Anthropology, Geography and Sociology
Social Problems
SOCI 1306.001 (Online)
Spring 2024 (1st 8 weeks)

INSTRUCTOR: Dianne Dentice, Ph.D.
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OFFICE: LAN330
PHONE: 936-468-2241
OFFICE HOURS: Online by chat or email or in person M-TR from 2:00 PM until 3:30 PM or by appointment on Friday

CLASS LOCATION: ONLINE

Course Description: This course is the study of social problems, their sociological explanations, and their potential solutions. Topics include an overview of social problems, the intersections of race, class and gender, alcohol and drug abuse, work and the economy, environmental issues, and war and domestic terrorism.

Important Course FACTS: This course is an abbreviated 8-week version of a traditional 16-week course. Common sense dictates that we will need to go very quickly in order to cover all of the requisite material. None of the material is any more difficult than either the face to face or 16-week online version of the course. However, required reading and class assignments are accomplished in a short period of time. Therefore, we will be progressing through the material twice as fast as normal. I have built in some flexibility by staggering the due dates for assessments. Refer to your Course Calendar(s) for that information.

If you have technical difficulties during a Blog post or while taking a test, first take a few deep breaths and email me with a detailed explanation with what occurred during the session. I can usually resolve this myself without having to go to the Help Desk.

Sociology program learning outcomes:

1) The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
2) The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
3) The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
4) The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
5) The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
6) The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
7) The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective SLO # or NA (not applicable)</th>
<th>Skill Level Basic, Intermediate, Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>1, 6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student learning outcomes:**

1. Students will compare and contrast theories associated with sociological perspectives in social psychology.
2. Students will be able to appreciate the interconnectedness of the individual and society.
3. Students will recognize and discuss social psychological research methodologies.
4. Students will gain an understanding of how diversity in human society is a vital element of the social world.
5. Students will learn to analyze a specific social phenomenon, issue, or problem.
6. Students will learn the differences between macro-sociology and micro-sociology.
7. Students will gain an understanding of how society impacts their day-to-day lives.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official
and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

**ADDING/DROPPING A COURSE**

Click on the following link for directions about how to add or drop a course during the semester: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-add-drop_6.10.pdf

**ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

In addition to the quizzes, students will write a short essay about a social problem of choice (guidelines are posted in Getting Started), participate in three blog/discussion assignments and take three exams during the semester. Refer to your Course Timeline for due dates. The short essay project is essentially the equivalent of a final exam in take-home format.

**Grading Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blogs x 3 (45 pts each)</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests x 3</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points:</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale (based on total accumulation of points)**
WITHHELD GRADES
Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable documented circumstances such as military deployment, a family emergency, or health emergency that results in hospitalization or long-term disability. It is the responsibility of the student to report any health or other problems that result in missing class assignments to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. An email is immediately sent to all instructors. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Participants in this course will adhere to Policy 10.4: Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. The policy can be found at the following link: https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf.

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media and presenting that material as one’s own academic work.
being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or resumes; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

Check with the Office of Disability Services to determine any necessary course adaptations or accommodations. Please make an appointment with me via email during the first week of class to discuss your needed accommodations. “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services, Human Services Building, Room 325, Voice: 936-468-3004, TDD: 936-468-1004; FAX: 936-468-1368 or online.

**Mental Health Issues**

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

*On-campus Resources:*

SFASU Counseling Services • www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet) • 936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic •
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202 • 936-468-1041

*Crisis Resources:*
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus represents a “best” plan for the course; but, as with most plans, it is subject to change. A copy of your syllabus and course calendar is posted in the Getting Started Module in BrightSpace/D2L. Follow my date designation for quizzes and other assignments since BrightSpace dates on the homepage calendar may change or even disappear if there is a power outage of upgrade. A copy of the course calendar follows. A separate calendar is also posted in Getting Started in the BrightSpace course.

The Course Calendar is based on Central Standard Time Zone. A separate calendar is located in Getting Started.

January 18, 2024

Learning Module One: Understanding Social Problems
Read Learning Module One

Read all associated articles, watch videos, in addition to the other content. You will be tested on content in these Learning Modules.

January 21 (Sunday)
Blog 1 is due @ 11:30 PM

Week of January 22

Learning Module Two: Race, Class and Gender
Read Learning Module Two

[All exams open at 8:00 AM on Monday, January 22 and close on Wednesday, March 6 @ 11:30 PM. Exam 1 covers Learning Modules One and Two; Exam 2 covers Learning Modules Three and Four; and Exam 3 covers Learning Modules Five and Six; and the final is an overview essay about the course. Since this is an abbreviated 8 week class, all exams are due at the end of the short semester.

Week of January 29

Learning Module Three: Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Read Learning Module Three
This Learning Module contains your second blog assignment.

February 4 (Sunday)
Blog 2 is due @ 11:30 PM
Week of February 5

*Learning Module Four: Work and the Economy*
Read Learning Module Four

Week of February 12

*Learning Module Five: The Environment*
Read Learning Module Five
This Learning Module contains your third and final blog assignment.

**February 18 (Sunday)**
Blog 3 is due @ 11:30 PM

Week of February 19

*Learning Module Six: War and Domestic Terrorism*
Read Learning Module Six

Week of February 26

**March 1 (Friday)**
Final project/essay is due @ 11:30 PM

Week of March 4

Last week of class. All quizzes are due on Wednesday, March 6 @ 11:30 PM.