SOC 2020 Social Problems

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Southworth
Phone: 864.656.3818
Office: 130 A Brackett Hall
Email: southwo@clemson.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:00 or by appt.

Course Days and Time: 11:15-12:05, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Room 113 Brackett Hall

Course Description:
In this course we will explore social problems existing in the United States and other cultures. We will identify how these problems affect and are affected by our institutions and culture. You will learn how to critically think about social problems and the ways in which social problems are discussed and presented to the public. We will examine aging, sexual deviance, substance abuse, violence, crime, inequality, race and ethnic relations, sex discrimination, health care, family issues, urban problems, population and food, environmental problems, and terrorism. We will learn how to interpret social problems within the context of sociological theory and use political paradigms to understand why people hold disparate views on how social problems should be resolved.

CLEMSON THINKS 2:
This course is part of the Clemson University’s Clemson Thinks2 seminar series. This course is designed to actively engage you in thinking critically about the issues discussed in this course. To assess your growth in critical thinking skills you will take the California Achievement Test (CAT) in the beginning and again at the end of this course. You will be given credit for taking the test, although your score will not be a component of your final grade. Your classroom activities and out of course assignments will focus on developing your critical thinking skills.

In class we will:
- Evaluate the accuracy of statistics used in the readings and identify deceptive or manipulative statements
- Analyze the logic behind competing arguments and recognize inconsistencies or flaws
- Determine whether arguments are backed up by evidence
- Evaluate the appropriateness of methods being used to back up arguments
- Synthesize the arguments from multiple perspectives and draw appropriate conclusions
- Communicate complex ideas effectively

Strategies that we will use to help incorporate critical thinking:
- We will use videos, readings, class discussions examples, and lecture to explore social issues from multiple perspectives
- Analyze and discuss the arguments in your text and class lectures
- Group discussion/debate about the rationale of the authors
- Group discussions of flaws in arguments
- Discussion of possible solutions to problems

Course Objectives:

Through your active participation in this course you will:

Academic Objectives
- Be able to articulate the basic structure and dynamics of society.
- Be conversant with the basics of the sociological method.
- Develop greater awareness of the influence of society on individual lives.
Intellectual Objectives

- Improve your critical reasoning skills.
- Enhance your ability to evaluate social scientific research.

Readings: Social Problems: Macionis
Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Social Issues (16th Edition)

Requirements and Grading:

Participation: 15 points
Although I will lecture, much of this course involves classroom discussion and activities. You are expected to have completed the course readings before class and to be able to engage in active classroom discourse. This class is designed to increase your ability to articulate social problems and discuss multiple sides of each issue. To receive an A for participation, you need to 1) be in class 2) participate in class discussions and activities. Your participation must show that you have read the material before class. Please do your readings and be prepared to discuss the readings BEFORE you come to class. If you do not participate on a regular basis or do not read the assigned material before class you will lose participation points. YOU WILL LOSE PARTICIPATION POINTS FOR BEING LATE AND/OR USING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM AS WELL.

Attendance 15 points
You are given 5 “free misses.” If you miss more than 5 classes (FOR ANY REASON) you will lose your participation points. Please do not give me notes stating why you were not in class unless there are special circumstances in which you must miss more than 5 classes.

Finsterbusch Reading Assignments (5 @ 10 points each)
You are to turn in 5 written assignments over the course of the semester. The assignments will be in response to 5 of the Finsterbusch readings. The Finsterbusch readings are designed for you to think critically about each topic from multiple perspectives. Critically thinking about an issue requires to not only understand the topic, but to be able to think about each issue from multiple perspectives and be able to apply the information to the “real world” outside of the classroom.

For an A each assignment should:
1) Discuss the viewpoints of each side of the argument.
2) Discuss why the issue is a social problem.
4) Discuss which of the arguments were more persuasive to you. Think sociologically rather from a religious or moral perspective. What evidence do the authors use to back up their argument? If the authors offer solutions to the problem, discuss whether or not those solutions are reasonable. What are the costs of the solutions? Are there consequences? For example, will the solution the author suggests cause another problem to develop?
5) State why this issue is or is not important for our society. Think about the courses you have taken in the past. How do these courses contribute to your knowledge of the topic?
6) Use correct spelling and grammar. SPELLING and GRAMMAR mistakes will count against your grade.

You may complete the assignments on any of the Finsterbusch readings, but they must be turned in to blackboard BEFORE we discuss them in class.

You will have the opportunity to revise ONE essay to improve your grade.
Exams: 3@ 100 points each
There will be three in class exams. The last exam will be given during the final exam session. The format will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice questions. The exams are designed to show that you have read the material and understand the basic concepts discussed in class. All of the information on the exams will be discussed in class before the exam. If you must miss class on the day of the exam you will need to let me know BEFORE the exam. No makeup exams will be given if I do not know ahead of time. All exams must be made up within one week of the exam date.

