Soc1306.94E – Global/US Social Problems

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: **Karista Hughes**
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-11am
Office Phone: 903-886-5332
Office Fax: 903-886-5774
University Email Address: karistahughes@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: University Email
Communication Response Time: *24 hours or at my earliest convenience.*

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required
Henslin, James M. 2018 Social Problems: A Down to Earth Approach. 12th Edition.
ISBN 13: 978-0134521428

Course Description

A critical discussion of the sociological perspective on studying descriptions, causes, and prevention of social problems such as crime, mental illness, drug abuse, environmental degradation, poverty, terrorism, and declining quality of life in today's world.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is intended to enable you to:

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

1. Demonstrate comprehension of sociological concepts as measured through objective exams.
2. Communicate, in written, oral, or visual means the application of sociological theories and quantitative analysis to real world topics as measured by written exams.
3. Demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues and view yourselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Use of D2L learning management system, use of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, use of basic presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

The modality for this course will primarily be face-to-face lecture.

Assessments

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Discussions	5	40	200
Writing Assignment	1	200	200
Quizzes	4	50	200
Midterm	1	200	200
Final	1	200	200
		TOTAL	1000

Grading

A total of 1000 points are attainable in the course.
The final grades in this course will be calculated according to the following scale:

A   900-1000   points
B   800-899   points
C   700-799   points
D   600-699   points
F   0-599   points

1. **Assignment Description**:

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Discussion Boards (DB) – (5 at 40 points each=200)
There will be 5 discussion board assignments over the semester. Students are responsible to keep up with each chapter DB within each module. They will require you to post thoughtful, informed comments on assigned prompts and respond to the comments of others. Each module's DB assignment requires a minimum of 3 posts—one that is your original response to my prompts (i.e., Major Post), and two that are responses to the posts of others (i.e., Minor Posts).

Major Post: The major post is a substantial post that addresses one of the discussion board questions and makes a significant contribution to the topic of the week. For this major post, you should select a question from the list of weekly discussion questions as directed by the Discussion Board instructions on D2l, provide a thorough answer to it, and include references if you quote or cite other sources. Please note that some modules will span two weeks and may require you to select a question from each assigned reading to answer. A response to another student's post will not count as a major post. Technically, a major post must be at least 200 words. For each major post, you should have an appropriate heading (e.g., "Abortion Debate") followed by "(Major Post)." Points will be deducted if a post is not made, it is late, unclear, irrelevant, or if the writing is poor. See rubric for full breakdown of points. A major post is worth 30 points, and it must be submitted by the deadline specified under the Course Summary section located at the end of the Syllabus on Canvas. Furthermore, all posts must include ASA styled in-text citations and a reference list at the bottom of the post if the content of the post relies on information from outside sources, such as another author's original idea, theory, or statistics. It is a good idea for students to start the habit of including their assigned readings in their reference list for each discussion post.

Minor posts: The minor posts should be responses to the posts of your classmates. These posts may be in the form of questions, comments, observations, initial reactions, and so on. Before response, please read your classmate's post carefully and "listen" to what your classmate is saying. Technically, a minor post consists of at least 150 words. A minor post is worth 5 points (a total of 10 points per week for 2 minor posts). Points will be deducted if a post is not made, it is late, unclear, irrelevant, or if the writing is poor. See rubric for full breakdown of points. The minor posts must be submitted by the deadline specified under the Course Summary section located at the end of the Syllabus on Canvas.

Grading of posts: For each discussion forum, you will earn up to 40 points by submitting three posts: 30 points for the major post and 10 points for the two minor posts. Posts beyond the minimum three required are encouraged. Although extra posts will not earn extra points each week, a consistent record of extra posts can elevate your course grade to the next level (e.g., from a B to an A) at the end of the semester if your total score is at the borderline or close to the next threshold. All posts should be related directly to the weekly topic and readings. Posts that are irrelevant to the topic or make no sense will not receive any credit. All posts should be grammatically correct and well written. Poorly written posts will receive a private email comment from me with the opportunity to resubmit one for reconsideration. A misunderstanding of course

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

materials shown in your posts will not cost you any point because discussion is the learning process to understand the materials. Nonetheless, simply saying "I agree" or "I disagree" or something to that effect will not count as a substantive post and will not receive a credit. Late posts will receive zero points for the week except for documented illness or emergency.

