



**SOC 1306.01W: GLB/US – Social Problems  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Fall 2016**

<b>Instructor:</b> Louis Lufkin	<b>Class Times:</b> Monday-Friday	<b>Class Location:</b> eCollege (online)
<b>Office Location:</b>	Ag/IT 222-I	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M-W 9a-12p or By appointment	
<b>Office Phone:</b>	903-468-8226	
<b>University Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:Louis.Lufkin@tamuc.edu">Louis.Lufkin@tamuc.edu</a>	

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

This course participates in the Texas A&M University-Commerce Low-Cost Textbook Initiative, therefore, the text for this course is provided at no charge to the students, via Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license.

You're welcome!  
*Professor Lufkin*

Barkan, S. *Social Problems: Continuity and Change*. Saylor Foundation. ISBN 13:978-1-4533472-0-1



**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the social reality of drug use and drug users. We will study the historical significance and social construction of drug use, users, abuse and addiction. We will explore the relationships between individual and group behavior and their relationship to society. In addition, this course will look at issues surrounding drug use and its relationship to crime, medicalization in our society, and various movements aimed at drugs.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course is intended to enable you to:

1. Demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
2. Communicate, in written, oral, or visual means and in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. Demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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The following hardware and software are necessary in order to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to ECollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

## ACCESS and NAVIGATION

This course will be completed using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To log in to the course, go to:

<https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu). Once you log in to eCollege, click on My Courses and select SOC 1306.01W GLB/US – Social Problems.

**Please note that this course is completely online instruction; and as such, aspects of the course (including assignments / discussions / comments / exams, etc.) may be turned in / completed through eCollege. Your grades will also be available in eCollege.**

After logging in to the course, students will notice that the weekly/unit content area is located on the left navigation bar. These weekly/unit content areas are identified as Week 1, Week 2, etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule located in the syllabus.)

Student should access course materials by clicking on the proper weekly/unit content area. Students should read the weekly overview that contains information about what is to be covered in class, along with a series of weekly tasks (these tasks correspond to the links available in each weekly unit and to what appears in the syllabus).

Students should then click on the **Lecture** link and take the time to read/view any material/presentations I have posted. The lecture/presentation is an attempt to integrate information from the course readings and includes information from the text/readings as well as other information that I consider important to your understanding of the subject matter.

Students will complete and submit any on-line assignments by clicking on the **Assignments** link that will be visible if an assignment is scheduled for that week. Students should be sure to submit any assignments according to established instructions and to submit any assignments into the properly named / numbered dropbox, if any. Any assignments are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.

Students will complete assigned exams by clicking on the **Exam** link that will be visible, if an exam is scheduled for that week. Exams are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.

## COMMUNICATION and SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

My primary form of communication with the class will be through announcements on eCollege, and e-mail. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students via Announcements and your official University e-mail address available to me through MyLeo. It will be your responsibility to check your University e-mail regularly.

Students who wish to discuss an issue with me personally should do so through e-mail or through my (in person) office hours.

**Students who e-mail me can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) within 24 hours Monday-Thursday. Students who e-mail me during holidays or over the weekend, i.e. Friday-Sunday, can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) on the next regularly scheduled business day. This will be strictly adhered to!!!**

### eCollege Student Technical Support:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

**Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

**For assistance with the library:** To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the Library's web site directly: <http://www.tamuc.edu/library> not from within eCollege.

### Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege:

Should students encounter eCollege-based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed.

- Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or 1-866-656-5511
- Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket Number
- Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should Email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
- At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE: Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the helpdesk. I strongly encourage you to check for compatibility of your browser BEFORE the course begins and to take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform. ONLY eCollege-based problems are legitimate.**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes for the course. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, and readings.

Due to the technical nature of the materials being presented, it is highly recommended that the student take notes over the readings, online lectures, discussions, videos and assignment activities. **Accessing all weekly content items is required!!!**

### Grading

A total of 350 points are attainable in the course. The breakdown of points is as follows:

Discussion Posts	5 @ 20 pts	=100 points
Midterm Exam	1 @ 100 pts	=100 points
Final Exam	1 @ 150 pts	= <u>150 points</u>
		<b>=350 points TOTAL</b>

The final grades in this course will be calculated according to the following scale:

A	315-350 points
B	280-314 points
C	245-279 points
D	210-244 points
F	209 points and below

The student's grade in this course will be a direct result of the student's personal dedication to the course requirements. **There will be no curving of grades.**

**Special Note: When checking grades on eCollege, the system only gives a percentage of the total assignments the student has 'attempted'. Please compare grades with the course syllabus for the most accurate information.**

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures:

#### Attendance Policy

Each week's content items will not be accessible until Monday, 12am, of each week, according to the University schedule. It is each student's responsibility to access the weekly course content items and complete any assignments, activities, and exams as outlined in this syllabus.

#### Discussion Posts

There will be five (5) Discussions regarding one(1) social problem each; worth 20 points per Discussion. The Discussion dates will then be assigned by the professor and posted along with the remaining Course Outline / Calendar.

