

**Instructor:** Dr. Ambenge

E-mail: [jambenge@mxcc.commnet.Edu](mailto:jambenge@mxcc.commnet.Edu)

SOC\*103

Social Problems

3.00 Credit hours

CRN 2049  
2018

summer

**JULY 05 – AUGUST 09**

**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. 2015, Social problems, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson.

**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.

**The topics** for discussions are open from Monday 12:01 am until Sunday 11:00 pm. Avoid making submissions at the last minute. Your initial response must be posted NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, and then respond to ANY Three of your classmate's comments/postings/arguments/opinions (per topic). A minimum of six responses for a student to earn maximum points for the week. You may elect to respond to as many others as possible since 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. Please maintain civility always during these discussions.

When doing so, if you agree or disagree, explain why you do so, and provide the name of the person your comments or compliments arguments are directed to. 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. A one line or two lines statements will not count towards your grade.

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

**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.

**Evaluation Methods:**

Quizzes (4)	= 60%
Discussions	= 15%
Final Exam	= 25%
Total	= 100%

**Make-up Exam:** No Make-ups for missed exams, except with excused absence (death in the family, hospitalized).

**Grading System:**

93 - 100 = A

90 – 92.9 = A-

87 – 89.9 = B+

84 – 86.9 = B

80 – 83.9 = B-

77 – 79.9 = C+

74 – 76.9 = C

70 – 73.9 = C-

67 – 69.9 = D+

63 – 66.9 = D

60 – 62.9 = D-

Below 60 = F

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** “You may withdraw from this class any time on or before July 30, 2018. A completed and signed withdrawal form must be on file in the Records Office 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 a zero 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.”

**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. What's listed here is for the 6th edition (2015). 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>
07/05 – 11	Studying Social Problems	Chapter 1
	Poverty and Wealth	Chapter 2
	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3
<b>Test # 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1 - 3</b>	<b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 07/13 -15</b>
07/12 – 18	Gender Inequality	Chapter 4
	Aging and Inequality	Chapter 5
	Crime: Violence, and Criminal Justice System	Chapter 6
<b>Test #2</b>	<b>Chapters 4 - 6</b>	<b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 07/20 -22</b>
7/19 - 25	Sexuality	Chapter 7
	Alcohol and Other drugs	Chapter 8
	Physical and Mental health	Chapter 9
<b>Test # 3</b>	<b>Chapters 7 - 9</b>	<b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 07/27 -29</b>
07/26– 08/01	Economy and Politics	Chapter 10
	Work and Workplace	Chapter 11
	Family Life	Chapter 12
<b>Test # 4</b>	<b>Chapters 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 08/03 – 05</b>
08/02 – 08/09	Education	Chapter 13
	Urban Life	Chapter 14
	Population and Global Poverty	Chapter 15
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Chapters 13 - 15</b>	<b>MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN 08/09 - 11</b>