Grading Scale:
- (90-100%) A
- (80-89%) B
- (70-79%) C
- (60-69%) D
- Below 60% F

Grade Disputes:
ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR GRADE ON ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE ASKED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIVING YOUR GRADE. I will not take any grade disputes under consideration after you have taken your final exam.

Statement of Academic Integrity

“As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a ‘high seminary of learning.’ Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.” “When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge.”

Students with Disabilities

“Students with disabilities who need accommodations should make an appointment with Arlene Stewart, Director of Student Disability Services, to discuss specific needs within the first month of classes. Students should present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disabilities Services when they meet with instructors. Student Disability Services is located in G-20 Redfern (telephone number: 656-6848; e-mail: sds-l@clemson.edu). Please be aware that accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester. In order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), faculty must follow instructions contained in letters issued by the office of Student Disability Services. All questions should be directed to Dr. Arlene Stewart (656-6848).

If I Am Delayed:
If I am delayed or unable to attend class, I will make every effort to notify you in advance. If I am unable to do so, you are excused at 15 minutes after the start of class.
**E-Mail Access**
I often use email to correspond with students. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly. If I must miss a class, I will try to let you know via email as soon as possible.

**Laptops**
Laptops are not allowed in class unless you receive permission from me. If you do receive permission, laptops will be allowed to TAKE NOTES ONLY. Any other use of laptops during class time is prohibited unless I specifically tell you to bring your laptop to class for group exercises.

**Cell Phones:** Cell Phones must be turned off and put away before class begins. If I see you on your cell phone I will give you a warning. If you are on your cell phone again at any time during the semester, I will ask you to leave class.

**Class Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday January 9</td>
<td>Introduction to class, review syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday January 11</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday January 14</td>
<td>Studying Social Problems</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>READINGS:</strong> MACIONIS: CHAPTER 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 16</td>
<td>Poverty and Wealth</td>
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<td><strong>READING:</strong> MACIONIS: CHAPTER 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 18</td>
<td>Poverty and Wealth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 21</td>
<td>NO CLASS---MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 23</td>
<td>Poverty and Wealth</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>READINGS:</strong> FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUE 6, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 25</td>
<td>Race and Ethnic Inequality</td>
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<td><strong>READING:</strong> MACIONIS CHAPTER 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 28</td>
<td>Race and Ethnic Inequality</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>READINGS:</strong> FINSTERBUCSH: ISSUES 2, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 30</td>
<td>Race and Ethnic Inequality</td>
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<td>Friday, February 1</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td><strong>READING:</strong> MACIONIS: CHAPTER 4</td>
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<td>Monday, February 4</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Wednesday February 6</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>READINGS:</strong> FINSTERBUCSH: ISSUES 5, 8,9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 8</td>
<td>Aging and Inequality</td>
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<td><strong>READING:</strong> MACIONIS CHAPTER 5</td>
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</tbody>
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Monday, February 11 Aging and Inequality

Wednesday, February 13 EXAM 1

Friday, February 15 Crime, violence and Criminal Justice
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 6

Monday, February 18 Crime, Violence and Criminal Justice
READING: FINSTERBUCSH: ISSUE 16

Wednesday, February 20 Crime, Violence and Criminal Justice

Friday, February 22 Drugs and Alcohol
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 8

Monday, February 25 Drugs and Alcohol
READINGS: FINSTERBUCSH ISSUE 17

Wednesday, February 27 Physical and Mental Health
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 9

Friday, March 1 Physical and Mental Health

Monday, March 4 The Economy and Politics
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 10

Wednesday, March 6 The Economy and Politics
READINGS: FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUES 10, 11, 12

Friday, March 8 The Economy and Politics

Monday, March 11 Work and the Workplace
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 11

Wednesday, March 13 Work and the Workplace

Friday, March 15 EXAM 2

March 18—22 SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 25 Family Life
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 12

Wednesday, March 27 Family Life
READINGS: FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUES 3, 4

Friday, March 29 Education
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 13

Monday, April 1 Education
Wednesday, April 3  Education

Friday, April 5  Education

Monday, April 8  Urban Life
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 14

Wednesday, April 10  Urban Life

Friday, April 12  Population and Global Inequality
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 15

Monday, April 15  Population and Global Inequality

Wednesday, April 17  Population and Global Inequality
READING: FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUES 20, 22

Friday, April 19  Technology and the Environment
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 16

Monday, April 22  Technology and the Environment
READING: FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUE 21

Wednesday, April 24  War and Terrorism
READING: MACIONIS: CHAPTER 17
FINSTERBUSCH: ISSUE 18, 19

Friday, April 26  CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY 8:00 AM