

Spring 2016

**SYG2010:004: *Social Problems*.**

**Professor:** Tunga Lergo, Ph.D.

**Class time:** 12:30-1:45 PM (T & H) Room P263

**Official mailing address:** Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Unit 4, B07J)

**Office Location:** Unit 4, B07J. Office phone 395-5127

**Office Hours:** 11:00 AM-3:00 PM (M W F); 8:00-9:00 A.M (T & H)); and by appointment

**College email address:** [tunga.lergo@scollege.edu](mailto:tunga.lergo@scollege.edu), or **Class email on Canvas- Open Campus**

**Required Text (A must): *Social Problems in a Diverse Society* (6<sup>th</sup>ed), by Diana Kendall, Publisher: Pearson, ISBN#: 205867324**

**Official Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of social problems. It presents theoretical and analytical frameworks for the analysis and understanding of social problems in the U.S., with relevant cross-national examples. Discussion of the causes of social problems, the processes by which they become public concerns or issues, and the evaluation of attempts to solve them will be a core component of the course.

We will attempt to situate social problems in both national and global perspectives, by examining United States situation and comparing other societies. Throughout the course, the sociological perspective and its theoretical frameworks/paradigms will be compared and contrasted with other viewpoints, and students will be encouraged to develop their own approach of understanding, conceptualizing and dealing with social problems so as to develop critical thinking skills and deep learning.

**Official General Education Learning Outcome (GELO) for Sociology:**

***Global-Socio-Cultural Responsibility and Critical Thinking:*** Demonstrate ability for critical thinking and an understanding of diversity/pluralism in the world community, and an awareness of civic and social participation and ethical and informed decision-making. Attributes associated with attaining this outcome include the ability to:

- Analyze data/information/substantive content relevant to an issue/problem and diversity/pluralism in the world;
- Synthesize data/information/substantive content relevant to an issue/problem and diversity/pluralism in the world; and

- use data or reason related to an issue or problem or discourse in order to: draw informed conclusions and propose solutions/ decisions.
- to contrast the three basic learning paradigms: surface learning, strategic learning and deep learning.

**Exams and Assignments** (dates will be announced):

Students will be evaluated on three pre-exams and three exams. Out of these, the lowest score will be dropped from the pre-exams. Each will be graded out of 100 % and multiply by .2. The pre-exams and exams are based on the same class and text material, but may differ in their questions.

A. **Pre-exams** (lowest score will be dropped)

1. Pre-exam # 1 (20 points): 100 x .2.
2. Pre-exam # 2 (20 points): 100 x .2.
3. Pre-exam # 3 (20 points): 100 x .2.

B. **Exams**

1. Exam #1 (20 points): 100 x .2
2. Exam #2 (20 points): 100 x .2
3. Exam #3 (20 points) 100 x .2

**THE LOWEST SCORE FROM PRE-EXAMS (A) WILL BE DROPPED, BUT ALL 3 PRE-EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR THE DROP. FAILURE TO TAKE ALL 3 WILL RESULT IN 0 ADDED TO THE CALCULATION OF YOUR COURSE AVERAGE**

C. **Bonus:** Students can earn a total of 5 extra points added to the course average. It consists of series of graded unannounced assignments, meant to encourage class attendance. ***There is no make-up for bonus work.***

**Class Attendance:**

This is highly recommended because regular class attendance is usually related to better grades. Students must attend all class meetings and participate in class discussions, to the extent that class time and structure allow. Class attendance, defined as being present at the start and leaving at the end of each class meeting, will be recorded for official record purpose only. To encourage regular class attendance, 5 points of unannounced bonus quizzes will be given.

### **Late assignment and make-up exam policy**

Late assignment will be penalized (nature of penalty will be in the instruction). Students must provide written/documented request for missed exams. Make-up exams will be different from original (in essay format) and will be given on the last day of class

### **College academic integrity statement**

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Therefore SFC has adopted a Code of Student Conduct that outlines general guidelines at: [http://dept.sfcollge.edu/rules/PDF/Rule\\_7/7\\_23.pdf](http://dept.sfcollge.edu/rules/PDF/Rule_7/7_23.pdf) . Students are encouraged to discuss issues related to academic integrity with instructors.

### **Grading scale policy statement**

The following grading scale will be employed for the final grade:

90-100	A
85 - 89	B+
80 - 84	B
75 - 79	C+
70 - 74	C
65 - 69	D+
60 – 64	D
00 – 59	F

**Final grade calculation policy:** There is no grade curve for this class.

**Last day of class and make up exam day, after class: April 21.**

**Final Exam Date: 04/26/2016; Time: 1-2 PM**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) :** If you are a student with a disability: In compliance with Santa Fe Community College policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Request for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester (except for unusual circumstances) so arrangements can be made. You must be registered with Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) in S-112 for disability verification and determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

**Discrimination/Harassment Policy Statement:** SF prohibits any form of discrimination or sexual harassment among students, faculty and staff. For further information, refer to the SFC Human Resources Policies website at: [http://dept.sfcollege.edu/rules/PDF/Rule\\_2/2\\_8.pdf](http://dept.sfcollege.edu/rules/PDF/Rule_2/2_8.pdf)

**Student Rights and responsibilities:** The purpose of this document is to provide students with a general overview of both their rights and responsibilities as members of the Santa Fe community. For a complete list of students' rights and responsibilities, go to: [http://www.sfcollege.edu/StudentAffairs/index.php?section=policies/student\\_rights](http://www.sfcollege.edu/StudentAffairs/index.php?section=policies/student_rights)

**These are the material and chapters to cover for this course-subject to change.**

**Pre-exam 1 and Exam # 1:**

1. Handout: Beginning Sociological Imagination: Thinking Sociologically (a survey of major sociological concepts and issues- see chapter outline for detail).
2. Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems in the Twenty-First Century
3. Film: The Lost Children of Rockdale County (a written assignment will be given on the film)

**Pre-exam # 2 and Exam # 2:**

1. Chapter 2: Wealth and Poverty: U.S. and Global Economic Inequality
2. Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality
3. Chapter 4: Gender Inequality
4. Chapter 11: The Changing Family
5. *Film: Fatherless America*

**Pre-exam #3 and Exam # 3 (Final):**

1. Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs
2. Chapter 9: Crime and Criminal Justice
3. Chapter 10: Health Care: Problems of Physical and Mental Illness
4. Chapter 17: Global Social Problems: War and Terrorism
6. Chapter 18: Can Social Problems Be Solved?
7. Two films: *Altered States: A History of Drug Use in America; The Killing Culture*

## **Class norms**

- Be prepared to challenge your perceived assumptions and modes of thinking.
- You are an equal partner in the process of learning, the Instructor is simply a moderator, a facilitator and an agent of the system
- Turn off and put away all electronic communication devices. They may be used only for note taking, and only with permission.
- You are expected to participate in the class discussions.
- Conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner in class
- Your opinion is valued as is every other student's.
- Be respectful to other students.
- You are expected to stay awake in class.

**Class Interaction:** If you are failing the class or unsatisfied with the class, be sure to discuss it with the Instructor before it is too late. This class is delivered in onsite (traditional) format which requires venue attendance. I can be reached by seeing me after class, or coming to my office. You can also contact me through my college email, or class email on Canvas. For urgent email messages, send them to my college email address- though, sometimes, if you used the class email on Canvas, it will also come to my SF official email.

**TL**

**January 2016.**