Instructor: Kurt Chunn, PhD
Email: kchunn@angelo.edu
Phone: (254) 722-0051 cell; (3235) 486-6167 office
Office: Academic Building, Room 204H
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00pm – 12:50pm or arranged

Course Information

Course Description
Study of social problems and issues facing the United States. Major problems and issues are analyzed and alternative solutions are evaluated. The course is designed for non-majors as well as majors.

Course Credits
3 hours

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses
None

Prerequisite Skills
Accessing Internet websites, including the electronic textbook, and proficiency with Microsoft Word are expectations of the Social Problems course.
**Student Learning Outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe the theoretical viewpoints that help to explain the causes of social problems. (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions. Assessed by objective exams &amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect society (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions Assessed by objective exams&amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Define, summarize and evaluate what constitutes a social problem. (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions Assessed by objective exams&amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives on social problems, objectively analyzing the information that has been read, heard &amp; researched concerning specific social problem areas such as social inequality, deviance, poverty, crime and the criminal justice system, ecological/demographic issues, and institutional dysfunctions. (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions Assessed by objective exams&amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and appraise the implications of social policies addressing specific social problem areas. (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions Assessed by objective exams&amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand how social problems and their processes interacts with, and can maintain, social inequalities in society. (CT, COM, EQS, SR)</td>
<td><strong>Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions Assessed by objective exams&amp; written assignments.</strong></td>
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</table>

**Course Delivery**

This is a face-to-face course with learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Blackboard.
Required Texts and Materials
Title: Social Problems
Authors: Seccombe & Kornblum
Edition: 16th
Publisher: Pearson Education
Digital ISBN: 9780135246986
Digital Textbook – Requires Revel Access

Technology Requirements
In addition to the textbook, the following resources are also needed:
- Reliable internet access for Blackboard, ASU email, and other relevant websites
- Word processing software and Adobe Acrobat

Communication
Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

Grading
Evaluation and Grades
Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600 – 6 tests @ 100 points each</td>
<td>1000 - 900 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 – 10 News Articles @ 15 points each</td>
<td>800 - 899 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 -- 15 Chapter Reviews @ 10 points each</td>
<td>700 - 799 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 -- 2 papers on Social Problems @ 50 points each</td>
<td>600 - 699 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 points possible</td>
<td>599 or below = F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(25 points extra credit for research participation)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Teaching Strategies
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 with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Chapter Reviews:
For each chapter that we cover, you will find a chapter review sheet on "Blackboard" under "Assignments" to fill out and turn in on the dates listed on the calendar. Each chapter review will consist of fill-in-the-blank sentences that come straight from your textbook as well as some review questions. The last day to turn them in for credit is the date on the calendar. The reviews are due when the class begins. and no late chapter reviews will be accepted.

News Stories:
For 10 chapters you will need to turn in a news story that relates to the chapter. You choose which 10 chapters you want to do! Each news story needs to come from a news source on the internet. Do not use professional journals, encyclopedias, or other notes on the internet for these stories. News stories that are “Book Reviews” are not to be used either. The entire story must be included (cut and pasted electronically) and then 3 paragraphs should be typed by you. The last day that the News Stories will be accepted will be on the Calendar on Blackboard and no late chapter reviews will be accepted.

***See and follow the example under “News Stories” on Blackboard.

Two “Social Problems” Papers:
The papers that you are required to write are about Social Problems in the world. These papers need to be 5 full pages (typed), double-spaced with 1-inch margins and 12-point Arial Font. Please use proper grammar and correct spelling. The purpose of this paper is to explore some social problems that are of an interest to you and the possible solutions to these problems. Your paper will need to include the following:

*A look at the problem and whom it effects
*A look at how the problem develops or has developed
*A look at possible solutions? Have they been tried? Did they work? Reasons for why a solution may or may not work

Try to come at the problem from 2 sides, looking at the different viewpoints of those who define the "problem." Why do people "see" it differently? Use references for your work, and make sure to cite that reference in your paper and at the end of the paper list them on a separate "Reference Page". (Follow the format on Blackboard).
Extra Credit: Research Participation:

You may participate in up to three (3) research projects this semester. Note: You must register through the department's sona-systems website in order to sign-up and receive credit for studies. Points will be posted in Blackboard once all the credits have been entered into sona-systems. If you have questions about a research project, please contact the researcher.

Go to [http://angelostate.sona-systems.com](http://angelostate.sona-systems.com) to create an account and sign-up for studies. For additional details, see the “Research Opportunities” link on the department homepage at: [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/)

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

1. **Is there any extra credit?** Yes, the “Research Participation” opportunity.
2. **May I make up missed work?** No. So, it would be wise to work ahead and stay ahead just in case: your frog croaks, your dog chokes, your computer smokes, etc. If you are in a car wreck on the way to class, what’s the last thing that you need to tell the EMT’s as they load you in the ambulance?
3. **May I make up a missed exam?** Absolutely! But, **whatever** the reason, you will lose 20 points for having the extra study time and taking it late.
4. **May I turn in my work early?** Absolutely! Any of these assignments may be turned in early!! No problem!! These assignments just cannot be turned in late!!
5. **May I email in my assignments?** No. There are too many problems with email to make that feasible. Assignments must be turned in before or on the day that they are due. **No email assignments will be accepted.** So, make sure you have paper & ink in your printer.
6. **Can I get notes emailed to me?** No. So, keep up with your notes, and link up with someone who can help you out with missing notes in case you miss class.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](http://example.com)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](http://example.com)
Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy
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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.
Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. 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. 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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

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.

Absence Policy:

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days
Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. The last day for student initiated withdrawals from courses is March 26.

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

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.
Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of
Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

End of Syllabus

1 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
2 https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
3 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
4 https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
5 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
6 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
7 https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
8 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of