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| SOC*103      | Social Problems | 3.00   |
| Credit hours |                 |        |
| CRN 2105     | Online          | summer |
| 2016         |                 |        |

**June 13 – August 3**

**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.

**Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students will 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.

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

**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.

**DISCUSSIONS:** You ABSOLUTELY need to stay up-to-date in this course.

It's structured so that everyone is looking at the same topic and participating in the same discussion, every week.

If you'll notice, the topics correspond to "Weeks" in a semester-long course.

Besides "Course Content," the only other thing you'll need on the left-blue-margin is "Discussions," and "Tests and Exams," for when it's test or exam time.

Those are calendar-controlled, so they'll only be available during certain windows of time during the course.

**PLEASE NO MAKE UP FOR MISSED DISCUSSIONS.**

**The topics** are open from Monday 12:01 am until Sunday 11:00 pm.

- 1) Avoid making your submissions at the last minute.
- 2) You are expected to submit your initial respond to the topic and then respond to **Three submissions per topic** from your classmates' **comments/postings/arguments/opinions**.
- 3) I expect a minimum of six responses in for the week in review ( $2 \times 3 = 6$ ).
- 4) The more students you respond to, 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.
- 5) **Please maintain civility at all times during these discussions (No insults).**
- 6) If you agree or disagree, explain why and provide the name or names of those your comments or compliments arguments are targeted to. **Students who fail to provide names of those their responses or comments target will not earn points.**
- 7) **Be aware that one or two lines statements will not count towards your grade.**

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

1. The quantity, quality, and thoroughness of your initial reply to the discussion.

2. The quantity, quality, and thoroughness of your responses to others in the course.

**Methods of Evaluation:** There will be six non-cumulative quizzes (each 10%).

The final exam (25%) will be given on the last day of the session. Discussion 15%.

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|-------------|--------|
| Quizzes (6) | = 60%  |
| Discussions | = 15%  |
| Final Exam  | = 25%  |
| Total       | = 100% |

**Make-up Exam:** No Make-up for missed exams, except with excused absence (death in the family, Religious Holiday, sick in hospital, or the Blackboard 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

**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, which will include zero for any work not submitted. Course withdrawal 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.”

**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/)

**Reading Assignments:** Make sure you stay up on the readings. There are differences between editions. What’s listed here is for the 5th edition (2013). If you have an earlier version, just make sure you’re studying the same topic!

| <b>DATE</b>      | <b>TOPIC</b>  | <b>Readings/Discussions post required</b>  |
|------------------|---|--|
| June 13 - 19     | Sociology: Studying Social Problems<br>Poverty and Wealth           | Macionis Chapter 1<br>Macionis Chapter 2   |
| <b>QUIZ #1</b>   | <b>CHAPTERS 1 - 2</b>   | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 6/17 – 6/19</b>   |
| June 20 - 26     | Racial and Ethnic Inequality<br>Gender Inequality                   | Macionis Chapter 3<br>Macionis Chapter 4   |
| <b>QUIZ #2</b>   | <b>Chapters 3 - 4</b>   | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 6/24 – 6/26</b>   |
| June 27 – July 3 | Ageing and Inequality<br>Crime, Violence, & Criminal Justice System | Macionis Chapter 5<br>Macionis Chapter 6   |
| <b>QUIZ #3</b>   | <b>Chapters 5 - 6</b>   | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 7/01 – 7/03.</b>  |
| July 4 - 10      | Sexuality<br>Alcohol and Other drugs                                | Macionis Chapter 7<br>Macionis Chapter 8   |
| <b>QUIZ #4</b>   | <b>Chapters 7 - 8</b>   | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 7/08 -7/10</b>    |
| July 11 - 17     | Physical and Mental health<br>Economy and Politics                  | Macionis Chapter 9<br>Macionis Chapter 10  |
| <b>QUIZ #5</b>   | <b>Chapters 9 - 10</b>  | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 7/15 -7/17</b>    |
| July 18 - 24     | Work and Workplace<br>Family Life                                   | Macionis Chapter 11<br>Macionis Chapter 12 |
| <b>QUIZ #6</b>   | <b>Chapters 11, 12</b>  | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 7/22 -24</b>      |
| July 25 - 31     | Education<br>Urban Life   | Macionis Chapter 13<br>Macionis Chapter 14 |

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|---------------------|--|---|
|                     | Population and Global Poverty          | Macionis Chapter 15                       |
| <b>August 1 - 3</b> | <b>Final Exam: Chapters 13, 14, 15</b> | <b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 08/1 - 08/03</b> |