

Department of Social Work and Sociology

SOC 1306

Social Problems

Spring Semester 2022



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Office: Health and Human Services Building, Office 318P

Office Hours: M 08:00 to 10:00, WF 09:00 to 11:00, and TR 09:00 to 11:00

Section 010 Class Days, Times, and Location: MWF 09:00 to 09:50, Carr 128

Section D10 Live Collaborate Sessions: MWF 09:00 to 09:50 (Live Attendance is Optional)

Course Information

Course Description

SOC 1306 Social Problems (3-0). 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

3-0-0 Semester Credit Hours

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

Prerequisites: None. Co-Requisites: None

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, working knowledge of the APA's writing style, using ASU Library resources, using Blackboard, and proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are expectations of the course.

Program Outcomes

Competency 1: Critical Thinking Skills

Students of sociology understand and utilize an intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

Competency 2: Communication Skills

Students of sociology understand the importance of verbal, written, and nonverbal communication skills. These skills are exercised in discussion and discourse, presentations, written products, and in the nonverbal forms of communication that are observed by others.

Competency 3: Sociological Knowledge

Students of sociology understand sociology as a perspective and scientific discipline that examines people as social beings who influence, and are influenced by social interaction, socialization, and social patterns; sociological knowledge encompasses the social nature of human beings, and the meaning and basis of social order. Sociology focuses on social organization, social institutions, social interaction, and social problems.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Mapping to Program Outcomes
Critical Thinking Skills: Conceptualize and critically analyze various contemporary social problems from a sociological perspective.	Exams Class Engagement Term Paper	Program Outcome #1
Communication Skills: Communicate the nature of contemporary social problems in society to others.	Exams Class Engagement Term Paper	Program Outcome #2
Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Demonstrate working knowledge of contemporary social problems from a sociological perspective.	Exams Class Engagement Term Paper	Program Outcome #3

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Mapping to Program Outcomes
Social Responsibility: Develop and communicate attitudes and behaviors displaying social responsibility.	Exams Class Engagement Term Paper	Program Outcomes #1, #2, and #3

Course Delivery

Face-to-face sections of this course have learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Blackboard. The course site can be accessed at ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System.

Online sections of this course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#).

Required Texts and Materials

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1

Silver, I. (2020). *Seeing social problems: The hidden stories behind contemporary issues*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-5063-8681-2

Recommended Texts and Materials

Rubington, E., & Weinberg, M. S. (2011). *The study of social problems: Seven perspectives* (7th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-973187-9

[American Sociological Association](#)

[American Sociological Association's Code of Ethics](#)

Technology Requirements

You will need access to Blackboard, Angelo State University's learning platform. Access to examinations will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend,

most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following weekday, so please plan accordingly.

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Topic Outline

Course Introduction: Defining Social Problems

Perspectives on Social Problems

Specific Social Problems

Course Conclusion

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday; working hours are defined as Monday through Friday (with the exception of university approved holidays) between 0800 and 1700. Weekend and/or holiday messages may not be returned until the next work day.

Written communication via email: All e-mail 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 and section number in your subject line.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, E-Mail, etc.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Exams	30%
Class Engagement	35%
Term Paper	35%
Total	100%

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 = 90.00-100 points

B = 80.00-89.99 points

C = 70.00-79.99 points

D = 60.00-69.99 points

F = 0-59.99 points

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 clinical experiences with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Examinations (30%)

There will be two (2) online, closed book, essay exams in this course. Each of these examinations is worth 15% of your total course grade. You may have ONE (1) attempt for each exam. ***You will not be allowed to use books, notes, ppts, or any other type of assistive materials.*** You will take each of these examinations via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown monitor/browser.

Class Engagement (35%)

Students are expected to actively engage the material presented in the class. Such engagement may include, but is not limited to, completing class assignments, verbal discussion with the course instructor and with each other. This may occur outside of class (e.g., homework) in the classroom (for face-to-face students), or in live collaborate sessions (for online students).

Term Paper (35%)

Students will write a term paper over a social problem using the outline below. The paper must use the textbook AND at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. The paper must be 10 pages in length, including title page and references, using the most current edition of APA style. The following outline provides for the structure of the paper:

- I. Introduction to the Specific Social Problem (SLO #2: Communication Skills)
- II. Conceptualize the Specific Social Problem (SLO #3: Empirical/Quantitative Skills)
 - A. Why is this a social problem?
 - B. Theoretically conceptualize the specific social problem.
 - C. How does this social problem affect individuals?

- D. How does this social problem affect society as a whole?
- III. Review of the Literature over the Specific Social Problem (SLO #3: Empirical/Quantitative Skills)
- IV. What can be Done to Alleviate the Specific Social Problem? (SLO #4: Social Responsibility)
- V. What are Your Thoughts on the Specific Social Problem (SLO #4: Social Responsibility)
- VI. Summary and Conclusion (SLO #2: Communication Skills)

Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. 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 joel.carr@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.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Failure to submit your assignments on the assigned date will result in no credit awarded for the assignment. No papers or postings will be accepted after the due date indicated in the syllabus unless the late assignment is due to a university approved absence defined in the graduate catalog.

Make-up work will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be allowed for university approved absences.

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](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Student Responsibility and Attendance

For Face-to-Face Sections: This is a face-to-face class. Attendance is expected and required. 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 10 study hours per week on average.

For Online Sections: 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 complete 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 10 study hours per week on average. **Note:** There will be weekly collaborate sessions held in this course for you to ask questions and interact in real time with the course instructor and your classmates. These collaborate sessions will be recorded and posted in the course modules for students who need or desire a pure asynchronous experience.

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.³

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](#)⁴ 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](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ 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](#).⁷

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](#)⁸ 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

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.

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
Week 1 Jan. 18 - 22	Course Introduction Reading: Chapter 1 - Defining and Conceptualizing Social Problems
Week 2 Jan. 23 - 29	Reading: Chapter 2 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 3 Jan. 30 - Feb. 5	Reading: Chapter 3 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 4 Feb 6 - 12	Reading: Chapter 4 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 5 Feb. 13 - 19	Reading: Chapter 5 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 6 Feb. 20 - 26	Reading: Chapter 6 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 7 Feb. 27 - Mar. 5	Reading: Chapter 7 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 8 Mar. 6 – 13 Spring Break: Mar. 13 - 19	Reading: Chapter 8 - Perspectives in Social Problems
Week 9 Mar. 20 - 26	Exam #1, Conceptualizing Social Problems and Perspectives on Social Problems, Due 3/26 at 23:59
Week 10 Mar. 27 - Apr. 2	Reading: Chapter 9 - Specific Social Problems
Week 11 Apr. 3 - 9	Reading: Chapter 10 - Specific Social Problems

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
Week 12 Apr. 10 - 16	Reading: Chapter 11 - Specific Social Problems
Week 13 Apr. 17 - 23	Reading: Chapter 12 - Specific Social Problems
Week 14 Apr. 24 - Apr. 30	Reading: Chapter 13 - Specific Social Problems
Week 15 May 1 - 7	Reading: Chapter 14 - Specific Social Problems Term Paper Due, 5/7 at 23:59
Week 16 May 8 - 13	Exam #2, Specific Social Problems, Due 5/9 at 23:59

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.

The Student Learning Outcome's that are considered "essential" include:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course

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>