

Instructor: Dr. Ambenge
Phone: 860-343-5810
E-mail: jambenge@mxcc.commnet.Edu

SOC103 – Social Problems 3.00
Credit hours
CRN 2048 summer 2014 Online
Course

May 27 – July 1

Course Description:

A systematic analysis of major contemporary social problems, such as mental illness, crime, poverty, violence, alcohol and drug abuse, racial and ethnic conflicts, emphasis on their origins. The course is recommended for students with a general interest in sociology. Majors in the field should also take SOC 101. Prerequisite: **Placement in ENG 101.**

Required Textbook: Macionis, John J. 2013, *Social problems*, 5th edition, Pearson Prentice hall: New Jersey.

Course Objectives:

It is expected that at the end of the course, students should be able to:

- a) State the sociological definition of a social problem and distinguish between subjective awareness and objective reality of social problems.*
- b) Compare and contrast the experiences of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian Americans in the United States.*
- c) Understand sexual orientation and explain how religion and law influence people's beliefs about homosexuality and people's reactions to pornography.*
- d) Explain how race, class, and gender affect health care in the United States.*
- e) Discuss the major problems in education in the United States and what means have been proposed for resolving them.*

Course Format: The course consists of assigned readings, and classroom discussions. Discussions are part of your assignment and everyone's views must be respected. Our goal is to critically consider and evaluate different viewpoints without offending anyone. For the exams, students are expected to be familiar with the substantive contents of all class materials: assigned readings and class discussions.

Course Policies: The topics covered in this course touch upon several issues that Americans are often uncomfortable discussing openly. Consider the following as guidelines for our class discussions:

- Try to participate in discussions with as much candor as you can summon. Be sensitive to others, but do not shy away from difficult topics.

• You do not always have to agree with your classmates, however, you must always treat others with respect when you express your disagreement. Our goal is neither persuasion nor group consensus but learning from talking things out and listening to one another.

Class Participation: (15%). You ABSOLUTELY need to stay up-to-date in this course. It's structured so that everyone is looking at the same lesson and participating in the same discussions, every week. If you'll notice, the topics correspond to "Weeks". Besides "Course Content," the only other thing you'll need on the left-blue-margin is "Discussions," and "Exams," for when it's exam time. Those are calendar-controlled, so they'll only be available during certain windows of time during the course.

Weekly discussions are class participation exercises, therefore, absolutely no make-ups for missed discussions. These are available from Monday 12:01 am to Sunday (11:59 pm). **Avoid making submissions at the last minute.**

Students are expected to respond to weekly discussion topics with short comments which must be shared with other students in the class. **However, one or two lines statement (s) will not count towards your grade.**

Students are expected to make their initial posting on the topic and respond to at **least three** of their colleagues comments/postings/arguments per topic for that week. Remember you're having an in-class dialogue. You must maintain civility at all times during these discussions.

If you agree or disagree, explain why you agree or disagree and remember to identify by name the person your comments or compliments arguments are directed at. **I need to see names to be able to verify that this interaction took place. Students who fail to identify others by name will lose points.**

Remember, the more students you interact or communicate with, the more your comments and questions will not only help me make sure that you understand the material; they will also get some interesting discussions going on that should make the class even more exciting

NB. *I will be available to respond to your emails or other concerns as soon as practicable, but don't expect immediate action, as I am not available 24/7.*

Grading: Your grade on the **Discussions** will depend on two factors.

1. The Quantity, Quality, and Thoroughness of your initial reply to the Discussion Question.
2. The Quantity, Quality, and Thoroughness of your responses to the replies of other students in the class.

Evaluation: There will be three non-cumulative exams (each 20%). The final exam will be given on the last day of the session.

In sum, the break-down of your final grade is the following:

Exams 1-3	=60%
Final Exam	=25%
Class participation	=15%

Total = 100%

Make-up Exam: No Make-ups for missed quizzes, tests, or exams, except with excused absence (death in the family, Religious Holiday, being hospitalized, or the Blackboard Web Vista server being down).

Grading System:

95 - 100 = A

90 - 94 = A-

87 - 89 = B+

84 - 86 = B

80 - 83 = B-

77 - 79 = C+

74 - 76 = C

70 - 73 = C-

67 - 69 = D+

64 - 66 = D

60 - 63 = D-

Below 60 = F

Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with college rules and the "Academic Honesty & Integrity Policy" any form of plagiarism, cheating or other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in a failing grade for the assignment. Familiarize yourself with citation rules and carefully credit other authors for ideas that are not your own. Do not copy ideas or expressions and do not lift whole sentences!

Religious Accommodation Statement: If your religious obligations conflict with the course calendar requirements, and if you wish to request an accommodation, you must make your request in writing prior to the date of the assessment or activity you will miss and preferably at the beginning of the semester. When requesting a make-up quiz, test, exam, assignment, or activity, state the reason for your request and the date (s) on which your religious obligation (s) will conflict with the course calendar requirement. Also, if your religious obligation/holiday is unfamiliar to your instructor, you may be asked to provide a calendar which shows the published date (s) of your religious observance(s) or holiday (s).

Withdrawal Policy: "You may withdraw from this class any time before the end of the 2nd week* of the semester. A completed and signed withdrawal form must be on file in the Records Office in order to receive a "W" on your transcript. If you fail to complete this process on time, you will receive a letter grade at the end of the session, which will include zeroes for any work not submitted. Course withdrawals may affect financial aid and veteran's benefits. Please make this decision carefully and with the help of your advisor. See the Academic Calendar and the College Catalog for specific dates and procedures regarding the withdrawal process."

Reading Assignments

The following course schedule is tentative, although I do not anticipate any significant changes

Date	Topic	Readings/Discussions post required
May 27 – June 1	1.Sociology: Studying Social Problems 2. Poverty and Wealth 3. Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Macionis Chapter1 Macionis Chapter 2 Macionis Chapter 3
	Quiz # 1	MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 05/30– 06/01
June 2 – June 8	Gender Inequality Aging and Inequality Crime: Violence, and Criminal Justice System	Macionis Chapter 4 Macionis Chapter 5 Macionis Chapter 6
	Quiz #2	MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 06/06-06/08.
June 9 – June 15	Sexuality Alcohol and Other drugs Physical and Mental health	Macionis Chapter 7 Macionis Chapter 8 Macionis Chapter 9
	Quiz#3	MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 06/13 -06/15
June 16 – June 22	Economy and Politics Work and Workplace Family Life	Macionis Chapter 10 Macionis Chapter 11 Macionis Chapter 12
	Quiz #4	MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 06/20 -06/22
June 23 – June 29	Education Urban Life Population and Global Poverty	Macionis Chapter 13 Macionis Chapter 14 Macionis Chapter 15
	Final Exam	MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 06/29 -07/01