content Description:
This is one of four disciplinary options (Anthropology 2105, Sociology 2105, Geography 2105, Psychology 2105) that can be taken to satisfy the Social Issues requirement in the general education curriculum. A common set of world social issues is critically examined from one of four social science perspectives. The discipline of sociology focuses on how culture and social structure combine to shape the way human beings live their lives and define and solve their problems.

SOCI 2105: Social Issues: Perspectives in Sociology satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education program requirements. It addresses the Critical Thinking general education learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and evaluating the implications and/or consequences of the issue. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit
http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704

Required Text:
Kornblum, William and Julian, Joseph. (2012) Social Problems, 14th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. The 13th edition may also be used.

Course Learning Objectives:
*Students will engage and interpret the course chapters and themes by participating in discussion forums for each chapter, focusing on separating myths from facts and making distinctions between personal and social problems.

*Students will apply sociological perspectives to social issues and translate the primary Sociological theories, methods and themes into their real life by expressing how these relate to themselves in the discussion threads.

*Students will analyze, interpret, and articulate facts and ideas in writing and develop their communication skills by actively participating in discussion forums for each chapter and practicing responsible and civil engagement of complex, varied and sometimes controversial issues.

*Students will reflect on each chapter, concentrating on the varied social structural factors that facilitate and help perpetuate social issues. They will determine what they need to understand better, what they do or do not agree with, and what questions they wish to ask. These will all be reflected in the discussion forums.

Weekly Learning Objectives:

Week 1--Develop a sociological perspective on social problems, addressing the differential impact of social problems on certain segments of society, the role of the media in shaping public perception of social problems, and the side-effects of social policies that cause social problems.
Week 2-- Become familiar with the policy implications of drug use and abuse and with strategies to combat these social problems.
Week 3--Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of crime and violence in our society and of various strategies for controlling crime and criminals.
Week 4--Provide a definition of poverty and myths associated with it. Discuss social policies that are meant to combat poverty.
Week 5--Discuss how various racial and ethnic groups have dealt with racism, prejudice, and discrimination.
Week 6--Become familiar with how gender and sexuality have become important issues in the workplace.
Week 7--Demonstrate an understanding of key issues facing older Americans today and social policies that were put into place to address their concerns.
Week 8--Discuss the problems of work and the economy as they relate to workers and their place in society.
Week 9--Become familiar with the impact of technology on the environment and with how technology affects society.
Week 10--Demonstrate an understanding terrorism and war in society, including the direct and indirect effects of war and how technology affects the ways in which wars are waged.

Meeting Learning Objectives:
In order to meet the Course and Weekly Learning Objectives students should read the relevant chapters each week, read the journal articles available through GALILEO, and participate in the Lecture Question (LQ) and Discussion Question (DQ) Discussion Boards.

Prerequisites:
While there are no official prerequisites for this course there are some considerations that each student must make. The online method of course delivery is different from the classroom environment and requires the following minimum student preparation:

Self Discipline
With Internet courses the instructor remains a valuable resource; however, the day-to-day instruction is not there and requires the student to become proactive in their learning. The student must be self-disciplined in order to be successful. Time management and organizational skills are a must in order to excel.

Critical Reading
A characteristic of online course delivery is the amount of reading required. Students have become accustomed to instructors explaining the text. This has resulted in students' not reading as much or not paying as much attention to what they read. In an online course, students must keep up with reading assignments and comprehend what they read.

Computer Skills
To do well in this course it is necessary that students have certain computer and Internet skills, such as being familiar with email (including attaching documents), searching databases, netiquette, and reading large amounts of text on screen.

ADA Considerations:
If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the disAbled Student Support Services. Carol Pope, the Assistant Director, will gladly assist you. You may contact her at 770-423-6443 or cpope@kennesaw.edu.

Course Components:

The purpose of the course is to give students a better understanding of the place of social problems in our society and of the various strategies to address them. The course consists of the following components--

Participation
It is expected that students will participate in the class each week by contributing to the threaded discussion questions, completing assignments in a timely fashion, and asking questions of your classmates and the facilitator. Participation will be monitored.

