



**SOC 1306—GLB/US—Social Problems
SECTION 01W— CRN# 85815
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2023**

Instructor: Dr. Jiaming Sun

Virtual Office at D2L: 24/7 or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5322

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

Email: Jiaming.sun@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web-Based Class): Meets 8/28/2023 through 12/15/2023

This syllabus is intended to help you clearly understand the course goals, expectations, testing methods and topics we are going through so you may maximize your performance. It should also help you to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings that will affect your grade adversely.

Text

- Diana Kendall. *Social Problems In a Diverse Society, Seventh Edition*, Pearson | Published: 2019. www.pearsonhighered.com
. Print ISBN: 9780134732848, 0134732847. eText ISBN: 9780134736334, 0134736338 (required)
- Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

We are living in difficult times: Our social problems are many in number, diverse in their causes and consequences, and often global in their reach. The United States and other countries continue to struggle with social problems that have been present for generations, such as racial, ethnic, and gender inequality; alcohol and drug abuse; disparities in wealth and income; crime; and the challenges of educating, housing, and providing medical care for a growing population.

This course emphasizes that the way people view a social problem is related to how they believe the problem should be reduced or solved. Moreover, what some people perceive as a problem is viewed by others as a solution to a problem. Studying social problems helps us think about ways in which social change might occur because it provides us with new insights on problems in our nation and world.

Although we live in challenging times, this social problems course provides us with an excellent opportunity to develop our critical thinking skills and to learn how to use sociological perspectives to analyze concerns ranging from terrorism and war to inequalities rooted in factors such as race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, age, and sexual orientation on how to solve or reduce that social problem.

The main goals of the course (SLOs) are:

- Be able to view how social problems affect people at the individual, group, and societal levels;
- Be able to understand the significance of social inequality and race, class, and gender as key factors in our understanding of problems in the United States and worldwide;
- Be able to place specific social problems within a larger social inequality framework;
- Be able to create a comprehensive view of contemporary perspectives on a vast array of social problems impacted by new technologies on social life and how the media depict social issues;
- Be able to apply the sociological imagination and relevant sociological perspectives to all the topics in a systematic manner.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As per the university rule, students taking one course with three credit hours are expected to spend six hours each week studying lectures online, watching videos clips, reading chapters, doing assignments, and preparing quizzes and exams.

Attendance and Participation- This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access D2L while you have time to participate in various activities. Your regular participation activities, including the time spent online lessons, short videos and virtual discussions will be checked. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a week to avoid losing ONLINE ACTIVITY (or USER ACTIVITY) points.

There will be several points for ONLINE ACTIVITY. The points will not be given to those less than minimum or zero minutes of usage online in a week. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in a further loss of points from your overall performance points. It can mean a difference of a final letter grade as well. So, take it seriously.

Assignments and Quizzes – Assignments will include reading chapters, writing a reading summary, doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing

these exercises help understand class material and prepare for the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have plenty of notifications sent by email. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. Late submission will cause a minimum 20% deduction of penalty for the first week, and then 10% each subsequent week later (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day after taking the exams.

Online quizzes will be given to evaluate what has been covered in previous lectures. In order to do well on your quizzes and tests, be sure to bring your textbook to class, take notes, read chapters, highlight important materials in the text, and alternate reading materials. The style of quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false. Questions in your quizzes could be questions in your exams also. There is 1 more attempt after the due date of the quiz is over will be allowed. However, your final score on this quiz will be the score of "the highest one of your attempts".

Open questions with page numbers will be given to students looking for answers for after-class reading. Those questions will be included in quizzes and exams also.

Online Discussions and Term Project Presentation- There will be several online discussions and a final Term Project presentation during this semester. Discussions will open when we begin a new unit of study, and they will close at midnight on the day prior to the examination that covers that unit material. 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>

Exams- There will be two exams during the semester. These exams are open-book format with multiple choices, short essays questions that based on class lectures, readings, and those quizzes you have taken. These exams will be taken online). Students may use one sheet of compact notes arranged in convenient reference form. Students may not share notes with another student during the exams. The final exam is not cumulative and will cover the lectures presented after the midterm exam. Students will be provided with a study guide prior to the exams. There is 1 more attempt of taking the exam will be allowed. However, your final score on this exam will be the score of the "average of your attempts".

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered into a Stimulative Grading Scheme (SGS). This scheme provides an incentive to students who are excelling academically in this course. The SGS provides students with "Distribution Points to Date" three or four times in the semester, so students will easily have a perception of his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So, students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submit all assignments on time, and stand in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy

Attendance/Online Activity	10
Homework/Reading	80
Online Discussions and Term Project	70
Quizzes	140
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	100
Overall performance	20
Total	500

Overall performance points (20 points) based primarily on student performance over the semester, but not just based on a ranking percentile. (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in D2L).

Final grades will be assigned on the following aspects and scale:

Final letter grade: A: 450-500
 B: 400-449
 C: 350-399
 D: 300-349
 F: below 299

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

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

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. Other support options can be found here:

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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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>

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/)
<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.

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&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce

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

Email Correspondence

In this course, email is an essential corresponding method and a supplement to lectures. This means that you can expect to hear from the instructor via emails regularly throughout the semester, such as using email for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Needless to say, students are expected to check email regularly in daily fashion (a couple of times a day). Conversely, you should feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions, requests or problems that might not be addressed clearly in online lessons.

You may access your email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from D2L (and all other the university's emails) will go to this account. Conversely, you are to email me via the D2L email system or your myLeo email since the university spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and usually the emails in spam won't be checked. Email sent to the instructor should be with a subject to "SOC 1301".

HOWEVER in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers, please post all class related questions in the Virtual Office. This will be our Q&A forum. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature or for a bonus point should be sent individually to the instructor's email address via D2L.

If you are having problems in class, please contact the instructor immediately. Please understand that you should not contact the instructor only at the end of the semester being unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The course schedule is tentative and somewhat subject to change. Although this course will follow the schedule, it is possible that some adjustments will be made as we progress through the semester.

Wk	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Aug. 28-	Introduction to the course outline and syllabus. Studying Social Problems in the Twenty-First Century	Ch. 1
2	Sep. 4-	Wealth and Poverty: U.S. and Global Economic Inequities	Ch. 2
3	Sep. 11-	Racial and Ethnic Inequality, Gender Inequality, Inequality Based on Age.	Ch. 3, 4, 5
4	Sep. 18-	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation, Prostitution, Pornography, and Sex Trafficking.	Ch. 6, 7
5	Sep. 25-	Alcohol and Other Drugs. Crime and Criminal Justice.	Ch. 8, 9
6	Oct. 2-	Health Care: Problems of Physical and Mental Illness.	Ch.10
7	Oct. 9-	The Changing Family.	Ch. 11
8	Oct. 16-	Review ** Mid Term Exam **	Ch. 1-11
9	Oct. 23-	Problems in Education.	Ch. 12
10	Oct. 30-	Problems in Politics and the Global Economy	Ch. 13
11	Nov. 6-	Problems in the Media. Population, Global Inequality, and the Environmental Crisis	Ch. 14, 15
12	Nov. 13-	Urban Problems.	Ch. 16
13	Nov. 20-	Global Social Problems: War and Terrorism.	Ch. 17
14	Nov. 27-	Can Social Problems Be Solved?	Ch. 18
15	Dec. 4-	Review. Virtual presentation of Your proposal via Zoom or VoiceThread.	Ch. 12- 18
16	Dec. 11-15	**Final Exam** As scheduled by the University	
