



Social Sciences Southwest College
SOCI 1306 – Contemporary Social Problems
CRN 21412-0021 SPRING 2017
Hybrid Distance Education via Canvas
3 Hour HYBRID (DE) Course / 12Weeks

Instructor Contact Information

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Course Description:

Application of sociological principles to the major problems of contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, deviance, or family problems. (ACGM 2009)

An inquiry into selected current social problems with specific reference to their original development, and suggested solutions. This course is included in the HCC Core Curriculum.

Course Goals/Objectives

•The primary purpose of this course is to explore the problems of our diverse American society and other countries.

From this main goal this course will seek:

•To familiarize students with the Sociological viewpoint of Social Problems.

•To gain a broader and more tolerant understanding of the people who live in our world.

•To examine our “common sense” assumptions which we often unquestioningly accept concerning society and its problems.

•To gain knowledge to help students in their present and future positions in society.

•To learn to think and write analytically

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To identify the sociological perspectives which are used to analyze social problems in American society.
2. To apply the three major theoretical perspectives to the analysis a social problem.
3. To evaluate the four most common methods of researching social problems.
4. To examine the role of the basic institutions in the creation of social problems.

Learning Objectives

- 1.1. Explain the three major theoretical perspectives on social problems.
- 2.1. Understand the interconnectedness of social problems.
- 2.2. Understand the sociological viewpoint on social problems.
- 2.3. Examine the types of people who live in our world.
- 2.4. Differentiate macro and micro level analysis of social problems.
- 3.1. Examine our “common sense” assumptions which we often unquestioningly accept concerning society and its problems.
- 3.2. Compare and contrast the various methods used to research social problems.
- 3.3. Debate the merits of the use of social research in the formulation of social policies.
- 4.1. Apply knowledge to the potential present and future positions of individuals in society.
- 4.2. Summarize the basic institutions that are the fundamental building blocks of social life.
- 4.3 . Discuss the problems of inequality in our country and around the world.

Prerequisites: Must be placed into college-level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) and be placed into college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite).

Instructional Methods

This is an online course and is thus primarily self-directed and self-taught. It is your responsibility to read the textbook and other readings, submit assignments and complete assigned activities before the due dates, study for the quizzes, participate actively, and enjoy yourself while learning about Sociology.

Student Assignments

Assignments and activities are designed to enhance your learning. To help you master the course material, you will be asked to complete assignments and activities that cover key information necessary for success in this course and beyond. Below is a description of all the assignments and activities planned for this course.

Readings: You are required to read all of the assigned material. This material includes the textbook and any additional readings posted on Eagle Online. This will ultimately improve your ability to be an effective, efficient, perceptive and critical reader and will ensure you are prepared to participate in all assigned activities. Your ability to succeed in this class is dependent on your preparedness each day and your ability to stay focused and not procrastinate, so it is imperative that you complete the readings as they are assigned (refer to the Course Calendar for details).

HCC Policy Statement: ADA

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. For more information, go to the HCC ADA Website or call Dr. Becky Hauri at (713) 718-7910.

HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. If you engage in any form of academic dishonesty, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken and you will receive a failing grade for the course. [Note: If you are caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty in this course, you will fail the course. Trust me – **IT IS NOT WORTH IT!**]

HCC Policy Statement: Meningitis Immunization

Texas Senate Bill 1107 passed in May 2011, requires that new HCC students and former HCC students returning after an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under the age of 30 are required to present a physician-signed certificate showing they have been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis. Students must satisfy this requirement prior to enrollment. For more information and a list of exemptions please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/admissions-registration-center/new-student-general-admissions-steps/submit-meningitis-documentation>.

HCC Policy Statement: Attendance

Students are expected to login to Eagle Online regularly. Students who do not login to Eagle Online by the day of record will be dropped from the course. Instructors also have the authority to drop a student for not logging in regularly and participating.

HCC Policy Statement: Repeating Courses

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

HCC Policy Statement: Withdrawal

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, **you** will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in Fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals throughout their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree. If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you **MUST** contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If **you** do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

Information on other policies and additional information on these policies can be found in the HCC Student Handbook (available on the HCC website).

HCC Distance Education Policy Statement

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services

(ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link: <http://de.hccs.edu/de/de-student-handbook>.