Discussion Boards
There are two discussion board forums for the class—Lecture Questions (LQ)—based on the text and Discussion Questions (DQ) based on the discussion articles available through the Academic Search Premier database. This database is available at the following link: http://www.kennesaw.edu/library/libres/libres.htm Choose Off-campus access to GALILEO through either of the two options. For help in accessing this database or general searching techniques please go to http://galileo.usg.edu . For additional help please contact the KSU Reference Desk at (770) 423-6325.

You should reply to all five LQ's each week and the DQ. On top of that you should reply to the comments of two other students--altogether that is at least eight responses each week that you need to post. For example, you could respond to someone's Lecture Question response and to someone's Discussion Question response, you could respond to the Lecture Question responses of two other students, or you could respond to the Discussion Question responses of two other students. Please note that participation points are only given for the current week.

A response of "That's great!" or "Wow! to the post of another student will not be counted as a response. Responses must be substantive and show evidence of reflection and thought. Responses should add new information, or in some way enhance the learning of others in the course by providing additional resources.

You're Discussion Questions (DQ) and Lecture Questions (LQ) are due by midnight server time (eastern zone) on Sunday of each week. Submit your DQ and LQ posts to the appropriate Discussion Board. Length requirement is a minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words for each DQ. Points will be deducted for responses that fall below this minimum. There is no length requirement for LQ's.

Determining the number of characters (no spaces) does NOT mean writing your responses with no spaces. It is simply a count of the letters in your response, not including the spaces. Try this:
Open a blank MS Word document on your desktop. Type your response. Select Tools from the Tool Bar at the top of the page, then Word Count. Note the number next to Characters (no spaces). Copy and paste your work into the message box of the post on the discussion board.

There will also be a discussion board entitled Sam's Speakeasy. Please use this section to introduce yourself to other members in the class by posting a short biography. You may also use this section to post questions you have about how to complete an assignment, something about the course you do not understand, or use it as a place to ask questions in general of each other. If you would like to ask the Instructor a question please put "Question for Sam" in the subject line. Check this section each week to see if you can be of help to anyone else in the class. Responses and questions posted here will NOT count toward weekly participation points.

NOTE: The Writing Center, located in Room 242 in the Humanities Building, is a free service available to all members of the university community. Tutors assist writers in all aspects of writing: inventing topics, organizing, drafting, revising, grammar, punctuation, documentation, and composing on the Word Processor. Students needing information about the Regents' Test and/or practice in writing the essay itself should contact the Writing Center. Check the door of the Writing Center for current hours this semester, or click on the following link: http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/

Undergraduate Advising Center
The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to offer academic advising to students in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC is located in Pilcher 129, on the first floor near the Foreign Language Resource Center. Their hours are Monday - Thursday 8 am - 6 pm, and Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointments using the website, http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/appointments.php, or by calling the Center during office hours at 770-794-7728. For more information, visit the UAC website: http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php.

Etiquette expectations for online discussions and email
I would encourage you all to contribute to the discussions in the Forums--Lecture Questions Forum and Discussion Questions Forum. Remember: Participation is essential and important. Please be respectful of your classmates in these discussions. Derogatory comments, inflammatory remarks, violent references, etc. will not be tolerated. Before posting your first message become familiar with some issues regarding e-mail etiquette found at [www.dynamoo.com/technical/etiquette.htm].

Discussion Board Forums Grading Outline*:*

Criteria	A (90-100) Outstanding	B (80-89) Proficient	C (70-79) Basic	D/F (0-69) Below Expectations
Critical Thinking	• *rich* in content • full of thought, insight, and analysis	• substantial information • thought, insight, and analysis has taken place	• generally competent • information is thin and commonplace	• rudimentary and superficial • no analysis or insight is displayed
Connections	**Clear** connections • to previous or current content • to real-life situations	• connections are made, • not really clear or too obvious	• limited, if any connections • vague generalities	• no connections are made • off topic
Uniqueness	• new ideas • new connections • made with depth and detail	• new ideas or connections • lack depth and/or detail	• few, if any new ideas or connections • rehash or summarize other postings	• no new ideas • "I agree with …" statement
Timeliness	• all required postings • early in discussion • throughout the discussion	• all required postings • some not in time for others to read & respond	• all required postings • most at the last minute without allowing for response time	• some, or all, required postings missing

Stylistics	• few grammatical or stylistic errors	• several grammatical or stylistic errors	• obvious grammatical or stylistic errors • errors interfere with content	• obvious grammatical or stylistic errors • makes understanding impossible

