SOCIAL PROBLEMS SYLLABUS

“Unless a capacity for thinking be accompanied by a capacity for action, a superior mind exists in torture.”
–Charles H. Cooley

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Addresses some of the most compelling social problems in society and discusses the diverse contributions sociology has made to the understanding of complex social issues.

STUDENT-LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1) Identify specific social problems and their cause-effect patterns.
2) Identify current research methods that are utilized for the investigation of social problems.
3) Compare and contrast various social problem programs and/or treatments in terms of their effectiveness.
4) Apply the three main social theories to various social problems in society.
5) Critically evaluate the proposed ways to alleviate the major social problems facing society today.
6) Identify whether a specific social problem is being evaluated from a micro or macro perspective.

GOALS:
1) Explain how social problems interact and reacts with the larger society.
2) Utilize class concepts to support your opinions about social problems.
3) Describe key concepts in each unit and make connections between the concepts in different units.
4) Use sociological theories and concepts from class either to analyze your service learning experience.

READINGS:
   * I suggest looking for it at [http://www.dealoz.com/](http://www.dealoz.com/)
2) Blackboard Readings/Video: See Blackboard (Course Content, Handouts, Online Reading/Video)
   - “Sicko”
   - Preparing for Power
   - Savage Inequalities
3) Optional: This is extra information that includes my Sociology in the Media Blog
   [http://sociologyinthemedia.wordpress.com](http://sociologyinthemedia.wordpress.com), Sexual Orientation quiz, Freegans, & more. See Blackboard (Course Content, Handouts, Just for Fun)

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:
1) Attendance/Participation: 30 points
   - Attendance: (20 points) Regular attendance is vital to success in this class, Potential Test Question(s) will be Given at the Beginning of Every Class and attendance will be taken at the end of every class. Lastly, each student can miss 1 class without any penalty.
     o **Note 1:** If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get caught up from a classmate.
     o **Note 2:** It is your responsibility to drop the class officially if needed.
   - Participation: (10 points) You can earn points by confirming the Learning Agreement See Blackboard (under Assignments), and doing in class practice exercises.
2) Exams: Each is worth 40 points
   There will be 1 midterm, and 1 final. They will consist of multiple-choice questions and some short answer questions. A study guide will be posted 2 weeks before each exam.
3) **Discussion Board Prompts**: Each is worth 20 points. See Blackboard (under Discussion Board)
   - You will need to complete 2 discussion board prompts (see course outline for dates) about some social problem issues. You will use class concepts to make arguments about the various issues. More details are available on blackboard.

4) **Service Learning Project**: 50 points. See Blackboard (under Assignments)
   - In this activity you have a chance to apply the knowledge you have learned this semester and use it to discuss your experience participating in 12-hours of community service. Extensive details on Blackboard

5) **Extra Credit Media Clips Board**: 4 Points (Max). See Blackboard (under Discussion Board)
   - You can earn this by posting a link to an online video clip with an explanation of how it relates to something in lecture on the Extra Credit Video clip discussion board. Each clip is worth 2 points. Your clip cannot be something shown in class or already posted by somebody else on the forum.

### Grading Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Prompts</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Learning Project</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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### Grading Scale

- **A** = 180 - 200 points
- **90 - 100%**
- **B** = 160 - 179 points
- **80 - 89%**
- **C** = 140 - 159 points
- **70 - 79%**
- **D** = 120 - 139 points
- **60 - 69%**
- **F** = 119 & below
- **59% & below**

- **Late Papers and Assignments**: 3 points will be taken from the final score of an assignment for each class meeting in which papers or assignments are late.

- **Redoing Assignments**: Under **NO** circumstances can you redo an assignment, since it would be unfair to others.

- **Make-up Exams, Extensions, or Taking an Exam Early?**: **None of these are an option.** There is another option that I give **ONLY** for excused absences, which must include **DOCUMENTED** illnesses (doctor’s note required, if you do not have a doctor you can go to the Student Health Center) or emergencies (i.e. accidents with a police or emergency room report). I must approve these before we can discuss another option. If I do not approve you the other option, you will receive a zero on the exams. Remember oversleeping or a family vacation will not be approved.

- **Submissions**: Take home assignments must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font.

- **Borderline Grades**: If a student receives a % grade that has a 9 with some decimals trailing it, I will round your grade up **ONLY IF THE STUDENT HAS AN ATTENDANCE RECORD HIGHER THAN THE CLASS AVERAGE.** Thus if you have not done this I will not be able to round your grade up even if it ends with 9.99999. If a student has a score that ends with a 9 with no decimals, you will not be considered for a grade round up, n exceptions.

- **Disabilities**: If you have a disability that may impede your ability to successfully complete this course, you should contact the Special Services Center (949-582-4833) **BY THE FIRST WEEK OF THIS COURSE.** Their staff will assist you in arranging accommodations that can help you meet course requirements.
STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Opinions Welcome and Encouraged:** This class will be a safe place where you can share their opinions and ask questions without fear of reproach. I feel so strongly that you share your opinions in class that I will not share mine. Multiple viewpoints are presented in class (I never say what my view on them is) for you to evaluate.

- **Create a Respectful Environment:** Since you are safe to share **ANY** viewpoint, you would like as long as it is done in a respectful manner. I have a zero-tolerance policy towards racist, sexist, and/or homophobic language (You can still share views that would be considered any of these as long as the language is non-offensive).

