SOC 1306 Social Problems
Semester 2022

Dr. Shirley Simpson
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Phone: 325-486-6395
Office: A104 A
Office Hours: MW 10-11:50 (Face-to-face); TR 10-1pm (Virtual Office on Discord); and by appointment.

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.

Prerequisites: None  Semester Units: 3

Prerequisite Skills
- Computer: Windows (7 or higher) or MAC (OSX 8.5 or higher) with updated Browsers
- High Speed Internet Access with reliable, WIRED connection for time crucial tasks
- Access to a Webcam, Digital Camera or other recording device
- Ability to use Office software, PDF Readers, and watch/steam/download videos
- Ability to use Blackboard & features like Respondus, Turnitin & forums
- Access to at least one streaming service (e.g., Netflix, Amazon Prime, and/or Hulu)
- Ability to use Discord and similar software to meet and collaborate with others.

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)</td>
<td>(Cyber)Lectures; Reading; Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)</td>
<td>Videos; Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
<td>(In-Class) Exercises &amp; Discussions</td>
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Course Delivery
Section 010 of this course will be delivered face-to-face with learning resources, supplemental materials, and submission links and grades posted in Blackboard.
Section D10 of the course will be offered online. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at ASU’s Blackboard Learning Management System.

Both sections: Feature-length videos may require streaming via premium services (like Netflix or Amazon Prime).

Required Texts and Materials
Seeing Social Problems: The Hidden Stories Behind Contemporary Issues by Ira D. Silver

Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students need to have the skills and technology mentioned above in the “Prerequisite Skills” section of this syllabus.

Communication
In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email within 48 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. After 5pm response times might be longer. 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. In your emails to faculty, include the course name or number in your subject line.

Virtual communication: TR Office hours are virtual and will require students to use Discord to visit the professor’s server.

Be polite: Don’t send ten email about the same issue and what your phraseology. For example, “I think there has been a mistake...” is a good approach. The following is NOT: “Why didn’t you give me a grade for...”, “Explain to me how it is that I got a D when I...”, and “I know I uploaded that work so why didn’t you give me credit for it...?"

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes/Questions</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/Activities</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
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</table>
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 = 270-300 points
- B = 240-211 points
- C = 210-239 points
- D = 180-209 points
- F = 0-179 points (grades will not be bumped)

Note that grades are earned, not given. Students do not have a right to be bumped to the next highest grade just because they were close, any more than Olympic athletes have a right to a gold medal just because they were 1/100 sec behind the winner.

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 and other experiences with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Lectures/Cyberlectures are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with the basic concepts & principles of sociology as they relate to social problems.

Supplemental Material like Videos/Articles/Charts/Etc. are presented to help clarify and enrich your understanding of sociology and to provide more examples than one usually gets in a 50-minute class.

Discussions are designed to make you think critically about how course concepts relate to one another and to you.

Quizzes or Chapter Questions are designed to test your competence in the essential concepts & principles of social problems AND your ability to apply those concepts & principles to real world situations.

Assignment Submission
All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site, regardless of course section. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at shirley.simpson@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.
POLICY ON LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Late Work Policy
The course is set up on weekly modules for both sections. The week begins on Monday and ends on Friday with a two day “grace period” through Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

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
- Angelo State University Catalog

Student Responsibility and Attendance
Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. 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.

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:
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.

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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

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
A syllabus is not a contract. It is a plan, like a speech, that one prepares in good faith about how a given class should flow. In the real world, however, plans need to be flexible and adapt to unexpected situations or problems. To that end, Dr. Simpson reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, she 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, WITHOUT THEM SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS ON CAMPUS, 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). You may also choose to contact the San Angelo Police Department or Police Department in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

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

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18-23</td>
<td>Intro/Self Intro/Due Jan 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24-Mar 11</td>
<td>Chps 1-7 (Read at least one chp per wk)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Due Each Fri: a short, open-book quiz/question</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week/Date</td>
<td>Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Due Fri Feb 18 and 8: HW1 &amp; HW2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21-May 6</td>
<td>Chps 8-14 with quiz or question due each Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Due Friday April 15: HW3</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8-11</td>
<td>Video Calendar Project (HW4) Due Wed May 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Grading Rubrics**

Each paper or project assigned will have a detailed instructions sheet that includes the grading criteria for that assignment.

**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**

2. https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
4. https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
5. https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
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