SOCIOLOGY 2020

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**WINTER, 2016**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. George Ntiri

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment (313-577-2930) or (313-598-8888)

REQUIRED TEXT: D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn, SOCIAL PROBLEMS 11th and later Editions.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The aim of this course is to provide students basic understanding of the conditions and behaviors that are deemed harmful to society, their dynamics and solutions. To do this, we will use a set of sociological perspectives as framework for the analysis of a range of social problems for insights into their causes, consequences and possible solutions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

* The student will be able to identify the significant conditions and transformations that led to the emergence of sociology as an academic discipline.
* The student will demonstrate an understanding of how social problems are created and sustained by society
* The student will be able to distinguish between personal and social problems
* The student will be able to identify issues of inequality such as social class, racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia as sources of contemporary social problems.
* The student will be able to identify myths, stereotypes and ideologies that distort understanding of contemporary social problems and their solutions.
* The student will be able to use sociological approaches or imagination to examine contemporary social problems and public debates about their solutions.

COURSE FORMAT: A lecture format will be combined with class discussion to allow student participation and contributions to the class.

COURSE EVALUATION: There will be three examinations. The first two examinations will include lectures and the reading assignments as indicated below. The third examination will be comprehensive.

* Exam I Chapters 1 - 6
* Exam II Chapters 7 - 13
* Exam III Chapters 14 – 19 and General Review

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Will count for ten (10) percent of the course grade. Each absence beginning with the third (3rd) absence will be assessed one (1) percent grade point up to a maximum of ten (10) percent for twelve (12) absences.

EXAM DATES AND

GRADING: Exam I February 18 30%

Exam II March 24 30%

Exam III April 28 30%

Attendance 10%

 **\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS**

 **\*THE USE OF CELL PHONE IN CLASS IS NOT ALLOWED**

ACCOMMODATION If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you

FOR STUDENTS will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of

WITH DISABILITIES: your academic accommodations.  The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department.  SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only).  Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately to discuss your special needs.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

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| **Week of** | **TOPIC** | **READING** |
| **January 11** | **INTRODUCTION****1. COURSE OVERVIEW** | **Lecture** |
|  **18**  | **2. Sociological Approach to Social Problems** | **Chapter 1** |
|  **25** | **3. Wealth and Power** | **Chapter 2** |
| **February 1** **8** | **PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT AND LOCATION**1. **World Population and Global Inequality**
2. **Threats to the Environment**
 | **Chapter 3****Chapter 4** |
|  **15** |  **3. Demographic Changes in the U.S.** **4. Problems of Place** | **Chapters 5–6** |
|  **22** **29** | **INEQUALITY:**1. **Overview**
2. **Poverty**
3. **Race and Ethnicity**
4. **Gender**
 | **Chapter 7****Chapters 8-9** |
| **March 7** | 1. **Sexual Orientation**
2. **Disability**
 | **Chapters 10 – 11** |
|  **14** | **SPRING BREAK** |  |
| **21** | **DEVIANCE:** **1. Overview****2. Crime and Justice****3. Drugs** | **Chapter 12 – 13** |
|  **28** | **INSTITUTIONS:****1. Overview: Economic and Political****2. Work** | **Chapter 14** |
| **April 4 5** | **3. Families****4. Education** | **Chapter 15 - 16** |
| **11** | **5. Health****6. National Security** | **Chapter 17-18** |
|  **18** | **SOLUTIONS, SUMMARY AND REVIEW** | **Chapter 19** |
|  **25** | **EXAMINATION III Thursday, April 28, 2016**  |  |