Requirements

As your instructor, it is **my responsibility** to:

- Facilitate an effective learning environment through discussions, assignments and activities via Eagle Online.
- Describe any special projects or assignments.
- Make adjustments and changes to the course as necessary to best serve the needs of the class.
- Keep an open line of communication.
- Provide the course outline and calendar.
- Provide a detailed grading formula explaining how student grades will be derived.
- Inform students of HCC and classroom policies.
- To be successful in this course, it is **your responsibility** to:
- Login to Eagle Online *and* check HCC email **DAILY**.
- Participate meaningfully in all activities, discussions and other assignments before the due date.
- Successfully complete all of the scheduled quizzes before the due date.
- Take responsibility for your own learning.
- Comply with all policies and expectations.
- Ask for assistance when you need it.

Additionally, it is your responsibility to *actively engage* in the process of learning and thinking. Learning is not a passive process whereby experts impart knowledge upon you; rather, learning is an active process that requires extensive effort and involvement from both the teacher and the student. **I expect you to focus on truly learning and understanding the material, not simply committing it to memory. You will get as much out of the class as you are willing to put in.** Please note that your education is not simply a means to an end (such as a better career or higher income), but is also an end in and of itself – try to slow down and enjoy the learning process!

Program/Discipline Requirements

Per the HCC Sociology program requirements, we must cover the following topics: Research Methods, Culture, Socialization, Society, Social Interaction, Deviance, Groups, and Class Stratification. Additionally, we must cover two additional forms of stratification (e.g. Race, Gender, and Aging) and three social institutions (e.g. Government, Religion, Economy, Education, Family, and Health). Lastly, we must cover at least one topic related to social change (e.g. Urbanization, Social Movements, and Social Change).

The HCC Sociology program requirements also dictate that at least 40% of your grade must come from writing. This can be done in a variety of formats including in-class writing assignments, written homework, assigned essays, or essay exams.

HCC Grading Scale

A: 900-1000 B: 800-899 C: 700-799 D: 600-699 F: <599

Instructor Grading Criteria

The quizzes, assignments, and other assessments that you are given throughout the semester are tools that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, I encourage you to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. I welcome a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance. All of your grades will be available to you on Eagle Online. Please note that I rarely round scores up at the end of the semester even if you are within half of a point of the next letter grade.

Tentative List of Topics: The Sociological Perspective, Sociological Investigation, Culture, Society, Socialization, Social Interaction in Everyday Life, Groups and Organizations, Sexuality and Society, Deviance & Crime, Social Stratification, Social Class in the U.S., Gender, Race, Aging and the Elderly, Economy and Work, Politics and Government, Families, Religion, Education, Health and Medicine, Urbanization and the Environment, Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Social Change

Specific Classroom Policies

Participation: In order to best facilitate your success and to nurture the most productive and useful learning community possible, you are expected to actively participate in this course throughout the semester. This includes logging in to Eagle Online at least once per day and actively participating in all discussions and activities.

Late Work: There is a zero-tolerance policy for late work in this course. You must submit all quizzes and other assignments in their entirety before the posted deadline – no exceptions or excuses.

Technical Compliance: Students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to): up-to-date software as required by the instructor; a stable Internet connection; and use of the Firefox browser when using Eagle Online. The instructor will not give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues.

Email Etiquette: Because I teach multiple classes each semester, all email correspondence (outside of Eagle Online) must reference your last name and the CRN number (ex: Smith 123456) in the subject line. If your non-Eagle email does not meet these guidelines, it will be immediately deleted. However, the best way to contact me is via Eagle Online Mail. Additionally, all emails should be written using proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling and should avoid the use of slang words and “text speak” (such as cuz or plz).

Respect: To create a safe and enjoyable learning community, you are expected to respect each other’s opinions and experiences at all times. Disrespectful behavior may result in a decrease in your grade.

