

SOC 218 Introduction to the Social Problems (SUMMER 2015 DRAFT)

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is a theoretical and substantive survey of the nature and causes of social problems; selected topics include poverty, drug policy, discrimination, and crime. Class discussions, films and lectures will be the primary methods of instruction.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Sociology 218, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an objective approach to the identification, observation, and analysis of social problems in society.
- Identify and apply sociological perspectives to social problems.
- Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the causes of social problems.
- Detail and evaluate proposed solutions to social problems.

COURSE TASKS

1. **Quizzes** (25% of course grade): There will be 5 quizzes. Each will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and 2 essay questions. The quizzes will cover readings, lectures, and discussions (in other words, everything) from the preceding weeks. **I will not give make-up examinations, except in the case of serious and documented medical emergencies.**
2. **Reflection Papers:** (25% of course grade): 4 short papers, 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point type, one inch margins). A guide sheet to facilitate your learning will be provided. **I will not accept late papers.**
3. **Final Paper:** (25% of course grade): Students will write an 8-10 page paper analyzing the book *Tattoo*. A guide sheet will be provided. **No late papers accepted.**
4. **Final Exam:** (25% of course grade): The final exam will be a cumulative assessment of the student's understanding of the overall course material. **I will not give make-up examinations, except in the case of serious and documented medical emergencies.**

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Final Paper	25	Letter Grade for Point Totals	
5 Quizzes	25	A = 90 – 100	D = 60 - 69
4 Papers	25	B = 80 – 89	F = 59 - 0
Final Exam	<u>25</u>	C= 70- 79	
Total Points	100		

REQUIRED READINGS

- **Social Problems**, Anna Leon-Guerrero 3rd Edition
- **Tattoo** Chris McKinney

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The University has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, handicap, marital status, arrest and court record, sexual orientation, gender identity, and veteran status. This policy covers admission and access to, and participation, treatment, and employment in the University's programs and activities. If you feel that you are being discriminated against contact the Vice Chancellor for Students at 235-7466 or the UH Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office at 956-7077.

Date	Days that Topics Covered & Assignments Due	Completed
	Introduction to the course and each other	
	Sociology and the Study of Social Problems	Chapter 1
	Social Class and Poverty	Chapter 2
	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 3
	Quiz 1	
	Reflection Paper Film 1: Crash	
	Gender	Chapter 4
	Sexual Orientation	Chapter 5
	Age and Aging	Chapter 6
	Quiz 2	Reflection Paper 1 Due
	Reflection Paper Film 2: Gran Torino	
	Families	Chapter 7
	Education	Chapter 8
	Work and the Economy	Chapter 9
	Quiz 3	Reflection Paper 2 Due
	Reflection Paper Film 3: Falling Down	
	Health and Medicine	Chapter 10
	The Media	Chapter 11
	Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Chapter 12
	Quiz 4	Reflective Paper 3 Due
	Reflection Paper Film 4: Leaving Las Vegas	
	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapter 13
	Cities and Suburbs	Chapter 14
	The Environment	Chapter 15
	Quiz 5	Reflection Paper 4 Due
	War and Terrorism	Chapter 16
	Social Problems and Social Action	Chapter 17
	Extra Credit Day	
	Final Paper Peer Review	Extra Credit Due
	Service Learning Presentations	
	Service Learning Presentations/Class Discussion	
	Final Exam Week: Exam Closes at 05/10/13 at 12 pm (in the afternoon) HST.	