

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Sociology 264.01

3 Credit Hours

Summer II, 2008

Room AB1 307

Instructor: Caron Cates

Office: AB1, room 308A

Phone: 294-1961 Dept. 294-1512

E-MAIL: SOC_CCC@shsu.edu

Office Hours: M-F 9:30-10:00, 2:00-2:30, just prior or after class (**or by appointment**)

Required Text: Macionis, John J. 2008. *Social Problems* (3rd ed.), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

This course applies sociological principles and concepts in the examination of major social problems in the United States and worldwide. Of particular interest will be those issues concerning social inequalities relative to poverty, racism, and sexism. Other major social issues such as violence and crime, global inequalities and environmental pollution will also be areas of focus.

The student will learn to incorporate the sociological perspective in his/her analytical reading. The sociological perspective requires that the student accept at least two fundamental assumptions: (a) we are all products of our social environment, and (b) we must take a critical stance toward all social forms.

A critical examination of society allows us to see how social arrangements perpetuate social problems. This course will allow the student to find the usefulness of the sociological perspective in explaining and resolving social problems. The course will also help students establish knowledge which will provide a good foundation for advanced courses, or individual study, leading to expertise with respect to these problems

Attendance: I will take roll according to university policy. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present before 5 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who miss three or more classes will be penalized 3 points off of their final average grade for each class missed starting with their third absence. Students who do not miss any class days and are not late to any classes will earn an additional 5 points toward their total accumulated points. EX: 310+5= A, 275+5=B

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Exams and Grades: There will be two multiple-choice exams (150 pts each) during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the weeks preceding the exam. These are not comprehensive exams. Make sure to attend class on exam days. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a make up exam.

Extra Credit: A five (5) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will be to watch the movie "Crash" and answer a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided – Date to be announced in class.

You will also be responsible for a class project that will be presented on August 1st and 2nd. The details and outline of the project will be discussed on the first day and be available on blackboard. This project will be worth 50 points. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed on exam days. A total of 350 possible points will be available. Grades will be assigned according to the following chart:

350 -315 - A
314 - 280 - B
279 - 245 - C
244 – 210 - D
209 - 0 - F

Make up Exams: Make up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES**. In the event that a student could not attend one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through verifiable documentation. Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests.

Lectures: Lectures will be held on **M-F** from **10:00-11:50**. Before each lecture period, the student is to study the assigned readings in order to have a framework for understanding the material presented in the lecture. If a lecture is missed, it is important to obtain notes from another student.

Academic Dishonesty SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, quiz or assignment in question.

Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask any student or students to leave class if I believe that their behavior is disruptive to the class and the learning environment. In other words, come to class prepared and be respectful to other students. Any other behavior will not be tolerated. **First offense will be a verbal warning, second offense written warning, third offense 2 point deduction, fourth – 4 point, fifth -6 point etc.**

For class discussion to run smoothly, all beepers and cell phones must be turned off during class time. I also ask if you hold a position which requires you to wear a firearm, such as police officers, you must remove your firearms prior to coming to class; in other words, no guns or other “types on weapons” in class.

Course Outline is subject to change.

July 8th - Introduction

July 9th – July 17th - Chapters 1-9

July 18th – Friday Midterm

July 19th – Aug. 4th - Chapters 10-18

No class on Friday July 25th

No class on Friday Aug. 1st

Aug 5th and 6th – Presentations

August 7th – final exam