2. **Writing Assignments: Film Analysis (200 Points)**
For the writing assignments in this course, you are required to complete and submit a Film Topic & Outline and a Film Analysis. You will submit your Film Topic & Outline before your Film Analysis.

General Instructions: Select one social problem found within a film of your choosing, and write a 2-3 page analysis in which you critically review and apply the literature related to your chosen topic using no fewer than 5 (five) additional scholarly journal articles from the TWU Library website. You may use readings from this course as part of your essay, but you must use the five additional scholarly sources in addition to whichever course readings you wish to include. Newspapers, Wikipedia, Tumblr, Facebook, Buzzfeed articles, and all other non-scholarly sources are strictly prohibited.

Potential Topics: Here are some examples of the social problem topics you could choose:

Abortion
Alcohol and Drug Use
Rape
Murder
Poverty and Wealth
Racial Inequality
Physical and Mental illness
Sexual Discrimination against women and sexual minorities
Pollution and environmental problems
War and Terrorism
Global Warming
Film Analysis: For this film analysis, you will need to include the following components:

Introduction: What is the social problem in this film?
Provide a brief written summary/synopsis of the film (4-6 sentences).
Which theoretical perspective "best" fits in this social problem.
Apply at least two concepts/examples of your topic from your textbook/academic sources that have been covered in the film.
Describe possible solutions for the problem. (You are to provide your own analysis, based on your findings and class discussions, of why this is a problem and your possible solutions).
A conclusion that summarizes your main points and ties your concepts together.
References (separate page and excluded from the 2-3 page minimum)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Your Film Analysis will be worth 150 points. The paper will be graded in terms of (1) how well it covers the required information, (2) whether it properly uses sociological concepts and perspectives, (3) how well it is organized and written, and (4) other miscellaneous criteria (e.g., length, typing, spacing, time of submission). Submissions must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx).

Film Topic & Outline: In order to facilitate your Film Analysis assignment, you will be required to turn in your film choice, topic choice, scholarly sources, and an outline for your film analysis by the deadline specified under the Course Summary section located at the end of the Syllabus on Canvas. You must provide an outline of your paper at this time, including paragraph by paragraph breakdowns of the points you intend to cover in your assignment.

Your topic and outline submission should be typed in a word document, and should include the following:

Film: Title of the film, the date of the film's release, a brief description of the film (2-3 sentences), and the film's IMDB link (or link to a similar website).
Topic: One or two sentences specifically identifying the topic of your film analysis. (See examples of social problem topics above.)
Course Readings: List any course readings or textbooks you are planning to use. Please use APA or ASA format.
Academic Sources: List your 5 additional sources in APA or ASA format. The purpose of turning in your topic and sources early is to provide me with an opportunity to review the sources and ensure they are accurate and appropriate for the course. A wide variety of scholarly work will be acceptable, but the key will be finding the proper scholarly and peer reviewed work. All sources in a references section should be alphabetized by the first author's last name.
Outline: You should include a brief outline of the structure of your paper, including major points you wish to make.
Your Film Topic & Outline will be worth 30 points and will be graded based on the content you provide (e.g., a clearly defined topic, sources, and outline). Submissions must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx).

Additional Information: The Film Analysis is considered formal writing – this means that I expect you to do all of the following: Write with purpose. Each sentence should contribute to your overall writing (no fillers like very very very very interesting). Additionally, you should use the same glossary of terms that the readings' authors use; do not make up your own descriptors or tell the reader "Basically…" Your tone should be literal and formal using proper English spelling and grammar. Do not use clichés, text speak (e.g. ROFL), emoji, non-text characters, or non-scholarly sources. You should write in paragraphs which are organized to fit together.

The Film Analysis must use APA or ASA formatting for in-text citations and reference list and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. The assignment should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font. Furthermore, the assignment should be between 2-3

pages in length, with one-inch margins on all sides and page numbers. Please do not vary your font, font size, spacing, or punctuation in an effort to overcome the length requirement, as this is readily apparent to your instructor.

