

Social Problems: SYG 2010

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - Spring 2009

MW 2:00-3:15 Room: HCB 210

Instructor: Annie Tuttle

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Office Hours: WED 1:00-2:00 pm (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, 3rd^d Ed. (2007) by John J. Macionis.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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>Date:</u>
1) Exam 1	33%	
2) Exam 2	33%	
3) Exam 3 (Final exam)	34%	

1) Examinations. The class will consist of 3 multiple choice exams. Each exam will cover one section of the course. For example, exam 1 will cover all course materials (including videos, web materials, assigned readings, and lecture materials) up to the day of the exam. Exam 2 will cover all course material from section 2 and exam 3 will cover all material from the final section of the course. Students must take the final exam (exam 3) 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.*

2) Extra Credit Surveys. Up to three surveys on your personal feelings/opinions on the course will be given during the course of semester. I will announce in class when the online surveys open and you will have one week to complete the survey on Blackboard. These surveys are OPTIONAL. They are anonymous in that I will not know who gave what responses, only who took the surveys. Choosing not to take the surveys will not harm your grade, however taking the surveys will add a 1% bonus to your final grade. The bonus points will be added to the Final Exam Score. This will be the only form of “extra credit” offered in this course.

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. Lectures will often highlight and/or build on the readings so you should finish assigned readings *prior to* coming to class. Being prepared for class will also enhance your learning experience and allow you to ask questions about the material during the lecture on the assigned topic.

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. 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.

2. Make-up exams will only be given to those students who have an excused absence (see below). If you miss an exam, you must contact the professor immediately via email. Remember, you must have a documented excused absence to make up the test. You **MUST** provide proper documentation on first day back after class and schedule a make up date...otherwise the student will receive a zero on the test. Students who do not adhere to these policies will receive a grade of F on the exam. .

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).

4. Tardiness and Leaving Early is very disruptive to other students and the instructor. Please arrive on time to class and stay the entire class period. Any of the aforementioned behaviors may result in final course grade deductions.

5. 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 in class.** Any of the aforementioned behaviors may result in final course grade deductions.

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.

6. 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 to dismissal from a class.

YOU MAY NOT USE A LAPTOP IN CLASS.

7. 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>

8. 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>).

9. 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/>

10. 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	
Jan 7	Syllabus and Introduction
SECTION 1	
Jan 12	What is a Social Problem? / Ethnocentrism <i>R: Blackboard Reading - The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> <i>R: Female Genital Mutilation</i>
Jan 14	Income Inequality <i>R: Macionis p.27- 46</i>
Jan 19	No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Holiday)
Jan 21	Income Inequality <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
Jan 26	Sexual Inequality <i>R: Macionis p.207-214</i>
Jan 28	Sexual Inequality <i>R: Blackboard Podcast</i>
Feb 2	Sexual Inequality <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>

Feb 4		Exam 1
		SECTION 2
Feb 9		Gender and Family Inequality <i>R: Macionis p.93-108</i>
Feb 11		Gender and Family Inequality <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
Feb 16		Racial Inequality <i>R: Macionis p.59-74</i>
Feb 18		Racial Inequality <i>R: Macionis p. 75-82</i>
Feb 23		Racial Inequality <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
Feb 25		Health Care <i>R: Macionis 266-274</i>
March 2		Health Care <i>R: Macionis 274-282</i>
March 4		Exam 2
March 9 - 13		Spring Break!!!
		Section 3
March 16		Environmental Problems <i>R: Macionis 459-478</i>
March 18		Environmental Problems <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
March 23		Environmental Problems <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
March 25		Globalization <i>R: Macionis p.439-454</i>
March 30		Globalization <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
April 1		Globalization Video <i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>

April 6	Criminal Injustice
	<i>R: Macionis 149-169</i>
April 8	Criminal Injustice
	R: Blackboard Reading
April 13	Criminal Injustice Video
	<i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
April 15	TBA
April 20	Factory Farming
	<i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
April 22	Factory Farming
	<i>R: Blackboard Reading</i>
(Friday) May 1	FINAL EXAM 12:30pm to 2:30 p.m.

All dates and information is subject to change at instructor's discretion.