Introduce Yourself: Worth 100 pts

Unit Reading Quizzes: You will be required to complete a unit reading quiz (or quizzes) on the assigned reading from the textbook for each chapter. Quizzes typically consist primarily of multiple choice questions but may also include true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

Quizzes do not need to be taken in the presence of a proctor. However, you will only have 45 minutes to complete each quiz and you get 2 attempt per quiz, so I encourage you to be prepared and not to rely on your book and/or notes. It is your responsibility to be prepared for each quiz and to ensure that you complete each quiz before the due date. You will be able to see which questions you missed along with the correct answers after the exam deadline has passed. I have a zero-tolerance policy for late work, so if you miss a quiz then you will receive a 0 for that exam. You will have **2 Exams worth up to 100 points each and a Comprehensive Final Exam worth up to 100 points Totaling up to 300 points.**

Assignments: Each Unit has at least two assignments. I have designed all of the assignments to help you master important concepts and ideas and to give you an opportunity to enhance your critical thinking and writing skills. All of your submissions should be well-written and well thought-out meaning they should utilize full sentences with proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation and should demonstrate critical thinking skills and subject knowledge. Refer to the Rubric for Written Work on Eagle Online for details on how written work is assessed. All of the assignments and detailed instructions for completion and submission are available on Eagle Online. I strongly encourage you to avoid procrastinating and to work on the assignments early and often. Assignments are range from 20 up to 100 each **which equals to 500 total points.**

Extra Credit: You may be given the opportunity to earn extra credit for various activities during the course of the semester. Any and all extra credit opportunities will be posted on Eagle Online and will be due at the same time as the other assignments in the topic area. Please note that extra credit is not guaranteed.

Helpful Hints: Do not complete your HW, extra credit, or any other assignments in the text box provided by Eagle Online. Instead, work on your assignments in a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word, Notepad, or Open Office) so that you can save them regularly as you work. Once the assignment is complete, you can save it a final time and then cut and paste it into the text box provided. Assignments should NOT be submitted as attachments. A long list of additional helpful hints, along with a rubric that explains how written work is graded, is available on Eagle Online. I strongly suggest you read the list of helpful hints and familiarize yourself with the Rubric for Written Work ASAP.

Student Assessment

Introduction: Lights Camera Action 100 points

Exams: (2 worth up to 100pts each) totaling 200 points

Unit Discussion Questions: (4 worth up to 25pts each) totaling 100 points

Chapter Assignments: (8 worth up to 25pts each) totaling 200 points

Critical Sociological Issues: 100 points

Critical Sociological Issues PowerPoint 100 points

20/20 Film 100 points

TOTAL: 900 points

Instructional Materials

Textbook: Social Problems and The Quality of Life

Robert Lauer 13th edition

Disclaimer

The material in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes made will be clearly described and explained. The ability to alter the syllabus provides us with the flexibility necessary to ensure success.

Course Calendar DATES, TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

*******Students must Read All Module assigned Chapters*******

Chapters and Assignments

Introduction: Lights Camera Action: **Post by 11:59PM Thursday 2/16/17 & Respond by 11:59PM Tuesday 2/21/17**

Chapter 1 Understanding Social Problems **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59 Thursday 2/23/17**

Chapter 2 Alcohol and Other Drugs **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59 Thursday 3/2/17**

Chapter 3 Crime and Delinquency **Assignment: Discussion Question Post by 11:59PM Tuesday 2/28/17 & Respond by 11:59PM Thursday 3/2/17**

Chapter 4 Violence **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59PM Thursday 3/9/17**

Chapter 6 Poverty **Assignment: Book Assignment Due: 3/21/17**

EXAM 1 CHAPTERS 1-4 & 6 3/21/17 in Class

Chapter 8 Race, Ethnic Groups, and Racism **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59PM Thursday 3/23/17**

Critical Social Issue **Assignment DUE: 11:59PM Saturday 3/25/17**

Chapter 11 Education **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59PM Thursday 3/30/17**

Chapter 12 Family Problems **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE: 11:59PM Thursday 4/6/17**

Chapter 13 Health Care and Illness: Physical and Mental **Assignment: Discussion Question Post by 11:59 Tuesday 4/11/17 & Respond by 11:59PM Thursday 4/13/17**

20/20 Film **Assignment DUE: 11:59PM Saturday 4/15/17**

Chapter 9 Government and Politics **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect DUE 11:59 Thursday 4/13/17**

Chapter 14 War and Terrorism **Assignment: Discussion Question Post by 11:59PM Thursday 4/20/17**

Chapter 15 The Environment 2 **Assignment: McGraw Hill Connect Due: 11:59PM Tuesday 4/25/17**

EXAM 2 CHAPTERS 8-9,11-12, &14-15 4/25/17 in class

Critical Social Issue PowerPoint **DUE: 11:59PM 5/2/17**

Final Exam: TBA

Extra Credit 10pts

Reflecting on What You've Learned Submit before 11:59 PM Monday 5/1/17 PM

PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN