Required Text

Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action, 5th edition  Anna Leon-Guerrero

Course Description:

This course is designed to move beyond the basic concepts used by sociologists to analyze various aspects of social life. We will examine specific social problems with specific reference to their origins, development, and suggested solutions.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations within contemporary social problems and sociological theory.

2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of social problems related to various social institutions.

3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of how social inequality contributes to the development of various social problems.

4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the broad implications of social problems related to health and well-being.

5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the emergence of social problems relative to social change.
COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. The preferred method of communication should be through email to recallaway@utep.edu from your @miners.utep.edu account. During the weekday before 8pm, you should expect a response from me within three hours. After 8pm, you should expect a response by 10am the following morning. Responses may take longer on the weekend.

- All information related to due dates for activities and assignments are in the course organizer. I will not post announcements to remind you of due dates for course work.

- You will be expected to interact regularly with your classmates through discussion board posts. Refer again to the course organizer for due dates.

- Times for all deadlines are 11:59pm Mountain Time (local time for El Paso, Texas). Please recognize that all submissions after 11:59.01pm will automatically be marked late and may not be graded since late work is not accepted in this course. Plan accordingly to submit all work on time.

- I intend to grade and post grades for assignments and tests within two days of their due date.

ONLINE “NETIQUETTE”:

- Always consider your audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will read any postings.

- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face classroom setting.

- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog or other space. If you wish to do so, you have the ethical obligation to first request permission from the author(s).
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity.

Any form of academic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty members insist on adherence to these standards.

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others. (http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418)

COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE:

The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

ADA COMPLIANCE:

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need an accommodation, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu. The CASS is located in Room 106, Union Ease Bldg. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.
GRADING CRITERIA:

Your Final Course Grade will be assigned on a 1000 point scale as follows:

- 925+ pts = A
- 825-924 pts = B
- 725-824 pts = C
- 625-724 pts = D
- <625 pts = F

YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL RESULT FROM POINTS YOU EARN ON:

A.) Orientation Quiz 5 pts  
   Total 5 pts  
   This quiz is found at the “Start Here” tab within the orientation lesson and consists of 10 questions.

B.) Chapter Quiz (16 of 17) 40 pts each  
   Total 640 pts  
   Please refer to the attached course organizer/outline for quiz schedule. Chapter quizzes will consist of 40 randomly selected multiple-choice and true/false questions. You will have two (2) attempts and forty-five (45) minutes to complete each quiz. The higher of the two grades will be recorded in the gradebook.  
   The lowest one (1) quiz grade is dropped.

C.) Discussion Board (17 of 18) 15 pts each  
   Total 255 pts  
   A minimum of three posts are required within each discussion board forum. Initial posts are worth up to 10 pts each. Each reply post is worth up to 2.5pts. Posts must demonstrate an understanding of and objective application of terms and concepts in chapter readings. Posts must also address everything asked of you.  
   The lowest one (1) discussion grade is dropped.

D.) Visual Essay 100 pts each  
   Total 100 pts  
   Specific instructions for this assignment will be found under the Visual Essay tab.

Total 1000pts

***Your final grade in the course will be based on points earned, not a percentage.***

***Lowest grades are dropped from the beginning, not at the end, of the course.***

Make-Up and/or Late Work & Extra Credit:

No exceptions will be made for the times or dates work is assigned or due. Work submitted after the 11:59:00pm submission time on the respective due date will be considered late and may not be graded. You will not be allowed to make up any missed work or exams since the lowest chapter quiz and discussion board grades are dropped.

Exceptions to these policies are highly unlikely but will be considered on a case by case basis. There will be no additional opportunities for extra credit made available to you this semester.
### COURSE ORGANIZER/OUTLINE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lesson Name</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Activities &amp; Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 – 2 | Orientation  
Introductions  
Ch 1  
Ch 17 | Introductions  
Navigating Blackboard  
Studying Social Problems  
Social Problems & Social Action | Read Orientation, Chapter 1, 17  
Intro DB posts  
DB/Quiz 1, 17 |
| 3 | Ch 2 | Social Class | Read Chapter 2  
DB/Quiz 2 |
| 4 | Ch 3 | Race and Ethnicity | Read Chapter 3  
DB/Quiz 3 |
| 5 | Ch 6  
Ch 10 | Age and Aging  
Health and Medicine | Read Chapters 6, 10  
DB/Quiz 6, 10 |
| 6 | Ch 11 | The Media | Read Chapter 11  
DB/Quiz 11 |
| 7 | Ch 7 | Families | Read Chapter 7  
DB/Quiz 7 |
| 8 | Ch 8 | Education | Read Chapter 8  
DB/Quiz 8 |
| 9 | Ch 9 | Work and the Economy | Read Chapter 9  
DB/Quiz 9 |
| 10 | Ch 4  
Ch 5 | Gender  
Sexual Orientation | Read Chapters 4, 5  
DB/Quiz 4, 5 |
| 11 | Ch 12  
Ch 13 | Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Crime and Criminal Justice | Read Chapter 12, 13  
DB/Quiz 12, 13 |
| 12 | Ch 14 | Urbanization | Read Chapters 14  
DB/Quiz 14 |
| ** | Ch 15 *** | The Environment  
Thanksgiving Holiday Nov 22-23 | Read Chapter 15  
DB/Quiz 15 |
| 13 | Ch 16 | War and Terrorism | Read Chapter 16  
DB/Quiz 16 |
| 14 | Overview | Course Overview | Read Overview Document  
DB |
| 15 | Visual Essay | Power point must be uploaded before or by the due date. | Visual Essay  
M 10 Dec | **THE DUE DATE IS NOT NECESSARILY THE “TO-DO” DATE***

***LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. MAKE-UPS ARE NOT ALLOWED***