Course Requirements:

1. Lecture Questions (20%)
Lecture Questions are worth four points each. There are a maximum of five lecture questions per week. Over the 10 week course you may earn a possible 200 points from lecture questions.
Grade breakdown: 4 points * 5 questions per week * 10 weeks = 200 points

2. Discussion Questions (40%)
Discussion Questions are worth 40 points each week.
Grade breakdown: 40 points * 10 weeks = 400 points

3. Participation (40%)
Participation is worth 40 points each week. Students will participate in online discussions posted on the Discussion Board, answering at least two posts per week. 20 points will be given for one response per week; 40 points will be given for two or more responses per week. To receive full credit (400 points for the 10 weeks) for Participation, you should make at least two responses per week to the comments of the other students in the class--for example, a response to someone's LQ post and to someone's DQ post. Participation points will only be given if responses are made to all Lecture Questions and Discussion Questions for a particular week.
Grade breakdown: 40 points * 10 weeks = 400 points

Receiving extra credit and credit for late assignments:
I will grade your assignments as receiving zeroes, for administrative purposes, if they are not posted by the deadline. Post late assignments to the Discussion Board. They will be graded the week after they are posted. You will receive the grades that you would normally have received and will not be penalized for lateness. Please note that participation credit may NOT be made up—it is only given for the current week. For extra credit you may revise any DQ or LQ responses for which you did not receive full credit. The deadline for all late assignments and extra credit is the last day of class as noted on the syllabus.

Revision of assignments:
You may resubmit assignments to be regraded with no penalty. Please email them to the Instructor at cheshbrownsr@cox.net – do not post them to the Discussion Board. Be sure to include your name, class and the assignment name, for example DQ Week 2 or LQ 1-3 Week 5.

Grading:
● Lecture Questions (200 points)
● Discussion Questions (400 points)
● Participation (400 points)
Total points = 1000

Class Schedule:
See the Topic Outline below.

Grades:

A   (900-1000 points)
B   (800-899 points)
C   (700-799 points)
D   (600-699 points)
F   (Less than 600 points)

Instructor Responsiveness and Availability:
The instructor will respond to all e-mails and discussion board questions within 24-48 hours. Grades will be posted within one week of the assignment due date.

Topic outline:

Week 1. August 16 - 25, 2013. Chapter 1: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems

Go to Sam's Speakeasy Discussion Board and post your biography so that classmates may have a chance to reply to it and become further acquainted with you. I would suggest that you cover these areas in your bio: work, education, family, pets, leisure interests, etc.

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Forum.

Week 2. August 26 – September 1, 2013. Chapter 4: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 3. September 2 - 8, 2013. Chapter 5: Crime and Violence

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 4. September 9 - 15, 2013. Chapter 6: Poverty Amid Affluence

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 5. September 16 - 22, 2013. Chapter 7: Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 6. September 23 - 29, 2013. Chapter 8: Gender and Sexuality

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 7. September 30 – October 6, 2013. Chapter 9: An Aging Society

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 8. October 7 - 13, 2013. Chapter 12: Problems of Work and the Economy

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 9. October 14 - 20, 2013. Chapter 14: Technology and the Environment

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

Week 10. October 21 - 27, 2013. Chapter 15: War and Global Insecurity

Lecture Questions:
Post to the Lecture Questions Discussion Board--there is no minimum length. (4 points each)

Discussion Question: (40 points)
Minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words. Post to the Discussion Questions Discussion Board.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
In no case will academic dishonesty be tolerated. Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the undergraduate and graduate Catalogues. Section II of this code 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 formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester requirement.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT
No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by KSU.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION
Kennesaw State University supports the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order #11246, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the college. Any individual with a grievance related to the enforcement of any of the above provisions should contact the Assistant Director of Human Resources, Ombudsperson.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
If you have not yet initialized or need help with your NetID account, then please go to http://netid.kennesaw.edu for assistance.

For other Vista help, visit the Online Support Center at http://help.view.usg.edu or contact the KSU Service Desk.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
For Academic Support please go to the following website:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/alp/academicsupport.shtml

STUDENT SUPPORT
For Student Support please go to the following website:
http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~shagin/KSUhelp