The specific due date for this assignment is listed under the Course Summary located at the end of the Syllabus

3. **Module Quiz (200 Points):** Each module will have a quiz which consists of 10 multiple-choice questions based on the topics discussed on the discussion forums and the readings assigned in the module. Each quiz is worth 50 points. You can take the quiz only once, and you must complete the quiz within the time allotted once you have started it. Issues with the quiz should be captured with a screenshot and provided to your instructor upon request.

Midterm and Final (150 Points + 200 Points): Two exams are contained within this course. One will be administered at midterm, the other during finals week. Each exam will be presented a mix of multiple-choice and true/false questions, as well as several short-answer questions. Short answer questions, in this context, mean that you will write between 3-5 sentences or more (depending on the question's specific instructions) to answer the question; short answer may also include fill-in-the-blank questions where the answer is typed in only a few words (fewer than 10 words). It will be necessary for you to review each assigned chapter or reading before the exam in order to maximize your chances of completing the exam with a high score.

The first exam will cover material from the first half of the course, and the final exam will be cumulative with an emphasis on the materials covered since the MidtermIt will be necessary for you to review each assigned chapter or reading before the exam in order to maximize your chances of completing the exam with a high score.

Each exam section is not separated, so the same timer will run for all parts of the exam. If you have a computer crash, lose internet service, or otherwise go away from the exam after starting it, the timer will continue to run down. If this happens, you will be able to access the exam again as long as the timer has not expired. If you are not finished with the exam within the provided time-limit, what you have completed will be automatically submitted for partial grading/credit. No additional time is given for exams without documented support from DSS, so please ensure you study before starting the exam. If extenuating circumstances will prevent you from completing your exam on time, please email me and make arrangements to take the exam early. Makeup/Late exams are not permitted except in the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the student, and these determinations are within the purview of the instructor.

Makeup Exams:
Notice of exams are given tentatively in this syllabus and will be confirmed in class. Makeup exams will not be given unless a genuine emergency or crisis occurred (you will have to provide documentation), and you will be excused from the exam on the test day ONLY if prior notification has been given. Makeup exams may be given in an

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

alternative format from the rest of the class (i.e. essay exams) and at an alternate time set up for the professor's (not the student's) convenience. Makeup exams must be completed within two weeks of the original exam date.

Students with legitimate reasons for missing exams will be allowed a makeup exam ONCE during the semester. If a student has been habitually absent, sick or dealing with some other concern to the extent that they have missed more than one exam, then a meeting with the professor is warranted to discuss whether finishing the requirements of the course is possible from the student's current effort and situation.

There will be no curving of grades or extra credit. DO NOT ASK.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
     o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a: o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
     o Speakers or headphones.
     o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
     Pop-ups are allowed.
     JavaScript is enabled.
     Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
     o Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
     o Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
     o Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/ o Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support
Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here**"** to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My primary form of communication with the class will be (in-class) or through university email. 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.

AGAIN: Students who e-mail me can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) within 24 hours Monday-Thursday. Students who e-mail me after 5pm or 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!!!

Above all; DO NOT PANIC. There no such thing as an "assignment emergency." Any problem that is class-related that occurs over the weekend can wait until the following Monday to be addressed.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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 any readings, lectures, discussions, videos and assignment activities.

The student's grade in this course will be a direct result of the student's personal dedication to the course requirements.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook. http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuid ebook.as px

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedur es/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedur es/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf](#)

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 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

[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, political view, 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&MCommerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1	1/13/20 Introduction, Chapter1
Week 2	1/20/20 Ch. 2 Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 3	1/27/20 Ch. 3

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Week 4	2/3/20 Ch. 4 Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 5	2/10/20 Ch. 5
Week 6	2/17/20 Ch. 6 Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 7	2/24/20 Midterm & Ch. 7 Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 8	3/2/20 Ch. 8 Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 9	3/9/20 SPRING BREAK
Week 10	3/16/20 Ch. 9 Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 11	3/23/20 Ch. 10 Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 12	3/30/20 Ch. 11
Week 13	4/6/20 Ch. 12 Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 14	4/13/20 Ch. 13
Week 15	4/20/20 Ch.14 Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
Week 16	4/27/20 Film Papers and Final Due

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*