- **Cell phones & Texting:** Cell phones need to be shut off in the classroom. They are disrespectful to other students. So make sure these devices are turned off **BEFORE** entering the class. If you have a **JUSTIFIABLE** reason for having one on, please come see me before class and we will work something out.

- **Avoid distracting behavior:** To make this a learning environment that is a productive learning environment it is important that you avoid distracting behavior (i.e. talking during lecture, text messaging, arriving late, leaving early, talking, writing notes, cell phone use, other activities such as reading the newspaper, and anything that might bother you or someone around you). Since many students (and instructors) are distracted by such behaviors, “violators” may be removed from class and referred to the Dean of Students.

- **Academic Dishonesty:** All work that you submit must be your own. When using material written by others (articles, newspapers, books, etc) cite them. If you are caught, plagiarizing or committing any form of academic dishonesty on any assignment/test you will receive a zero on that assignment. In addition, cheating, collusion, or any other forms of academic dishonesty are grounds for disciplinary action. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for a further explanation. If you have any questions please come see me.

- **Learning From Each Other:** I truly believe that learning is a two-way street. You will not only learn from me, but more importantly, I will learn from you!

- **Have Fun:** This class will be very hands-on. By participating fully in class activities and discussions, it is my hope that you will enjoy our exploration of sociology.

READING AND LECTURE PREPARATION:

- **Reading as Preparation for Lecture:** In an effort to accomplish objectives, please come to each class prepared, having read the material we are covering **BEFORE** we discuss it. Lectures are intended to complement text material and will emphasize an interactive learning-centered approach. In fact, you will actually play a role in determining and developing how we assess learning in this class. In addition to this overall interactive environment, you will work in groups to further your learning of material. Remember, “learning” is more than simply perusing the reading material, listening to a lecture, and taking notes from the board.

- **Annotation:** Based on previous (i.e. high school) restrictions, many students are hesitant to highlight and write in textbooks. Fear not and put that thinking style behind you! Annotation is a useful strategy that facilitates learning and you may still sell back your annotated books or keep it to develop your own academic library.

- **Lecture Outlines:** Before each class, an abbreviated PowerPoint presentation (in PDF form) will be posted on Blackboard. You can print it out in one of two formats, 3 slides per page or 1 slide per page. Lectures are taught with the expectation that you print them before lecture and use them to take notes on or with.

- **Blackboard & Email:** Must be checked regularly, because you will be responsible for printing out class assignments, turning in assignments on time, and knowing class announcements.
TROUBLE SHOOTING:

- **How do I log into MySite?**
  - Go to [https://www1.socccd.cc.ca.us/Portal/Default.aspx](https://www1.socccd.cc.ca.us/Portal/Default.aspx)
    - You can get to this manually by going to the campus main page and clicking on MySite
  - Your Login is: your ID#
  - Your Password is: Pin#
  - If you do not know your ID# or Pin# check with Admissions and Records

- **How do I check my email?**
  - After you have logged into MySite click “My Email” & then “Web Email”
  - Your login can be found here
  - Password: Pin# followed by 00
  - You will then be prompted to change your password

- **How do I sign on Blackboard?**
  - Go to [http://socccd.blackboard.com/webapps/login/](http://socccd.blackboard.com/webapps/login/)
    - You can get to this manually by going to the campus main page and clicking on Blackboard
  - You login is the same as for your email
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments/Tests</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Macionis 1</td>
<td>Assign Learning Agreement &amp; Beliefs Survey 1</td>
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<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives Research Methods</td>
<td>Bring in an article (See Lecture 3 for Details)</td>
<td>Service Learning Project</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>Wealth &amp; Poverty</td>
<td>Macionis 2</td>
<td>Due: Learning Agreement Assign: Discussion Board #1</td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Racial Inequality</td>
<td>Macionis 3 Due: Beliefs Survey 1 Due: Discussion Board #1 Main Post</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Educational Inequality</td>
<td>Macionis 14 Savage Inequalities Only is your Last Name is A-K Online: Preparing for Power Only if your Last Name is L-Z Due: Service Learning Packet Due: Discussion Board #1 Replies Assign: Discussion Board #2</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>Gender Inequality</td>
<td>Macionis 4 Due: Discussion Board #2 Main Post</td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>Macionis 8 Optional Sexual Orientation? A Surprising Answer Due: Discussion Board #2 Replies</td>
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<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>Family Life Review</td>
<td>Macionis 13 Midterm</td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>Family Life Aging</td>
<td>Macionis 5</td>
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<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>Aging Health</td>
<td>Macionis 10</td>
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<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Video Sicko Due: Service Learning Time Sheet</td>
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<td>WEEK 12</td>
<td>Crime &amp; Violence</td>
<td>Macionis 6 &amp; 7 (p. 191-193) Due: Service Learning Paper Draft (In class peer review)</td>
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<td>WEEK 13</td>
<td>Drug Use</td>
<td>Macionis 10 Optional Drugs &amp; South Park Due: Service Learning Paper &amp; Assign Beliefs Survey 2</td>
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<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>Population Growth Global Stratification</td>
<td>Macionis 16 Optional Freegans? Due: Extra Credit Video Clip</td>
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<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Macionis 14 Due: Beliefs Survey 2</td>
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<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td>Environment War &amp; Terrorism Review</td>
<td>Macionis 14</td>
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<td>WEEK 17</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>Final Exam: Dec 10</td>
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*Note: this syllabus is accurate to the best of my ability. However, I do reserve the right to modify this syllabus at anytime.*