

**Middlesex Community College**  
**Spring 2015**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Course Information:** Social Problems (SOC103 CRN 1320 Section 30) 3 Credits  
Spring Semester 1/21/15-5/18-15

**Location:** Online

**Instructor:** Carmela Smith, MSW, LCSW

**Phone:** best to contact by email, phone appointments can be set up as needed

**Email:** Since this is an online course, **emails should be only used in Blackboard**, if BB is not working, an alternative email is: [CSmith1@TRCC.commnet.edu](mailto:CSmith1@TRCC.commnet.edu)

**Text:** Social Problems, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. **Author:** John J. Macionis

**Course Description:**

A systematic 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. *Prerequisite: Eligible for ENG\*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 Asked Questions (FAQ). **If you need more information or have any problems please contact Distance Learning at: 860-343-5756 or [mxccdistan@mxcc.edu](mailto:mxccdistan@mxcc.edu).**

**Online Etiquette:**

For online discussions, it is expected that you 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.

**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 also depend on the quality of your work.

**Late Assignments:**

**Weekly Discussion Questions** – You have a full week to post and respond to other student's posts. Please pace yourself accordingly, your post should be submitted before the due date so

others can respond. Late responses 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.

Unless you have prior approval from the instructor, and/or you have a verifiable emergency and can provide appropriate documentation, initial responses to the discussion questions submitted after the due date will not be accepted.

**Assignments** – Any assignments are due on the date indicated. Unless you have prior approval from the instructor, and/or you have a verifiable emergency and can provide appropriate documentation, late submissions will not earn full points. After that, you cannot earn any points.

**Mid-Term & 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.

**Grading:** Your grade will be determined as follows (1,000 point grading system):

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade Percentage</u>
<b>Biography – Introduction</b> ➤ Introduction and reply to two other students. ➤ Reply to email via blackboard	50	5%
<b>Weekly Discussion Board</b> (55 points each) ➤ Students respond & reply to weekly question(s)/ assignment(s)	500	50%
<b>Quizzes</b> (50 points each)	150	15%
<b>Midterm Assignment</b>	150	15%
<b>Final Assignment</b>	150	15%
<b>Total for semester</b>	1,000	100%

**Letter Grade/Grade Percentage**

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A = 94-96	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	D = 64-66
A- = 90-93	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	D- = 60-63
			F = 0-59

**Weekly Assignments:**

Again, I must stress the importance 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.

**Textbook** is needed for all weekly assignments – late work will not be accepted due to lack of textbook

Week Dates	Activities / Chapter Readings	<i>Assignments &amp; Due date</i> <i>*Discussion Posts should be done prior to due date since you'll need to reply*</i>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>1/21-29</b>	<b>1. Download Syllabus &amp; Review</b> <b>2. Familiarize yourself with the course content modules, Discussion, etc. on Blackboard</b> <b>3. Bio Discussion Post</b>	1/29 ➤ Review Syllabus ➤ Reply to professor's email via blackboard ➤ Biography Discussion
<b>Week 2</b> <b>1/30-2/5</b>	<b>Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems</b>	2/5 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 3</b> <b>2/6-12</b>	<b>Chapter 2: Poverty &amp; Wealth</b>	2/12 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 4</b> <b>2/13-19</b>	<b>Chapter 3: Racial &amp; Ethnic Inequality</b>	2/19 ➤ Quiz
<b>Week 5</b> <b>2/20-26</b>	<b>Chapter 5: Aging &amp; Inequality</b>	2/26 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 6</b> <b>2/27-3/5</b>	<b>Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, &amp; Criminal Justice</b>	3/5 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 7</b> <b>3/6-12</b>	<b>Chapter 8: Alcohol &amp; Other Drugs</b>	3/12 ➤ Quiz (ch. 5, 6 & 8)
<b>Week 8</b> <b>3/13-19</b>	<b>Spring Break March 16-22</b> Spring Break March 16-22	Work on Midterm Assignment ➤ Spring Break
<b>Week 9</b> <b>3/20-26</b>	<b>Mid-Term Assignment</b>	3/26 ➤ Midterm
<b>Week 10</b> <b>3/27-4/2</b>	<b>Chapter 9: Physical &amp; Mental Health</b>	4/2 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 11</b> <b>4/3-9</b>	<b>Chapter 10: Economy &amp; Politics</b>	4/9 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 12</b> <b>4/10-16</b>	<b>Chapter 12: Family Life</b>	4/16 ➤ Quiz
<b>Week 13</b> <b>4/17-23</b>	<b>Chapter 13: Education</b>	4/23 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 14</b> <b>4/24-30</b>	<b>Chapter 14: Urban Life</b>	4/30 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 15</b> <b>5/1-7</b>	<b>Chapter 15: Population &amp; Global Inequality</b>	5/7 ➤ Discussion Post/Replies
<b>Week 16</b> <b>5/8-14</b>	<b>Final Assignment</b>	5/14 ➤ Final

## OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Each week you will have Weekly Discussions (questions provided by instructor).

- a) You must complete each weekly discussion **before** the due date for that week.
- b) You must **reply** to at least two other student's post by the due date of that same week unless otherwise specified.

*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 the following: 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.*

Discussions can also be in the form of various assignments, such as finding a current event and posting about it, watching a video and posting your reactions, reflections, etc.

### 2. Quizzes – you will be notified of quizzes

3. **Midterm Exam** – can be in the form of an assignment that measures understanding of concepts

4. **Final Exam** – can be in the form of an assignment that measures understanding of concepts

**NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER ANY ASPECT OF THE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS, IN WHICH CASE THE STUDENTS SHALL BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE.**

## ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS INFORMATION

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)



## **MxCC Online Course Information**

### **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](http://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) for Online Courses

**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.*