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Soc1306.94E – Global/US Social Problems

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mica Thompson

Blended Course: We meet face-to-face, but there is an online component to the course as well.

Department Office Phone: 903-886-5332

Department Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: mica.thompson@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: M-Th within 24 hours, emails received after noon on Friday will be answered the following Monday. ***Always include your name the way you are enrolled in the class as well as the course number and section with all e-mail correspondence.***

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



The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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:

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. Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending reading assignments, Power Point slides, online discussions, selected videos, writing assignments, and other materials. Students should login to D2L on a regular basis and check their university e-mails every day Monday through Friday in order to keep up with class assignments, to review power point presentations, and participate in online discussions.

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 classroom etiquette and the university code of conduct 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](#)

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- [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](#)

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In order to be successful in this course, you will need purchase and READ the required textbook. You are expected to complete all discussions, submit any assignments on time, and take exams when they are scheduled. It is recommended you put all due dates and exam dates on your calendar. The Power Points used in class will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered in the textbook, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. It also is a good idea to review them after reading the chapters.

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

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

Grades will be posted in D2L

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few “bonus” points are built into each exam. At the end of the semester, your total points will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, there is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 560 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 6 points). **EARN your points during the semester, don’t try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

1. Assignment Description:

Discussion Boards (DB) – (5 at 40 points each=200)

Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Please refer to your syllabus or eCollege for Discussion windows. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. **A discussion cannot be re-opened once it is closed so don’t ask.** In order to earn 40 points you must enter the discussion early and post often. To get full credit, you must have at least:

(1) one post that responds to the question(s) posited by the professor (15pts.)

(2) one post that poses a relevant question to your classmates (5 pts.)

(3) two posts responding to questions posed by your classmates (10-20 pts. ea.)

(these are minimum requirements; hopefully you will engage in discussion and post more; it takes a minimum of 4 posts to earn all 40 points).

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We will be dealing with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the textbook and class. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class.

Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words “I feel . . .” or “I believe . . .” are probably better deleted. Your feelings and beliefs are important to you and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them. **These are academic discussions, NOT therapy sessions or attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material, attended class, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.** 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

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opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

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.

The topic and outline is worth 50 points & the final paper is worth 150 pts.

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)

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

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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

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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 (200 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 Midterm. 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.

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:

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.

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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 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.

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

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail. You must email me at mica.thompson@tamuc.edu. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Thursday within a 24-hour period. **E-mails received on Friday afternoon, or over the weekend will not receive a response until the following Monday. The professor absolutely will NOT be available on Saturdays or Sundays. YOU MUST INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL IF YOU EXPECT A PROMPT RESPONSE.**

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through the online course and/or MyLeo e-mail. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will ***attempt*** (not guarantee) to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received Friday-Sunday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday afternoon before you receive a response. If you have a class-related issue that occurs over the weekend, DO NOT PANIC. There is no such thing as “sociological emergency” and I guarantee we can work it out as soon as I can address it.

Remember, this is not an adversarial relationship. I want you to be successful and am here to help you. If you do not receive an email from me in a timely matter, please try again. Sometimes emails get sorted/filtered in my inbox and I may miss them.

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Above all; DO NOT PANIC. There no such thing as a “sociology 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.

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/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

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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/rulesProcedures/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/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[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

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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.

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.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE: _____ TOPIC: _____ READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1

Jan 12-14

Course Introduction
What is Sociology?

Week 3

Jan 17-21

Monday: MLK Holiday NO CLASS
The Abortion Dilemma Ch. 1
Online Discussion #1 opens Tuesday at 12:00 AM

Week 4

Jan 24-28

Aging Ch. 2
Online Discussion #1 closes Friday at 11:30 PM

Week 5

Jan 31-Feb 4

Social Problems Related to Sexual Behavior Ch. 3

Week 6

Feb 7-8

Alcohol and Other Drugs Ch. 4
Online Quiz #1 Open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM

Week 7

Feb 14-18

Violence in Society: Rape & Murder Ch. 5
Online Discussion #2 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
Film Analysis Proposal due Friday at 11:30 PM

Week 8

Feb 21-25

Crime & Criminal Justice Ch. 6
Online Discussion #2 closes Friday at 11:30 PM

Week 9

Feb 28-Mar 4

Economic Problems; Poverty & Wealth Ch. 7
Online Discussion # 3 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
Midterm Exam Open Friday 12:00 AM- 11:30 PM

Week 10

Mar 7-11

Racial Ethnic Relations Ch 8
Online Discussion #3 closes Friday at 11:30 PM

SPRING BREAK March 14-18

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<u>Week 11</u> Mar 21-25	Inequalities of Gender & Sexual Orientation	Ch. 9
<u>Week 12</u> Mar 28-Apr 1	Medical Care: Physical & Mental Online Quiz #2 Open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM	Ch. 10
<u>Week 13</u> Apr 4-8	The Changing Family Online Discussion #4 opens Monday at 12:00 AM Online Discussion #4 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 11
<u>Week 14</u> Apr 11-15	Urbanization and Population Online Quiz #3 Open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM	Ch. 12
<u>Week 15</u> Apr 18-22	The Environmental Crisis	Ch. 13
<u>Week 16</u> Apr 25-29	War, Terrorism, The Balance of Power Online Quiz #4 Open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM Online Discussion #5 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 14
May 3	Official Last Day of Class Film Analysis Final Paper due Monday at 11:30 PM Online Discussion #5 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	
<u>Finals Week</u> May 9-11	Final Exam* opens Monday 12:00 AM Final Exam closes Wednesday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 8-14

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