

SOCIOLOGY 2251: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY/FALL 2016/SECTION 1
MW 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM/SOCIAL SCIENCES BLDG #2030

DR. RICHARD HUTCHINSON

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OFFICE HOURS: MW 9:00-10:00 AM, 2:00-3:00 PM, 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.

This course will answer three questions: 1) What kind of society is this? 2) How does it really work? Why is it the way it is? and 3) In what ways does it need changing, and how can those changes be brought about? In other words, description, explanation, and evaluation. The evaluation is based on five social values affirmed by most Americans: freedom, prosperity, efficiency, fairness, and democracy. The focus is on social institutions.

Every social problem will not be addressed. But in addition to the text and lectures, students will locate an empirical article in the sociology journal *Social Problems* and write a summary of it. Students can choose any topic they are interested in to research, providing an opportunity to learn about a social problem that might not be addressed otherwise.

The basic format of the class will be modified lectures, encouraging discussion.

REQUIRED TEXT

American Society: How It Really Works, 2nd Edition
(Wright and Rogers) 2015

SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
WEEK 1	August 15 Introduction (Chapters 1 & 2)	August 17 Introduction (Chapters 1 & 2)
WEEK 2	August 22 NO CLASS - ASA (ONLINE LECTURE) The Capitalist Market (Chapter 3)	August 24 The Capitalist Market (Chapter 4)
WEEK 3	August 29 EXAM ONE (ESSAYS DUE)	August 31 The Environment (Chapter 5)
WEEK 4	September 5 LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	September 7 The Environment (Chapter 5)
WEEK 5	September 12 The Environment (Chapter 5)	September 14 The Environment (Chapter 5)
WEEK 6	September 19 Transportation (Chapter 6)	September 21 Consumerism (Chapter 7)
WEEK 7	September 26 Health Care (Chapter 8)	September 28 Finance (Chapter 9)
WEEK 8	October 3 Building a High-Road Economy (Chapter 10)	October 5 EXAM TWO (ESSAYS DUE)
WEEK 9	October 10 Thinking About Fairness and Inequality (Chapter 11)	October 12 Class (Chapter 12)
WEEK 10	October 17 Persistent Poverty and Rising Inequality (Chapter 13)	October 19 Ending Poverty in America (Chapter 14)
WEEK 11	October 24 Racial Inequality (Chapter 15)	October 26 Gender Inequality (Chapter 16)

WEEK 12	October 31 EXAM THREE (ESSAYS DUE)	November 2 Democracy: How It Works (Chapter 17)
WEEK 13	November 7 Elections and Voting (Chapter 18)	November 9 Taxation and the Attack on the Affirmative State (Chapter 19)
WEEK 14	November 14 Corporate Control of the Media (Chapter 20)	November 16 Militarism and Empire (Chapter 21) <i>ARTICLE SUMMARIES DUE</i>
WEEK 15	November 21 FALL BREAK - NO CLASS	November 23 FALL BREAK - NO CLASS
WEEK 16	November 28 Labor Unions (Chapter 22)	November 30 Democracy From Below (Chapter 23)
WEEK 17	December 5 Course Overview and Discussion	
FINAL EXAM WEEK	MONDAY DECEMBER 12 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EXAM FOUR (FINAL EXAM) ESSAYS DUE	

EVALUATION

Your grade will be based on:

EXAMS

*4 in-class multiple-choice exams worth 50 points each consisting of 25 2-point questions.

*4 take-home essay exams worth 50 points each.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

You will select an empirical article from the sociology journal *Social Problems* and summarize it. This assignment is worth 50 points. I will give you more specific instructions. I will have to approve your choice of article.

These exams will be graded on a standard point system:
90+ = A, 80+ = B, 70+ = C, 60+ = D, and 59 and below = F.

CLASS TOTAL: 450 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>."