

SOC 1020 Social Problems Spring 2013

Dixie State College

M-W-F 1:00-1:50

Udvar-Hazy 203

Instructor: Katie Mallon, M.A.

Office: 232 McDonald

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00 pm ; Wednesday 9:00-10:30 am; Friday 9:00-10:30 am

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Course Description: Fulfills Social & Behavioral Sciences General Education requirement and is an approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Studies contemporary social issues dealing with crime, sexuality, drug abuse, violence, and families, in addition to larger social problems such as war, poverty, race and ethnic relations, population and the environment through lectures, guest speakers, film, writing assignments, and exams.

Course Objectives:

Students completing SOC 1020 (Social Problems) should be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ideas, people, and events generally thought to be important by sociologists of social problems.**
- 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific approach of sociology to social problems (i.e. the gathering and analysis of empirical data in a systematic fashion).**
- 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the constructionist model of social problems.**
- 4. Demonstrate an understanding of the natural history of social problems and its concomitant parts.**

Required Text:

Leon-Guerrero, Anna (2011). *Social Problems: Community, Policy and Social Action*, 3rd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage Publishing

Course Structure: This course will involve these primary learning components:

- Course readings from one textbook
- Weekly group activities
- Discussions of the readings
- One short essay (film review)
- One midterm project (photo essay)
- One final project (service learning)

Assessment of Outcomes:

Ten group assignments worth 200 points total

One Short Essay worth 100 points total

One midterm photo-essay project worth 100 points total

One final service learning project worth 100 points total

Total points possible: 500

Final grades are based upon your percentage of possible points scored:

A 93-100%; A- 90-92%; B+87-89%; B 83-86%; B- 80-82%; C+ 77-79%; C 73-76%; C- 70-72%; D+ 67-69%; D 63-66%; D- 60-62%; F 0-59%

Course Policy

Students will be expected to comply with appropriate behavior during the course. Course topics can include sensitive or controversial information. Personal opinion is not a valid sociological perspective. Students who are disruptive or inflammatory will be asked to leave the class. If the behavior is repeated, students may be dismissed permanently from the course. Students will be expected to submit assignments in a timely manner, by the due date. It will **NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE UP GROUP ACTIVITIES UNLESS YOU PRESENT AN INSTITUTIONAL EXCUSE (i.e. required absences for sports, personal emergencies, extreme illness -- in which case a written excuse must be provided either from Dixie State College - your adviser or the Dean of Students -- or from a medical care provider).**

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK 1 – Jan. 7-11 *What is a Social Problem?*

Reading: Text, Ch. 1, Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Group activity 1 (in class): Getting to know your group

Jan. 11 -- Last day to add without signature or drop without fee

WEEK 2 – Jan. 14-18 *The Foundation of Social Problems: Inequality*

Reading: Text, Ch. 2, Social Class and Poverty

Group Activity 2 (in class): Choose one study question, P. 65, and write a 3 paragraph answer to it.

WEEK 3 – Jan.21-25 *Race and Ethnicity – One Intersection for Social Problems*

Jan. 21 -- Holiday -- No Class!!

Reading: Text, Ch. 3 Race and Ethnicity

Group Activity 3 (in class): Discuss the impact of race and ethnicity on social problems. Use the Conflict Theory perspective to analyze the material.

WEEK 4 – Jan. 28-Feb. 1 *Gender and the Next Intersection*

Reading: Text: Ch. 4, Gender

Group Activity 4 (in class, guided): What are the effects of intersectionality and the matrix of domination?.

Jan. 29 -- last day to drop without "W"

WEEK 5 – Feb.4-8 *Sexual Orientation*

Reading: Text, Ch. 5, Sexual Orientation

Guest Speaker

Midterm Project Assigned

WEEK 6 – Feb. 11-15 *The Old are New Again*

Reading: Text, Ch. 6, Age and Aging

Group activity 5 (in class): Choose one study question, P. 161, and write a 3 paragraph essay in answer.

WEEK 7 – Feb. 18-22 *Little Troubles, Big Issues*

Feb. 18 -- Holiday -- NO CLASS!!

Reading: Text, Ch. 7, Families

Midterm Project Due 2/20

WEEK 8 -- Feb. 25-Mar. 1

Reading: CH. 7 continued

Begin watching film (Friday).

Mar. 1 -- Last day to drop individual class

WEEK 9 – Mar. 4-8

Film (in class) and film review (short essay). Due Friday 3/8 in class.

WEEK 10 Spring Break Mar. 11-15

NO CLASS!!

WEEK 11 – Mar. 18-22 -- *Institutions and Social Problems, part I*

Reading: Text, Ch. 8, Education

Group Activity 6 (in class): Discuss social problems in education. How does this impact you?

Prepare for your final service learning project. Contact D-Serves and arrange to perform 8 hours minimum of volunteer service in the community.

WEEK 12 – Mar. 25-29 -- *Institutions and Social Problems, part II*

Reading: Text, Ch. 9, Work and the Economy

Group Activity 7 (in class): Discuss how the sociology of work and the economy affects you.

Mar. 29 -- Last day to withdraw completely

WEEK 13 – Apr. 1-5 *Institutions and Social Problems, part III*

Reading: Text, Ch. 10, Health and Medicine

Group Activity 8 (in class) – What effects of the nation's health and medicine policies do you see in your own communities? How do citizens access health care? Who gets health care and who does not?

WEEK 14 – Apr. 8-12 *Institutions and Social Problems, part IV*

Reading: Text, Ch. 11, The Media

Group Activity 9 (in class): Answer Question 2 of “study questions” P. 305 (3 paragraph essay)

WEEK 15 – Apr. 15-19 *The Social and Physical, part I*

Reading: Text, Ch. 12, Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Group Activity 10 (in class): Answer question 1 of “study questions” P. 340 (3 paragraph essay)

WEEK 16 – Apr. 22-24 *The Social and Physical, part II*

Reading: Text, Ch. 13, Crime and Criminal Justice

Video Clips

WEEK 17 – Final Service Project Paper due in class during final exam time.

Dixie State College Policy Statements:

• Disability Statement:

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone: (435) 652-7516.

The DRC office is located right next to the Testing Center on the bottom floor of the Career & Financial Aid (CFA) building.

• Library, Computer Lab, Writing Center, Testing Center, and Tutoring Center statements and/or links (as appropriate to the course)

o Library – www.library.dixie.edu

o Computer Lab - www.dixie.edu/helpdesk/lab_hours.php

o Writing Center – www.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php19

o Testing Center – www.dixie.edu/testing

o Tutoring Center – www.dixie.edu/tutoring

• Academic Integrity / Academic Honesty: Specific course rules and reference to Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, policy 5-33, available at www.dixie.edu/humanres/polstu.html , or the college catalog.

• Dmail Statement:

You are required to frequently check your Dmail account. Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account, including DSC bills, financial aid/scholarship notices, notices of cancelled classes, reminders of important dates and deadlines, and other information critical to your success at DSC and in your courses. If you don't know how to access your Dmail account, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail" from the left column. To locate your Dmail username and password, go to www.dixie.edu, and click on "Log in to student services" (upper right corner).