The Discussions will be in the following format:

You will post an original response to the prompted topic considering (XYZ) social problem and compile a list of "ideal" solutions to that social problem. You will then compile a list of "realities" [of your ideal solutions] that would have to be dealt with in order to improve on the social problem. This part of your Discussion is only worth 10 points.

The other 10 points will result from your comments to someone else's post. You must respond to, at least, one other student's original post. In your comments to them, you will offer some "workable" solutions, based on the other student's "ideal solutions and realities".

#### **So, here's the take-away:**

- **I provide the topic**
- **You respond with "ideal" solutions and "realities" (for 10 pts)**
- **You comment on someone else's post, offering "workable" solutions (for 10 pts)**

**FYI: If anyone's post or comments are less than a minimum of 250 words, you will receive a zero (0) for that post or comment. Understood?**

#### Midterm Examination

There will be a midterm examination, consisting of 50 questions, in multiple-choice/true-false format. Specific instructions will be provided for the Midterm Examination. **The midterm examination will be completed on eCollege.** The midterm examination will be worth a maximum of 100 points.

#### Final Examination

There will be a final examination, consisting of 52 questions. 50 questions in multiple-choice/true-false format, worth 1 point each and 2 essay questions, worth 25 points each. Specific instructions will be provided for the final examination. **The final examination will be completed on eCollege.** The final examination will be worth a maximum of 150 points.

## Academic Dishonesty

The University will strictly enforce policies regarding academic dishonesty. If you are found in violation of these policies, you will be reported to both the Department Head, as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These administrators may impose penalties, separate of my actions.

Penalties for academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade, failing the course, and/or dismissal from the university.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following acts:

- Cheating-** Copying another's work, using unauthorized Materials during assignments or exams, Perpetrating the work of another as your own, etc.
- Plagiarism-** Failure to site the work of another in your own Submissions, perpetrating the work of another, etc.

## Student Behavior

As stated in the student handbook: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment". (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.

## Make-up Work – Drop Policy

All weekly content items, assignments, and exams are available beginning 12am, each Monday of the academic week. Read this VERY carefully, because I **DO NOT** want to be asked whether or not you can make up anything you missed the deadline for. If you miss a deadline for turning in an assignment or exam, that is your business. I will not ask for, **nor do I care what the reason is or why!** You may make up one (1) missed assignment, or the Midterm exam ONLY. The most you can earn for any makeup work is a maximum of 60%! In other words, each student **MUST** submit all work by the assigned due date and time!!! It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course by the appropriate dates, according to the university calendar.

**In Week 15, I will ask for students to email me requests for any missed work. DO NOT ask me before Week 15!**

## **University Specific Procedures:**

### **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**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.



**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Wk	Dates	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	Aug 29-Sep 4	Syllabus / Introductions / Ch. 1 Understanding Social Problems, p.4	Syllabus Quiz [0]
2	Sep 5- Sep 11	Ch. 2 Poverty, p. 35	Discussion 1- Poverty [20]
3	Sep 12- Sep 18	Ch. 3 Racial and Ethnic, p. 97	n/a
4	Sep 19-Sep 25	Ch. 5 Sexual Orientation, p. 209	Discussion 2-Sexual Orientation [20]
5	Sep 26- Oct 2	Ch. 4 Gender , p. 155	n/a
6	Oct 3- Oct 9	Ch. 6 Aging and Ageism, p. 257	n/a
7	Oct 10- Oct 16	Ch. 7 Alcohol and Other Drugs, p. 299	n/a
8	Oct 17- Oct 23	Ch. 8 Crime and Criminal Justice, p. 366	Midterm Exam (Ch's 1-8) [100]
9	Oct 24- Oct 30	Ch. 9 Sexual Behavior, p. 424	Discussion 3-Sexual Behavior [20]
10	Oct 31- Nov 6	Ch. 11 Schools and Education, p. 537	n/a
11	Nov 7- Nov 13	Ch. 10 The Changing Family, p. 491	Discussion 4- Family [20]
12	Nov 14- Nov 20	Ch. 12 Work and the Economy, p. 599	n/a
13	Nov 21- Nov 27	Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving Break	n/a
14	Nov 28- Dec 4	Ch. 13 Health and Healthcare, p. 648 Ch. 14 Urban and Rural Problems, p. 703	n/a
15	Dec 5- Dec 11	Ch. 16 War and Terrorism, p. 812	Makeups are requested / Discussion 5- War & Terrorism [20]
16	Dec 12- Dec 16	Finals Week	Final Exam (1-15) [150]
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Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule as noted above. However, circumstances may require changes to the schedule. In that case, changes will be announced via university e-mail, or on eCollege. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary and depending on the progress of the class. I highly recommend that you follow the schedule outlined above **VERY CAREFULLY** so that you are sure to complete readings as assigned and turn your assignments in on time.