

SOCIOLOGY 2251

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY/FALL 2014/SECTION 2

MW 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM/SOCIAL SCIENCES BLDG #3007

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OFFICE HOURS: MW 12:30 - 1:30 PM, F 10:45 - 11:45, and by appointment

SYLLABUS

From its beginning in the late 19th century as European and American societies were rapidly urbanizing and industrializing, sociology has aimed to understand social problems. Sociology is the scientific study of the patterns and processes of human social interaction.

In this standard social problems course we will examine a number of social problems from the sociological perspective. We will use functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist theories that should be familiar to you from Principles of Sociology to analyze the problems. We will look at the data for each problem, including social statistics, and then apply the theories, attempting to understand the problems.

While we all have opinions on most social problems, this course is not about opinions except in how they are part of the process of socially constructing issues and creating social problems. You may leave the course with the same opinions you entered with, but hopefully you will emerge with a deeper understanding of both the data and the theoretical tools used by sociologists to understand the patterns and processes of human social interaction.

REQUIRED TEXT

Social Problems: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 11th Edition
(Henslin)

SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
WEEK 1	August 18 Introduction (Chapter 1)	August 20 How Sociologists View Social Problems (Chapter 1)
WEEK 2	August 25 Interpreting Social Problems - Three Theories (Chapter 2)	August 27 Interpreting Social Problems - Three Theories (Chapter 2)
WEEK 3	September 1 LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	September 3 Sexual Behavior (Chapter 3)
WEEK 4	September 8 Alcohol & Other Drugs (Chapter 4)	September 10 EXAM ONE
WEEK 5	September 15 Violence: Rape & Murder (Chapter 5)	September 17 Violence, Crime, & Criminal Justice (Chapters 5 & 6)
WEEK 6	September 22 Crime & Criminal Justice (Chapter 6)	September 24 Medical Care (Chapter 10)
WEEK 7	September 29 Urbanization & Population (Chapter 12)	October 1 Urbanization & Population (Chapter 12)
WEEK 8	October 6 EXAM TWO	October 8 Economic Problems (Chapter 7)
WEEK 9	October 13 Economic Problems (Chapter 7)	October 15 Economic Problems (Chapter 7)
WEEK 10	October 20 Racial-Ethnic Relations (Chapter 8)	October 22 Racial-Ethnic Relations (Chapter 8)

WEEK 11	October 27 Gender & Sexual Orientation (Chapter 9)	October 29 Gender & Sexual Orientation (Chapter 9)
WEEK 12	November 3 The Changing Family (Chapter 11)	November 5 The Changing Family (Chapter 11)
WEEK 13	November 10 EXAM THREE	November 12 The Environmental Crisis (Chapter 13)
WEEK 14	November 17 The Environmental Crisis (Chapter 13)	November 19 The Environmental Crisis (Chapter 13)
WEEK 15	November 24 <i>FALL BREAK - NO CLASS</i>	November 26 <i>FALL BREAK - NO CLASS</i>
WEEK 16	December 1 <i>ONLINE ASSIGNMENT</i>	December 3 <i>ONLINE ASSIGNMENT</i>
WEEK 17	December 8 War and Terrorism (Chapter 14)	
FINAL EXAM WEEK	MONDAY DECEMBER 15 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM EXAM FOUR (FINAL EXAM)	

EVALUATION

Your grade will be based on:

EXAMS

Four in-class multiple-choice exams consisting of 50 2-point questions.

Each exam will be worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. Exam 4, the final exam, will not be cumulative, but will cover the fourth unit, the last three weeks of the course.

These exams will be graded on a standard point system:

90+ = A, 80+ = B, 70+ = C, 60+ = D, and 59 and below = F.

QUIZZES

Ten in-class pop quizzes, each worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points. The quizzes might be either at the beginning of class on the assigned reading, or at the end of the lecture on that day's lecture.

CLASS TOTAL: 500 points

POLICIES

1) ATTENDANCE

If you ever have to miss class, make sure to get the notes for the lecture you missed from a fellow student. If you have a university-sanctioned reason to miss an exam, such as an athletic event, you must notify me in advance in order to make-up the exam, preferably prior to the regularly scheduled time. **If you are sick, you must let me know the day of the exam, assignment, or exercise in order to qualify for making up the work.**

2) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

There is no use of cell phones for texting while in class. Phones should be turned off. You must discuss with me any reason you need to keep your phone on vibrate to receive a call, otherwise it will be considered a violation. Laptops may be used ONLY for note-taking. This will be monitored.

3) INTEGRITY

It is your responsibility to maintain academic integrity as specified in the KSU Student Code of Conduct. Do not cheat or plagiarize, and do not aid and abet others in cheating or plagiarizing. My policy for a first offense is that if you are caught cheating or helping a fellow student cheat your grade for that assignment may be a ZERO. Any subsequent infractions may result in your expulsion from the course with an F, and a referral to the University Administration for further sanctions.

4) ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Disabled Student Support Services in the Student Development Center: 770-423-6443, or e-mail Nastassia Sanabria at nsanabria@kennesaw.edu. The office is located in the Student Center, Building 5, Room 267. I will work with the student and the Center to make a reasonable accommodation for testing once verification has been provided to me by the office.

5) ADVISING

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 Willingham Hall, Room 223. Their hours are Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointment by using the website, or by calling the Center during office hours at [770-794-7728](tel:770-794-7728). For more information, visit the UAC website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php>."