

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
Social Problems: SYG 2010
Fall 2007: MWF 2:30 – 3:20

Instructor: Annie Tuttle

Office: Bellamy 23

Phone:

E-mail: atuttle@fsu.edu

Office Hours: Friday 3:30-4:30 (Other times by appointment.)

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

This course encourages students to think critically and scientifically about a broad array of social problems that affect people throughout the world. These social problems, to name only a few, include health and health care, substance abuse and crime, poverty, prejudice and discrimination, aging and elderly population, education, environment, family, and sexuality. As we study these problems (i.e., assessing how extensive they are, what causes them, possible solutions and their implementation) we must go further than mere description and opinion-based analysis and reach a point where we understand them scientifically and can communicate this understanding to others.

In this class you will:

1. Examine social problems using your sociological imagination.
2. Identify and understand core concepts and concerns of each social problem.
3. Devise possible solutions to the social problems.
4. Strengthen critical thinking and writing skills.

Required Text

Social Problems, 2nd Ed. (2005)

John J. Macionis.

New York: Prentice-Hall

Course Requirements

A variety of assessments will be used in this course. Each assessment is listed below, along with dates and the percentage of the final grade each assignment is worth.

<u>The course will consist of the following:</u>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Due Date:</u>
1) Class exercises/quizzes	25%	n/a
2) Midterm	25%	Friday, Oct 19
3) Reaction Paper	25%	Monday, Nov 19
4) Final Exam	25%	Friday, Dec 14

1) **Class exercises/quizzes:** There will be 5 in-class exercises over the course of the semester wherein students will apply course materials to demonstrate their substantive knowledge. Additionally, unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover assigned readings and any class material. Class exercises and quiz grades will be averaged together to create one score accounting for 25% of the final course grade. There will be no make-ups for missed in-class exercises or quizzes. If a student has an excused absence (see excused absences in course policies) they will not receive credit, nor be penalized for the missed exercise and/or quiz.

2) **Examinations.** Each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, fill in the blank and essay questions. The midterm will cover all course materials (including videos, web materials, assigned readings, and lecture materials) up to the day of the exam. The final exam is comprehensive and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students must take the final exam at the scheduled time; **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** *Students who are not present at the scheduled final examination time will receive a grade of "F" in the course.*

*Final exam is Friday, December 14, 10 to 12pm.

3) **Text Book and Supplemental Readings**

Textbook readings are listed on the syllabus outline and will be posted under course library on blackboard. Supplemental readings will also be posted each week in blackboard, under course library. These are required readings. Be sure to read each posting by the time of class for each date posted.

Grading Scale

A =93-100	A- =90-92	B+ =87-89	B=83-86	B- =80-82	C+ = 77-79
C=73-76	C- =70-72	D+=67-69	D=63-66	D- =60-62	F=<59

Course Policies

1. **Class Exercises/Quizzes** are given only in class; there are NO make-ups. Quizzes may be given at the beginning or the end of the class. Absence, late arrival, or early departure from class will result in a grade of "zero", even if the student has already taken the quiz! In other words, students must arrive on time and stay the duration of class in order to receive credit for the daily exercise and/or quiz. The only exception to this is if a student has an excused absence and provides appropriate documentation to the instructor. In this case, the student will not receive credit, nor be penalized for the absence.

2. **Attendance** is required in order to succeed in this course. Changes in assignments, daily readings, tests dates, etc. will be announced in class. Additionally, material is presented in lecture which is not found in the text; students are responsible for all course material whether present or absent. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting.

3. **Excused absences** are as follows: Religious holidays; absences due to representing FSU at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or sports events; verified (must provide documentation) emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Additionally, if there is a death in the family, up to three missed classes will be excused.

Colds, the flu, fatigue, and stress do not qualify as medical illnesses. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, it is imperative that you alert me to this at the beginning of class. Documentation for an absence to be excused is required. Documentation must be provided upon your return to class. If documentation is not provided on the first day back from the absence, the absence will NOT be excused. Please provide a copy of the documentation to me and keep a copy for your own records. While one is not penalized for the absence of excused absences, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class (es).

The university mandates that 5 or more unexcused absences will result in an F grade for the course.

4. Tardiness is disruptive to other students and the instructor. Students arriving to class late or leaving early will not receive credit for in-class exercises/quizzes, EVEN if the student has already participated in the class exercise or taken the quiz. You must be in class on time and stay the duration of the class to receive credit for class exercises/quizzes.

5. Make-up tests will only be given to those students who have an excused absence. Students can make up the exams on Friday October 26th at 3:30pm. Students must contact the instructor and provide proper documentation on first day back after class ...otherwise the student will receive a zero on the test. Students who do not make up the exam on the specified date will receive a grade of "F" on the exam.

