

Middlesex Community College
Spring Semester 2014
Course Syllabus

Course Information: Social Problems
SOC*103; 3 Credits

Location: Online

Instructor: Ed Bonilla, MBA, MS, Adjunct Professor

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TEXT: *Social Problems, 5th edition. Author: John J. Macionis.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

*A systemic analysis of major contemporary social problems, such as mental illness, crime, poverty, and racial and ethnic conflicts with emphasis on their origins. Recommended as the introductory course for students having a general interest in sociology. Majors in the field should also take SOC*101.*

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course helps us understand how social problems emerge from social structures and/or interaction. This understanding allows one to make connections between social problems and public issues and encourages one to look for solutions to the social problems we face.

ONLINE LEARNING

At the end of this Syllabus you will find information pertaining to Online Distance Learning Classes and some Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ). **If you need more information or have any problems please contact Distance Learning at: mxccdistanace@mxcc.edu or 860-343-5756.**

For online discussions it is expected that you will utilize **appropriate academic language** and **professional and mature communications** at all times. While disagreement is expected (*and encouraged*) you must **refrain** from **attacking** another person's view and/or using **insulting** language. *HINT: If you are in disagreement with another person's view (including the instructor), type a draft of your response and save it for later review.*

ADA ACCOMODATIONS

Students with physical or learning disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Counseling Office. After disclosing the nature of the disability, students are urged to discuss their needs with individual instructors. This should be done at the beginning of each semester. Instructors, in conjunction, with appropriate college officials, will provide assistance and/or accommodations only to those students that have completed this process.

ACADEMIC ETHICS

"At Middlesex Community-Technical College, we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally." (Board of Trustees' Policy 5.2.1)

EVALUATION METHODS

We will utilize a **1,000 point grading system**. Points are awarded for each assignment as indicated below. Total points earned then will be given an appropriate percentage grade for your final grade (e.g. 900 points = 90%, etc). Submission of assignments on time does not guarantee you will receive the full number of points. The number of points you earn will depend on the quality of your work.

Late Assignments:

Weekly Discussion Questions – Unless you have prior approval of the instructor and/or you have a verifiable emergency and can provide appropriate documentation, initial responses to the discussion question submitted after the due date (Wednesday's) will be accepted only until the end of that week (Saturday's), but you can earn up to a total of only 5 points (not the full 10). *After that you cannot earn any points.*

Late responses to another student's post will not be eligible to earn any points because they will not add to the discussion; other students will already be working on the following week's discussion question/assignment.

Weekly Assignments – Unless you have prior approval from the instructor and/or you have a verifiable emergency and can provide appropriate documentation, assignments submitted after the due date (Saturday's) will be accepted only for one week after the due date (the following Saturday), but can earn up to a total of only 10 points (not the full 20). *After that you cannot earn any points.*

Mid-Term, Final Draft & Final – Will not be accepted late unless you have prior approval of the instructor and/or you have a verifiable emergency and can provide appropriate documentation. It is suggested that you make every effort to submit your assignments as early as possible so that any last minute problems (e.g. losing your internet connection) will not hinder your ability to submit an assignment.

1,000 POINT GRADING SYSTEM

Biography – Introduction = 40 points	4%
Weekly Discussion = 240 points total <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student's initial response to weekly question – 10 points each (<i>120 points total</i>)• Student's response to another student's post – 5 points each (<i>60 points total</i>)• Final Discussion – 60 points	24%
Weekly Assignments – (20 points each) = 240 points total	24%
Mid-Term = 200 points	20%
Final Draft = 80 points	8%
Final = 200 points	20%
TOTAL POINTS FOR SEMESTER = 1,000	100%

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Each week you will have a Weekly Discussion question posted by Sunday, 12:01 am.

- a) You must **respond** to the question posted by your instructor by **Wednesday** of that week (11:59 pm).
- b) You must **respond** to at least one other student's post by **Saturday** of that week (11:59 pm)

*Your initial response to the discussion question must be at least **3 full paragraphs**, and your response to another student's post must be at least **2 full paragraphs**. You will be graded on your **use of information from the assigned chapter** *, your understanding of the information and how you apply this information in your response to the discussion question and to other student's posts. * In your response you must reference information/facts from the textbook to support your views/opinions. You may also provide personal experiences as appropriate to help provide context for your response.*

2. Each week you will have a Weekly Assignment question posted by Sunday, 12:01 am.

- a) You must **respond** to the question posted by your instructor by **Saturday** of that week (11:59 pm).

*Your response to the weekly assignment must be at least **3 full paragraphs**. You will be graded on your **use of information from the assigned chapter** *, your understanding of the information, how you apply this information in your response, and your analysis/evaluation of the subject matter. * In your response you must reference information/facts from the textbook to support your views/opinions. You may also provide personal experiences as appropriate to help provide context for your response.*

3. Instructions and expectations for Mid-Term, Final Draft, and Final will all be posted at least 3 weeks prior to the due date. They must be submitted in powerpoint format.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS <i>(Textbook is needed for all weekly assignments – late work will not be accepted due to lack of textbook)</i>
Jan 22 - 25	1) Download Syllabus: Please review thoroughly to ensure that you can meet class expectations. 2) This week's assignment: Read professor biography; create your own biography; you can use the "blank student format" provided if you do not already have an existing biography. Submit in pdf format. Submit by Saturday, Jan 25; 11:59 pm.
Jan 26 – Feb 1	Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Jan 29, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Feb 1, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Feb 1, 11:59 pm
Feb 2 - 8	Chapter 2: Poverty & Wealth 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Feb 5, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Feb 8, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Feb 8, 11:59 pm
Feb 9 - 15	Chapter 3: Racial & Ethnic Inequality 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Feb 12, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Feb 15, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Feb 15, 11:59 pm

