SOC 1306 Social Problems (SUM2 2018, Online)

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Campus Office Hours: By Appointment
Virtual Office Hours (BB): Question forum, email, and collaborate by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course uses a sociological perspective to survey various social problems, which may include such topics as poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, obesity, consumerism, digital distraction/addiction, age/race/gender discrimination, deficiencies in the healthcare system, war & terrorism, and so forth.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
Professor will provide required material (learning modules) and links to online resources

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Access to a Webcam, Digital Camera or other recording device

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) best validating outcome achievement:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Learning modules, Videos, Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Gaining factual knowledge</td>
<td>3 &amp; 5 Discussion/activities, Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories</td>
<td>4 &amp; 6 Learning modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Learning to apply course material</td>
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<td>4. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
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**TEACHING STRATEGIES**
- Students are encouraged to stay current on the readings and turn assignments in on time. This will benefit them and others as they seek to participate meaningfully in the course.
- Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved *(beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course)* discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and experiences with their peers.
- Students are asked to seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester. Every student has something unique to offer to the discourse. If students don’t come to class or refuse to engage others while in class, that decreases the diversity of the dialog for everyone.

**GRADING SYSTEM**
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- **A** = 500-450 points
- **B** = 449-400 points
- **C** = 399-350 points
- **D** = 349-300 points
- **F** = 0-299 points  *(Grades are not rounded up)*

**EVALUATION AND GRADES** *(See Course Schedule with Due Dates, Last Page)*
Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>% OF GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (Midterm &amp; Final)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>(2 x 100 points each) 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essays</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>(2 x points varied) 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>(4 x 25 points each) 20%</td>
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TOTAL COURSE GRADE 500

**OTHER GRADE-RELATED TOPICS**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** None. There is not enough time during the summer to do extra work.

**ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

- **Learning Modules** are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with the basic concepts & principles of social problems.

- **Supplemental Material in modules: like Videos, Articles, etc.** help clarify and enrich your understanding of sociology and social problems.

- **Discussion/Activities** are designed to make you think critically about how course concepts relate to one another and to you. What forces have shaped who you are, what you believe, and how you live? How might your perspective differ from others? Do you strongly agree or disagree with this or that statement (in the book or otherwise)? Good, that’s the passion I want to see from you. Now, explain why you (dis)agree and support your own statements with good data, not just personal experience.

- **Tests** are designed to test your competence in the essential concepts & principles of sociology AND your ability to apply those concepts & principles to real world situations.
COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR
In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your forum questions and email messages within 12-24 hours.

*Written communication via Blackboard:* There is a discussion on the forum to ask questions.

*Written communication via email:* All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Please start your subject line with “SOC Problems” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

*Other communication by appointment:* Blackboard’s Connect is available or you can make an appointment to meet the professor on campus (if necessary).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE
Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION/LATE WORK
The course is divided into modules that follow the structure presented below in the schedule. In this class, all assignments are online and take the form of tests, essays, or “discussions” (which may require a bit of leg work before you can post your entry). Just use Blackboard to access the course site.

Discussions have deadlines but don’t close like tests. So even if you encounter a technological issue, you will still be able to post your entry late. Note, however, that there is no excuse for late work on the forums. You have plenty of time (in most cases a full week) to complete discussion assignments. If you wait until the last minute and end up posting a day or two late for whatever reason, you will only get HALF credit. You will not get any credit for entries made three or more days late.

Tests become available as we begin each learn module and close as we finish each module (usually Sunday @ 11:59pm, see the schedule below for exact dates/times). You have up to 5 days to get them done and two attempts each. Make sure you have a reliable connection before attempting tests because you must finish each chapter in one sitting. The professor may, at her discretion, reset individual tests if Blackboard exhibits problems. Please send her an email (not 10 emails!) if you need help, but keep in mind that it is unlikely that she will see your request in time if you send them after 6pm on the due date. Tests will not be reopened unless there has been a large-scale problem with Blackboard/ASU servers.

PROBLEM WITH A BLACKBOARD GRADE?
Check your grades regularly. Tests auto-grade and discussions/papers are graded shortly after the due date. If you do not have a score as expected, receive a zero on an assignment you completed, or get a score you think is in error, please do NOT wait until the end of the semester to point it out. Send me an email so I can check it for you.

*Note:* Since your assignments in this course will be digitally submitted, it is unlikely you will find errors on graded homework. Occasionally, though, computer-graded fill-in and short answer questions on quizzes need to be double checked, esp. if you misspell a word or use alternate terminology.
GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:
- Angelo State University Student Handbook located on the ASU website http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
- ASU Undergraduate Catalog located on the ASU website https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Psychology & Sociology Department adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012) http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
1. “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.
INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

SYLLABUS CHANGES
The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Course Schedule with due dates

Part 1 (July 10-15): Intro
- Learning Module Material (incl. video(s), outline, text, etc.)
- Graded Discussion 1 (25 points) opened early and closes the same day/time as the chapter tests

Part 2 (July 16-22): Big Business, Big Fish & Big Data
- Learning Module Material (incl. video(s), outline, text, etc.)
- Paper #1 Due by 11:59 pm, July 22
- Graded Discussion 2 (25 points) opens and closes the same day/time as the chapter tests

Part 3 (July 23-29): Poverty, Violence & Addictions
- Learning Module Material (incl. video(s), outline, text, etc.)
- Midterm covers Part 1-2 & will open July 25 and close at 11:59 pm July 29
- Graded Discussion 3 (25 points) opens and closes the same day/time as the chapter tests

Part 4 (July 30-Aug 5): You, Me & the Institutions that blind Us
- Learning Module Material (incl. video(s), outline, text, etc.)
- Paper #2 Due by 11:59 pm, Aug 5
- Graded Discussion 4 (25 points) opens and closes the same day/time as the chapter tests

Part 5 (August 5-8): You, Me & the other World[s]
- Final exam will cover open on Aug 5 and close at 11:59 pm Aug 8
- Graded Discussion 5 (25 points) will open early (Aug 3) and close 11:59 pm Aug 8