

## Social Problems

Monday

12:50 PM to 3:35 PM

Shapero Hall 100

Credits: 3

Ian Palmer M.A.

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### Office Hours

By appointment.

**Course Description:** Consideration of major contemporary social problems which reveal structural strains, value conflicts, deviations and changes in society. Analysis of socio-cultural factors creating problems and of possible solutions

### Course Objectives

- To have a basic understanding of the social problems human society is facing.
- To have a brief overview of some contemporary sociological theories and theorists that explains social problems.
- To be able to look at social problem and apply multiple theories to explain what is happening.
- To open your mind and see society in a different way.

### Measurement of Course Objectives

- There will be five multiple choice quizzes given during the semester. Each will include the identification and definition of key terms from three chapters.
- The quizzes and exams will ask you to apply the three main sociological theories' to fictional social problems.

- The quizzes and exams will ask you to interpret social (real or fictional) problems using key terms and theories.
- Midterm and Final will assess the students ability to use the material presented in class, discussed in class and read in the text to analyze a real life social phenomena in its entirety.

### **Required Text**

Macionis, John. *Social Problems*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson. ISBN : 10: 0205949193

### **Blackboard**

I will post the syllabus and any other material that I think will be relevant for you in this class. Please make sure if you are not using a Wayne State email account that your email is being forwarded to the email account you prefer to use.

### **Grading**

5 Quizzes 100pts

Midterm 40pts

Final 40pts

Class Participation 20pts

Total points for the class 200.

### **Grading Scale**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-85
C-	70-72

D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	≤59

### **Quizzes**

There are five quizzes. I will drop the lowest grade. Each quiz will be 25 multiple choice questions. You will have an entire class period to complete the quiz.

### **Midterm and Final**

Each exam will have three essay questions. You choose two of the three to answer with three page essays each. Each essay should be double spaced, 12 pt. font and 1 in. margins around. Midterm will be handed out on 11-3 and will be due the next week on 11-10 by the start of class. The final will be handed out on 12-8 and is due 12-15 by noon in my email inbox.

### **Participation**

Sociology is about interactions. Therefore I expect you to come to class prepared to take part in discussions with me as well as with your classmates. The more you participate the more you will get out of the course. If ideas are not challenged, knowledge is not stretched and new ideas are not formed.

### **Makeup Policy**

I understand that there may be cause for a makeup of a quiz or an exam. A Make up exam or quiz will be provided if I am given 24 hour notice (unless there is an emergency in which case email me ASAP) prior to the quiz or exam. Also I need documentation for the reason you are unable to attend.

### **Class Room Etiquette**

- 1) Please keep cell phones off or on vibrate.
- 2) Please keep cell phones off or on vibrate.
- 3) Do not listen to music, watch movies, update Facebook, or participate in anything else that is disruptive to students or the instructor. If you are being disruptive you will be asked to leave.

4) Sociology involves the study and analysis of different people, groups, institutions, etc. We live in a complex world of diverse opinions, beliefs, practices, and cultures. As sociologists and good-willed citizens we have to accept that this as a social fact. It is inevitable that all of us will not be able to agree on all the issues and topics discussed in class. We must anticipate this and behave accordingly.

I ask that everyone keep this in mind during the readings, lectures, or any conversations that may take place in class. Sociology is a tool used to help us understand diversity and the qualities that make us unique. Any disagreements you may have do not warrant rudeness, hostility, or provocation.

Debates are great and a necessary component of learning and progress. Biased and inflammatory arguments are not welcomed. So I ask everyone to be aware of your biases and the manner in which you disagree. If this is too much to ask, you are probably in the wrong class. Sometimes we will have to agree to disagree.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

You are not allowed to cheat during exams. You cannot use any electronic devices during exams. You cannot ask anyone for answers to questions either. Please refer to the student code of conduct (<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf>) if you feel this may be a problem.

If you cheat and/or plagiarize you will fail this class.

### **Students with disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of 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](tel:313-577-1851) or [313-577-3365](tel:313-577-3365) (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

## Drop Date

**Sunday March 23rd is the last day for tuition cancellation.**

## Class schedule

Attached is a tentative class schedule for the semester. **This schedule may change during the semester.** There may be additions and/or deletions. If changes are made to the schedule, I will email the change, post it on blackboard, and announce it in class. You are responsible to know if any changes have been made.

### Class Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Scheduled Material and Topics</u>
Monday	9-8	Introduction, Overview of Syllabus
Monday	9-15	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
Monday	9-22	Chapter 3 <b>Quiz 1</b>
Monday	9-29	Chapters 4 and 5
Monday	10-6	Chapter 6 <b>Quiz 2</b>
Monday	10-13	Chapters 7 and 8
Monday	10-20	Chapter 9 <b>Quiz 3</b>
Monday	10-27	Chapter 10 and 11
Monday	11-3	Chapter 12 <b>Quiz 4</b>
Monday	11-10	Chapters 12 and 13 <b>Midterm Due</b>
Monday	11-17	Chapter 14 <b>Quiz 5</b>
Monday	11-24	Chapters 15 and 16
Monday	12-1	Chapter 17
Monday	12-8	Final Handed Out and Review
Monday	12-15	<b>Final Due</b>