Feb 16 - 22	Chapter 5: Aging & Inequality 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Feb 19, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Feb 22, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Feb 22, 11:59 pm
Feb 23 – Mar 1	Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, & Criminal Justice 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Feb 26, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Mar 1, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Mar 1, 11:59 pm
Mar 2 - 8	Chapter 8: Alcohol & Other Drugs 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Mar 5, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Mar 8, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Mar 8, 11:59 pm
Mar 9 - 15	Chapter 9: Physical & Mental Health 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Mar 12, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Mar 15, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Mar 15, 11:59 pm * Mid-Term instructions posted
Mar 16 - 22	Spring Break – No classes/assignments due
Mar 23 - 29	Mid-Term: Powerpoint format Submit by Saturday, Mar 29, 11:59 pm
Mar 30 – Apr 5	Chapter 10: Economy & Politics 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Apr 2, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Apr 5, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Apr 5, 11:59 pm
Apr 6 – 12	Chapter 12: Family Life 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Apr 9, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Apr 12, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Apr 12, 11:59 pm
Apr 13 - 19	Chapter 13: Education 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Apr 16, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Apr 19, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Apr 19, 11:59 pm * Draft Final/Final instructions posted
Apr 20 - 26	Chapter 14: Urban Life 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, Apr 23, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, Apr 26, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, Apr 26, 11:59 pm
Apr 27 – May 3	Draft Powerpoint for Final Exam Submit by Saturday, May 3, 11:59 pm
May 4 - 10	Chapter 15: Population & Global Inequality 1) Respond to Discussion Question by Wednesday, May 7, 11:59 pm 2) Respond to another student's discussion post by Saturday, May 10, 11:59 pm 3) Submit weekly assignment by Saturday, May 10, 11:59 pm
May 11 - 17	<u>Final Discussion Question</u> Submit by May 14, 11:59 pm <u>Final Exam: Powerpoint format</u> Submit by May 17, 11:59 pm

Online Distance Learning Classes

MxCC provides students living domestically and internationally with opportunities to learn in a supportive online learning environment. Our broad selection of general education (academic) requirements is taught mostly fully online; interested students need not visit campus while taking fully online courses during a semester. Students taking hybrid courses are required to attend campus meetings specified by the course instructor. New students who are interested in taking fully online or hybrid courses need to first contact the Admissions Office. For procedures of admission and registration, refer to page 17 (Admissions) and page 42 (Registration).

How Does It Work?

Most of our fully online classes are asynchronous — you do not have to sign on at a specific time. Our online classes (ONLN code) are offered by semester. For example, if you enroll in a fall online class, you would start the first day of the semester, just like you would in an on-ground course. Like in a traditional class, you follow a syllabus that provides information on readings, assignments, projects, and exams. You submit your assignments or take your exams within a designated timeline, but the time and day on which you complete it is up to you. The class is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This flexibility allows you to work your class into your current obligations instead of scheduling everything else around your class.

We have created a video to show you how our online courses work. You can find the video at: www.mxcc.edu/Content/Online_Classes.asp (Click on Video: Online Classes in the left column.)

Benefits

- Sign on anywhere anytime as long as you have Internet access.
- Everything is available, always. You can read and reread material for an in-depth understanding and you don't need to worry about incomplete or illegible notes.
- Active participation in lively online discussions is always cited as being a student's favorite part of his/her online class.
- You have direct communication with professors via e-mail at any time. You do not need to schedule an appointment during office hours or wait for a convenient time during class to have questions answered.
- By taking classes online, you've saved yourself the time and expenses incurred when taking classes on campus.
- Online learners come from a variety of places and have a variety of backgrounds, which mean students provide diverse contributions to the class.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: I have never taken an online class. How do I know if I am suitable for learning online?

A: You can take a self-assessment test to find out if you are ready for learning online. The assessment information can be found at <http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/READI.asp>.

Q: Where do I get help in getting started with an online course?

A: We have two options to help you log on and get familiar with our courses. As a new online student, you can attend an on-campus orientation. You can take our online orientation. The on-campus orientation schedule and online orientation can be found at <http://www.mxcc.edu/distance>. Click on Campus Orientation or Online Orientation (left column). We recommend all new online students visit our distance learning web site upon registration and go over online orientation even prior to attending an on campus orientation.

Q: Do I need a computer?

A: Yes. You must have a computer with high speed Internet connection (DSL or cable). You also should have a **back-up plan** in case something happens with your connection or computer.

Q: How much time does it take?

A: You will be studying in an online course for the same amount of time or more than you would be in a classroom. Just like in an on-campus class, you must read textbooks and complete assignments, papers, projects, and exams.

Q: How can I learn about a specific class?

A: Visit <http://www.mxcc.edu/distance>. Click on Online Classes (left). Click the desired term. If you do not see a syllabus for that term, look for the same class/professor in a prior semester. If the course is a new offering, you may contact the course professor to obtain a tentative syllabus.

Q: Does an online class cover the same material as an on-campus class?

A: Yes, the same information is covered. Course descriptions can be found in the course catalog or online at the College website: <http://www.mxcc.edu>

Q: How can I learn more about online classes?

A: You can visit <http://www.mxcc.edu/distance>. There are links to How to Register, Take a SmarterMeasure Test, Online Classes, What to Do, How to Log on, Technical Help, Online Orientation, Campus Orientation, and Success Tips. Explore various links for more information about our online offerings.