



**Soc 1306 W
Social Problems
Fall 2015
(Online)**

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Social Problems in a Diverse Society (6th Ed)* by Diana Kendall, Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2012, ISBN: 978-0205877898. The book is available in the university bookstore and online.

Course Description: This course looks at social conditions and patterns of behavior that cause public concern and can lead to collective action to bring about social change in a way that is relevant and interesting to the 21st Century student.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:

After completing this course:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of 21st century social problems in the U.S. and global societies.
2. Students will be able to define sociological terms and concepts that will help them better understand their social world and to lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of the inequalities in society due to race and ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.
4. Students will be familiar with deviant behaviors and the social concern surrounding these behaviors.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on “netiquette” go to the website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.

- [Rule 1: Remember the Human](#)
- [Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life](#)
- [Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace](#)
- [Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth](#)
- [Rule 5: Make yourself look good online](#)
- [Rule 6: Share expert knowledge](#)
- [Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control](#)
- [Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy](#)
- [Rule 9: Don't abuse your power](#)
- [Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes](#)

EXAMS: There will be five exams (worth 100-pts. ea.)—one every week. Check the course schedule for dates. If a student misses an exam the only way to make it up is to email the professor and make special arrangements. So mark these dates on your calendars now, otherwise, if you miss an exam you will probably find it necessary to drop the course. There is a 24-hour window on test days to take the exam, but once the exam is started, you have only 1 hour to complete it. If you log off for any reason, the exam is over, and you cannot log back in. You are expected to take exams without the aid of your textbook, notes, or any other type of help or aid from anything or any other person. You are on the honor system to take the exams just as if you were taking them in a classroom with the professor present.

DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Discussions will open at 12:01 a.m. at the beginning of each unit and close at 11:59 p.m. on the eve of the exam. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. I expect you to post more than 1 response as you should read your classmates posts and engage in discussion with them.

NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic often which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the Power Points and reading assignments in your textbook. Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and *occasionally* interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:

Student responded to initial issue with at least a paragraph that addresses each of the questions or issues raised in the discussion topic	(6 pts)
Student responded to other students' posts	(1 pt)
Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion	(2 pts)
Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic	(1 pt)

As you can see, one post to the discussion topic is the minimum expectation and will get the minimum points (6). To get the full 10 pts, you cannot wait until near the end of the discussion and make a post or two. To earn the full 10 points you must post an initial response to the issue/questions posed, and then post at least 3 additional times to respond to your classmates' posts. You need to post early and post often. This is a *discussion*, which means you need to interact with your classmates, asking and answering questions.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the five exams worth 100 pts. each (500 pts) 1 assignment worth 50 pts. and 5 online discussions worth 10pts. each (50 pts).

5 Exams @ 100 pts. ea. =	500 pts.	Scale: A= 90 – 100 % (540 - 600 pts.) B= 80 – 89 % (480 - 539 pts.) C= 70 – 79 % (420 - 479 pts.) D= 69 – 60 % (360 - 419 pts.) F= less than 60 % (< 360 pts.)
Discussions =	50	
Assignment =	<u>50</u>	
Total Points =	600 pts.	

EXTRA CREDIT: Don't ask, there won't be any. Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even "higher" A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the "regular" work and you will not need any "extra" credit.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at www.openoffice.org)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The publisher of the textbook provides an online site to accompany the textbook. The web address is on the back cover of the textbook.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail. My email address is mica.thompson@tamuc.edu. If you just send it through eCollege, I may not receive it so be sure to check the address. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Thursday within a 24-hour period. E-mails received on Friday, or over the weekend will not receive a response until the following Monday. *The professor absolutely will **NOT** be available on Saturdays or Sundays.*

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-college and/or MyLeo e-mail. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will attempt to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received after noon on Friday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday before you receive a response.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: All exams are expected to be taken closed-book with no outside help from book(s), notes, or other people. It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Departmental policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an "F" for the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law. Don't do it!

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, “X,” “DP,” “DF,” AND WITHDRAWAL: All university policies regarding last day of enrollment, use of “X,” “DP,” and “DF,” and withdrawal from class will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the university catalog, current semester schedule, and other official sources for specific deadlines, policies, etc. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to see that all university procedures are properly followed.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
Week 1:	Studying Social Problems in the 21 st Century <i>Discussion 1 begins at 12:01 Aug. 31</i>	Ch. 1
Week 2:	Wealth and Poverty: Us. And Global Economic Inequalities	Ch. 2
Week 3:	EXAM 1 on Thursday/Friday Sept. 17/18 <i>Discussion 1 closes at 11:59 pm on Sept. 16</i>	Ch. 1,2
Week 4:	Racial and Ethnic Inequality <i>Discussion 2 begins at 12:01 Sept. 21</i>	Ch. 3
Week 5:	Gender Inequality <i>Global Assignment due Tues. Oct. 6</i>	Ch. 4
Week 6:	EXAM 2 on Thursday/ Friday Oct. 8/9 <i>Discussion 2 closes at 11:59 pm on Oct. 7</i>	Ch. 3,4
Week 7:	Inequality Based on Age <i>Discussion 3 begins at 12:01 on Oct. 12</i>	Ch. 5
Week 8:	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation	Ch. 6
Week 9	EXAM 3 on Thursday/Friday, Oct. 29/30 <i>Discussion 3 closes at 11:59 pm on Oct. 28</i>	Ch. 5,6
Week 10:	Prostitution, Pornography and the Sex Industry <i>Discussion 4 begins at 12:01 on Nov. 2</i>	Ch. 7
Week 11:	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Ch. 8
Week 12	EXAM 4 on Thursday/Friday, Nov. 19/20 <i>Discussion 4 closes at 11:59 pm on Nov. 18</i>	Ch. 7,8
Week 13:	Crime and Criminal Justice <i>Discussion 5 begins at 12:01 Nov. 23</i>	Ch.9

Week 14:
Week 15:

The Changing Family
EXAM 5 on Thursday Dec. 9
Discussion 5 closes at 11:59 pm Dec. 8

Ch. 11
Ch. 9,11