

SYLLABUS-SPRING 2014
SOCI 2251-01 SOCIAL PROBLEMS
M/W 09:30-10:45
3031 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: 11:00-12:00 M/W 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 TEXT:

Eitzen, D. Stanley, Maxine Baca Zinn, and Kelly Eitzen Smith. 2012. *Social Problems, Census Update, 12/E*. New York: Pearson. ISBN-10: 020517907X ISBN-13: 9780205179077

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS: (on D2L)

Critser, Greg. "Let Them Eat Fat"
Women and Size Factsheet
Poverty Diet

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	25%
Exam 2	25%
FINAL EXAM	25%
Analyzing Social Problems in the News ONE-PAGE Writing Assignments (8)	20%
Class Participation	5%
TOTAL	100%

ANALYZING THE NEWS: SOCIAL PROBLEMS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

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 with the news article attached. 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.

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.

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.

Arrive on time and do not leave early.

Please do not use cell phones during class. When it comes to laptops or tablets, please use do not use these in class. If you have a disability that requires you to use such devices, please provide the required paperwork.

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.

JAN 8	Introductions, syllabus	Review syllabus, obtain textbooks
JAN 13	Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 1, "Sociological Approach to Social Problems"
JAN 15	Wealth and Power	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 2, "Wealth and Power: The Bias of the System"
JAN 20		NO CLASS
JAN 22	Social Inequality PAPER	BRING A NEWS ARTICLE TO CLASS

	WORKSHOP: Writing about social problems	
JAN 27	Population and Global Inequality Paper 1 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 3, "World Population and Global Inequality"
JAN 29	Global Health	FILM: "Rx for Survival, Part 3, Back to Basics"
FEB 3	Technology and the Environment Paper 2 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 4, "Threats to the Environment"
FEB 5	Demographic Changes in the USA	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 5, "Demographic Changes in the United States: The Browning and Graying of Society"
FEB 10	Rural and Urban Problems Paper 3 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 6, "Problems of Place: Urban, Suburban, and Rural"
FEB 12	Rural and Urban problems, continued	Continue above Discuss Exam
FEB 17	EXAM 1	
PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY		
FEB 19	Poverty, Social Conditions	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 7, "Poverty" "Poverty Diet" (D2L)
FEB 24	Racial and Ethnic Inequality Paper 4 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 8, "Racial and Ethnic Inequality"
FEB 26	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	FILM: "Race, the Power of an Illusion", part 3 "The House We Live in"
MAR 3	Gender Inequality Paper 5 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 9, "Gender Inequality"
MAR 5	Obesity	"Women and Size Factsheet" (D2L) Critser, "Let them Eat Fat" (D2L)
MAR 10	Sexuality	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 10, "Sexual Orientation"
MAR 12	Disabilities	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 11, "Disability and Ableism"
MAR 17	EXAM 2	
SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
MAR 19	Crime	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 12, "Crime and Justice"

MAR 24	Drugs Paper 6 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 13, "Drugs"
MAR 26	Drugs, continued	
MAR 31 APR 2		NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
APR 7	Work	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 14, "Work"
APR 9	Families	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 15, "Families"
APR 14	Paper 7 due in class	FILM: "Let's Get Married"
APR 16	Education	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 16, "Education"
APR 21	Health and Health Care Delivery Paper 8 due in class	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 17, "Health and Health Care Delivery"
APR 23	National Security	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 18, "National Security in the 21 st Century"
SOLUTIONS		
APR 28	Solving Society's Social Problems	Eitzen, Baca Zinn, and Smith, Chapter 19, "Progressive Plan to Solve Society's Social Problems"
APR 30 LAST DAY		Finish class

FINAL EXAM