6. Late work will receive a 5 points/24 hour period penalty. This includes weekends. Late assignments may be emailed to the instructor. Additionally, assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com. The same late penalty applies to assignments not posted to turnitin.com. Remember, if you are turning in your work late, you must still submit an electronic copy to turnitin.com to avoid further penalties.

7. Classroom Conduct:

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones or text messaging, listening to ipods or talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. **DO NOT TEXT MESSAGE.** Any of the aforementioned behavior will result in being counted absent.

If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students.

Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave.

Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly.

(1) Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

(2) Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, being counted absent, to dismissal, to failing the course.

8. Electronic Devices are not permitted in the classroom. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and ipods. Laptops are not permitted in the classroom. Failure to abide by this policy will result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, being counted absent, or dismissal from a class.

9. Academic Honor Policy

Students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy of the Florida State University, including the statement on Values and Moral Standards published in *The Florida State University General Bulletin*. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of these expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Policy:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>

10. Academic Dishonesty

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor's discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy (<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf>).

11. Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: Student Disability Resource Center, 108 Student Services Bldg., Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850)644-9566 (voice), (850)644-8504 (TDD) E-mail: SDRC@admin.fsu.edu

Website: <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

12. Incomplete Grades

Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. *Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.*

COURSE CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 27-Aug | Syllabus and Introduction |
| 29- Aug | Sociological Imagination |
| 31-Aug | What is a Social Problem? / Ethnocentrism
<i>R: Macionis p.1-10</i>
<i>R: Blackboard Reading - The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> |

PROBLEMS OF INEQUALITY

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| 3- Sep | LABOR DAY—NO Class |
|--------|--------------------|

- 5-Sep Income Inequality
R: Macionis p.27- 34
- 7-Sep Income Inequality
R: Macionis p.27-35
- 10-Sep Income Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - The Rich and the Rest
- 12-Sep Income Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - For CEO's...A minimum wage in the millions
- 14-Sep Sexual Inequality
R: Macionis p.191-198
- 17-Sep Sexual Inequality
R: Macionis p.191-198
- 19-Sep Sexual Inequality
R: Blackboard Podcast
- 21-Sep Sexual Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - Homosexuality and American Citizenship
- 24-Sep Gender and Family Inequality
R: Macionis p.85-97
- 26-Sep Gender and Family Inequality
R: Macionis p.85-97
- 28-Sep Gender and Family Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - Excerpt from Jacob's "Detours on the Road to Equality"
- 1-Oct Gender and Family Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - The Work Home Crunch
- 3-Oct Violence
R: Macionis p.198-204 and p.170-176
- 5-Oct Violence
R: Blackboard Reading - Is violence against women about women or violence?" Contexts 5(#2): 21-25
- 8-Oct Violence
R: Blackboard Reading - Sex Slave Testimony and Dateline: Child for Sale
- 10-Oct Racial Inequality
R: Macionis p. 55-69

- 12-Oct Racial Inequality
R: Macionis p. 70-76
- 15-Oct Racial Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading - "Who Counts as Them?"
- 17-Oct Racial Inequality
R: Blackboard Reading – "Making Sense of the Senseless"
- 19-Oct MIDTERM

GLOBAL PROBLEMS

- 22-Oct Environmental Problems
R: Macionis 423-437
- 24-Oct Environmental Problems
R: Macionis 438-442
- 26-Oct Environmental Problems
R: Blackboard Reading - Declaration of Sustainability
- 29-Oct Environmental Problems
R: Blackboard Reading - Environmental Racism
- 31-Oct Environmental Problems
R: Blackboard Reading - Corporate Responsibility for Toxins
- 2-Nov No Class
- 5-Nov Globalization
R: Macionis p. 405-418
- 7-Nov Globalization
R: Macionis 405 – 418
- 9-Nov Globalization
R: Blackboard Reading – TBA
- 12-Nov Globalization
R: Blackboard Reading – TBA
- 14-Nov Globalization
R: Blackboard Reading – TBA

PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- 16-Nov Criminal Injustice
R: Macionis 135-154
- 19-Nov Criminal Injustice REACTION PAPER DUE
R: Blackboard Reading - Wrongful Convictions

21-Nov	No Class- Happy Thanksgiving	
23- Nov	No Class Happy Thanksgiving	
26-Nov	Criminal Injustice <i>R: Blackboard Reading - Fighting Crime: An Economist's View</i>	
Nov 28	Aging <i>R: Macionis p. 110-124</i>	
Nov 30	Aging <i>R: Blackboard Reading - Tidal Wave</i>	
3 Dec	Factory Farming <i>R: Blackboard Reading What is Factory Farming? Human Health...data and facts</i>	
5-Dec	Factory Farming <i>R: Blackboard Reading - They Die Piece by Piece</i>	
7-Dec	Course Wrap Up.	
14-Dec	FINAL EXAM 10-12	NO MAKE-UPS

*All dates and information subject to change.